

# Partridge hearts in Cincinnati

(Editor's Note: ABC's "Partridge Family" episode of this Friday, January 26, is entitled "I Left My Heart in Cincinnati," and was filmed last August at Kings Island amusement park near that city. Our good friend Mary Wood, TV Editor of the Cincinnati Post & Times-Star, was on location last summer when the Partridges filmed the episode. The following is her recollection of their visit. Our appreciation to Mary for her permission to feature the story for our readers.)

Kings Island was wall-to-wall David Cassidy fans last August, as ABC-TV's most popular youth show, The Partridge Family, began a five-day stand to film an episode of the series at Taft Broadcasting's new \$30 million amusement park.

**I FEEL SURE** that almost every devotee of The Partridge Family from a three-state area was on hand to watch the first day's shooting. One grandmother told me that her grandchildren had come from Texas just to be there on this day.



David Cassidy

The entire regular cast—Shirley Jones, David Cassidy, Susan Dey, Suzanne Crough, Brian Forster, Danny Bonaduce and Dave Madden—along with a Cinemobil technical film truck to set up production were there. Fifty extra guards were hired to hold back the crowds and also to protect 22-year-old Cassidy from his hoards of young admirers.

**I BROUGHT MY** favorite granddaughter, Betsy Thomson, who is 10 and among David's most ardent fans. Her companion for the day was Carla King, 13, of Cincinnati, whose letter in the contest, "Why I Want to Meet the Partridge Family," was top winner.

Carla and Betsy had their big moment of the day when David came out of his mobile dressing room to be introduced to them.

"Are you a little taken aback by this whole thing?" David asked Betsy as his fans hailed him with shouts of joy.

"Yes," Betsy replied.

**AT THAT POINT** I heard one of the guards remark, "The only way we can protect that guy is to put him in a cage and roll him around the park."

Actually, David is very obliging about posing for pictures and giving autographs as much as he can.

"He's a little nervous about being mobbed, which is understandable because he's had so much of it," Larry Rosen, producer of The Partridge Family, told me.

While the cameras were being set up for the various scenes around Kings Island, the cast stayed in the two mobile dressing rooms—one for the boys and one for the girls—which had been brought along. Stand-ins for the "family" were used to adjust lights and camera angles and then the cast, surrounded by guards, was brought in for the shooting. David's stand-in is a girl who looks very much like him.

**"WE WERE LOOKING** for a fresh location to film an episode and Taft Broadcasting was kind enough to invite us to Kings Island," said Rosen. "We wanted a mid-west location and this is ideal. The kids in the show have been having a ball. Danny Bonaduce has been on the roller coaster 22 times."

Having such a top-rated family TV show do an episode from Kings Island, is, naturally, the best possibly promotion for the new amusement park and Taft Broadcasting was delighted to pick up some of the tab. But taking a Hollywood-based TV show on location is still an expensive proposition.

"Our usual budget is from \$100,000 to \$130,000 an episode, but this one will cost considerably more," said Rosen. "But Screen Gems feels that bringing the show to the mid-west, where so many of our viewers are, will be good for the series."