

Teen angels

■ Here's what heartthrobs of the past are doing now

NEW YORK TIMES

Just when you think the world's becoming a safer place, 10,000 screaming Florida teen-agers mob teen idol Luke Perry of "Beverly Hills, 90210."

Such anarchy is nothing new.

In 1959, Fabian got his fans so overwrought that police had to use fire hoses to cool them down when he appeared at the grand opening of a New Jersey doughnut parlor. And David Cassidy's world tours inspired such mass hysteria that in 1974 a 14-year-old fan suffered a fatal heart attack at a London show.

"I think the main appeal is a certain look, something young girls can fantasize about without

feeling too freaked out about like someone with more of an edge," said Pamela Dell, entertainment editor of "Teen" magazine in Los Angeles, one of the oldest and biggest teen publications.

Here's what has happened to some of those Prince Charmings over the years:

■ David Cassidy

Fifteen years after his last concert tour, David Cassidy is back on the road with new music, a new wife and a new image.

Cassidy, 41, the former cherubic-faced star of "The Partridge Family," is seeking to distinguish his current musical style from the bubble gum rock he played as character Keith Partridge in the hit 1970s TV series.

"I was always more of a hippie than Keith was and was genuinely more into a progressive, harder-edged music than he was," Cassidy says.

Cassidy married his writing partner, Sue Shifrin, last year and they have a 7-month-old son, Beau Devin. He is divorced from actress Kay Lenz.

■ Bobby Sherman

Bobby Sherman still receives more than 500 fan letters a month.

Not bad for a guy who was propelled to teeny-bopper heartthrob status more than 20 years ago on the hit television show "Here Come The Brides," where he portrayed a shy, stuttering lumberjack in 1870s Seattle. (Back then, he received more than 20,000 letters a month.)

Now 44, he is back in the spotlight again with the August release of his first greatest hits collection on CD by Restless Records.

"If it continues to do well, there's a lot of talk about going in and cutting a new record." As for acting, he said, he is poised to jump into a sitcom if the right one comes along.

Sherman and his wife, Patricia, had two sons, Christopher, now 18, and Tyler, 17.

He works 12 hours a week as a volunteer paramedic in the San Fernando Valley where he lives. He and his wife were amicably divorced in the late '70s.

■ Donny Osmond

Since he first appeared as the youngest Osmond brother on the "The Andy Williams Show" in 1962, Donny Osmond has to varying degrees remained in the spotlight.

First, he did it as the youngest, toothiest member of a Mormon singing brood.



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David Cassidy is on the road again, trying to distance himself from Keith Partridge, the character

he played in the 1970s television series, "The Partridge Family."



Frankie Avalon, a 1960s beach-party hit with Annette Funicello, keeps busy traveling with his night club act. Here he prepares a favorite recipe with Florence Henderson on "Country Kitchen."

The Fabulous Fabian was one of the first real teen idols. He epitomized the '50s teen heartthrob with his dark good looks topped by a wet-look pompadour.

only 18, he bought out his recording contract because he was fed up with control-minded managers. He sought an acting career and over the next few decades appeared in 30 movies with such legends as John Wayne and on television shows including "Laverne and Shirley."

Fabian currently appears in a national testimonial ad for the Nutri/System weight-loss program. He says he lost 30 pounds.

■ Frankie Avalon

Avalon is known for his beach party cavorting with Annette Funicello, his dreamboat voice and his tightly curled black hair.

And more than 30 years since he attracted national attention with his first hit "De De Dinah," Avalon is still traveling the world with a nightclub act.

In 1987, he reunited with Annette for "Back to the Beach," a sequel of sorts to the popular '60s "beach party" movies. In 1989, he and Annette were well-received when they performed in concert throughout the country.

Avalon, who is now 50, and his wife, Kay, live in Los Angeles with their eight children, ranging in age from 17 to 27.

Then, he went solo at age 13, carving out a niche as a squeaky-clean teen idol with hits in the early '70s that



Sherman

included ballads "Go Away Little Girl," "Puppy Love" and "The Twelfth of Never."

And more than 25 years later, Osmond, now 33, has reinvented his career.

