

# Shaun Keeps 2 Careers Separate

By MIKE GOODKIND

Los Angeles (AP)

JOE OF THE Hardy Boys launched his singing career in the television series at the most popular teenybopper discotheque in fictional Bayport, Mass.

And Shaun Cassidy, who plays Joe and was already a rock celebrity among teens and subteens overseas, was able to launch his own American singing career at the same time.

**"It was the first time I ever sang on the show"** says the 18-year-old actor who costars as the younger brother on **"The Hardy Boys Mystery Hour."**

**"The Mystery of the Flying Courier"** was first seen on April 10 and featured Joe Hardy's debut at the local disco. The rugby-shirted amateur detective opened talent night with the 1963 rock hit by the Crystals **"Da Doo Ron Ron."**



SHAUN CASSIDY

Simultaneously, the song was released by Warner Bros.-Curb records and when the episode repeats tomorrow at 6 p.m., viewers will see what has been the No. 1 selling song on the national record charts.

**"I really try to keep the two careers separate,"** said Cassidy. **"When I sing on the show, I'm Joe Hardy singing on the show. I'm never Shaun Cassidy singing on the show. What I do in concert is totally different than what I do as Joe Hardy."**

**IN THE LIVE** performances **"it's not as young, a little more sophisticated, the theatricals, the album cuts which I write myself"** said Shaun, whose first U.S. hit is a remake of the early '60s rock classic.

The Hardy boys family mystery show is now filming its second season. And Cassidy, who had a European tour under his belt: The almost-weekly tube exposure hasn't hurt his musical aspiration.

**"The show has made my career to a great extent" via the exposure he said.**

Cassidy, besides his actress-mother Shirley Jones, has some pretty impressive show business relatives to emulate — his actor father, the late Jack Cassidy, and an older half-brother David Cassidy, 26, a rock and television series star when he was about Shaun's age.

David **"obviously was a big influence**

**on me as my mother and father were,"** Shaun said.

**UNLIKE DAVID**, who aspired to be an actor and wound up on a musical show, Shaun said his ambition was and still is music — either as a performer or maybe someday as a record producer or writer.

Cassidy said he tried out for the Hardy Boys part thinking it was a one shot television movie. He said he sought the role after his manager suggested **"it might be a good idea for me to get some acting experience if along the long and winding road I'd want to act some more, I'd have some experience under my belt."**

**"I thought the show might get in the way of the music but I've found the two have worked together beautifully,"** said Shaun.

**"Creatively it (the show) doesn't help, but it doesn't hurt either. I've thought about putting a piano in my dressing room so I can write songs while I'm waiting around."**

While his classmates from Beverly Hills High School go surfing or prepare for college, Cassidy says he works all day on the series, records late at night and is planning to spend weekends making concert appearances.

Yes, he said, he sometimes envies the more traditional lives of some of his fans, **"but I've made my choice."**