

By RUTH THOMPSON

Two of the four sons of the late Jack Cassidy took giant career steps as muggy August faded and the better prospects of September materialized. Shaun Cassidy, the eldest of Jack Cassidy and Shirlev Jones' three sons, got himself booked into Madison Square Garden as a rock star with his mom and

step-pop - ex-comic Marty Ingails - lending the cheering section. Shaun, who first became a recognizable face on TV as an actor on ABC's "Hardy Boys" mysteries, is bitting the same route that made his elder half-brother David Cassidy a teen-age singing

idol.

David, now 28, is one of fate's happier ironies. He has emerged from a self-

imposed semi-retirement to try acting. And it's paying off, and it's paying off, and it's paying off. His appearance last spring as an undercover cop earned him an Emmy Awards' "Best Actor" nomination ... and a deal to star in four more specials, as the same character, for NBC, in the "Police Story" saga, which now airs, not weekly, but as occasional speci-

als.