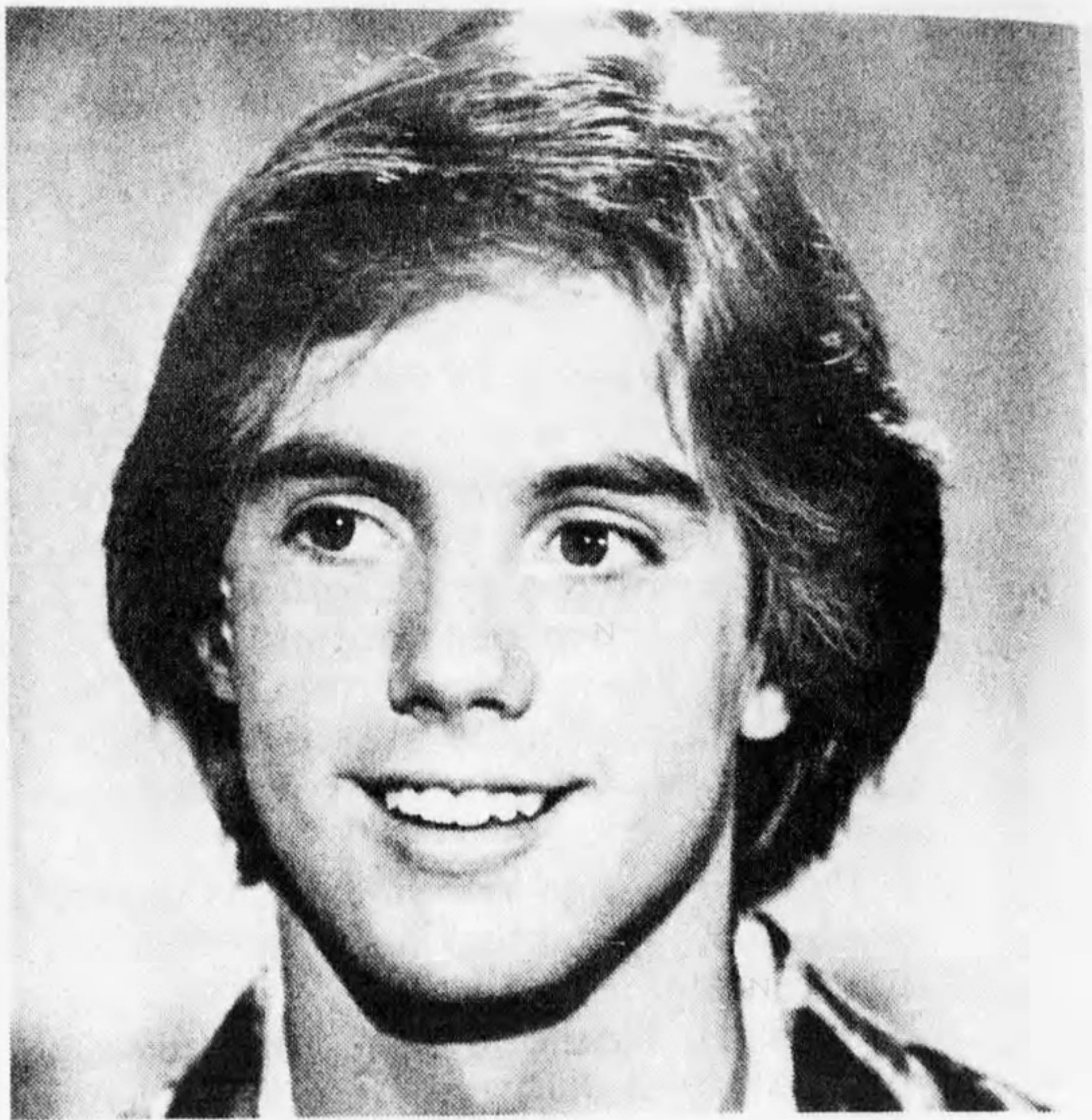


Shaun Cassidy Casts Wary Eye On Stardom

By Robert L. Rose

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HOLLYWOOD.



Shaun Cassidy

HANDSOME young Shaun Cassidy, son of Shirley Jones and the late Jack Cassidy, seems a good bet to be the next kiddie idol, assuming the mantle from his half-brother, David. But he thinks he may be able to handle it better. "I think I'm better prepared for it than he was when he began. I've seen what he has gone through. I've seen the good things and the bad things," Shaun said.

"I've seen it in my whole family."

Miss Jones, his mother, was the mother of TV's "Partridge Family," which co-starred David, now 27, playing a kid star. David immediately became a teenybopper hero.

"The girls drove me crazy," David said in another interview recently. He recounted how somebody would round up the prettiest dozen girls. He'd pick out his, and the band would split up the rest.

But Shaun, 18, doesn't see those scenes for himself.

"I think I've learned from David, in particular. Hopefully, I'm better prepared — if it happens," he said.

Shaun's vehicle to fame is a co-star of "The Hardy Boys," a new series also featuring Parker Stevenson, 24, a recent Princeton graduate. Parker is supposed to be Frank Hardy, 18, and Shaun is Joe, 16.

"But it's not like the Fonz, who's 30-plus, playing a 17-year-old," said producer Glen A. Larson.

Someone pointed out that it might be easier for Shaun than for half-brother David, since David had to

play, like the Fonz, somebody so much younger.

"Oh, I think it was more of a question of who David Cassidy was. He was supposed to be Keith Partridge, but he wasn't like David Cassidy. I think that's what bothered him," Shaun said.

"David alienated himself the last few years. On purpose. He was making records with RCA but other than that, nothing. He's into race horses and owns about 12 of them. He's been breeding and racing and doing very well.

"It's not that he's been sitting in his house all of this time. He's very busy. But as far as being in the public eye, I think he's beginning to want to be there again."

The "Hardy Boys" series alternates with a new Nancy Drew adventure. The new "Brady Bunch Hour" will be seen every fifth week.

"The Hardy Boys," a book series written in the 20s, was updated in the 1960s. The new television series will update them even more, but the plots of many of the 57 books will be used.