He had image-breaking albums in 1988 ("Donny Osmond") and 1990 ("Eyes Don't Lie").

A devout Mormon with strong moral values, Osmond lives with his wife and four children in Irvine, Calif.



Osmond

good looks topped by a wet-look pompadour — and a smooth singing voice that was reputedly boosted with the help of echo chambers.

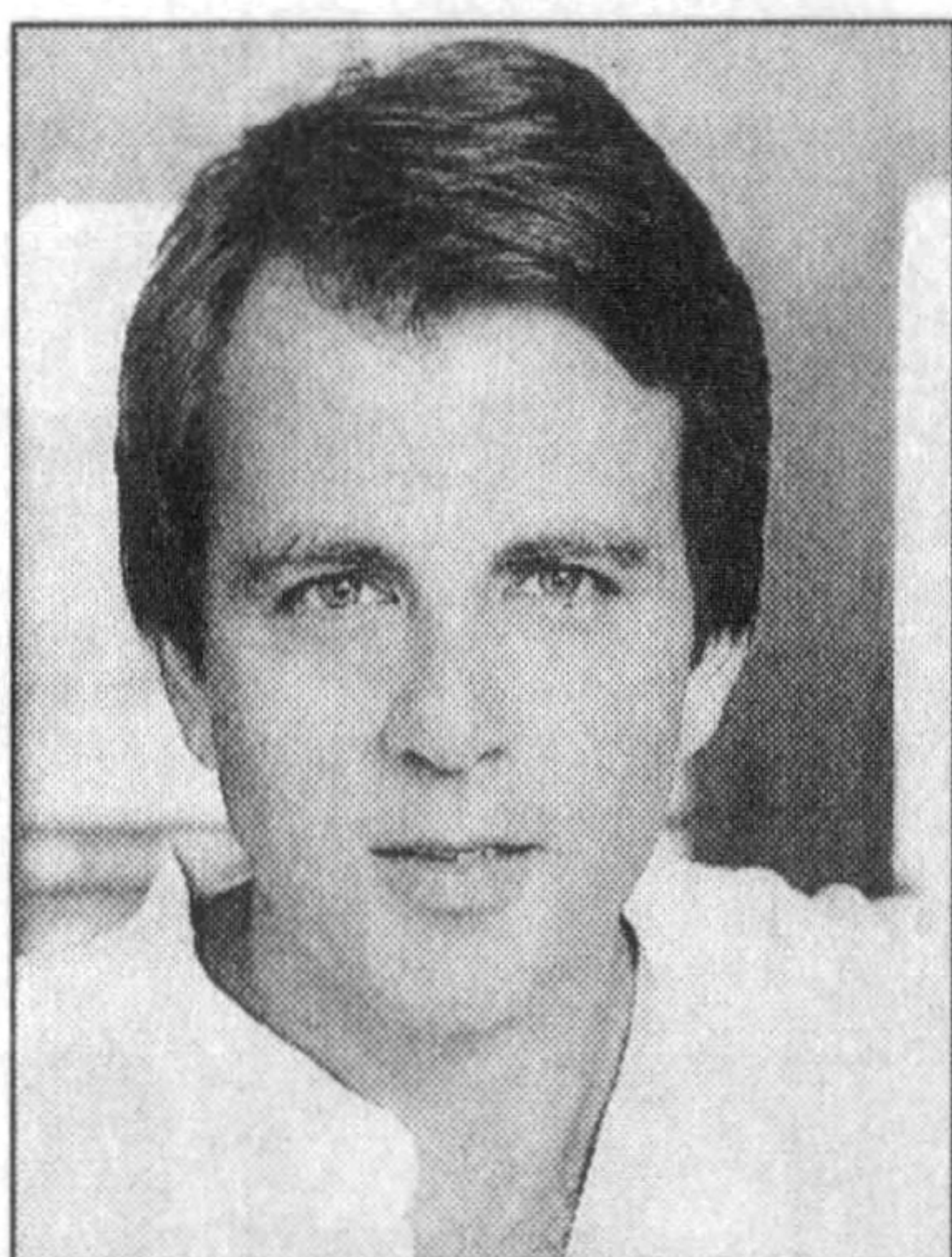
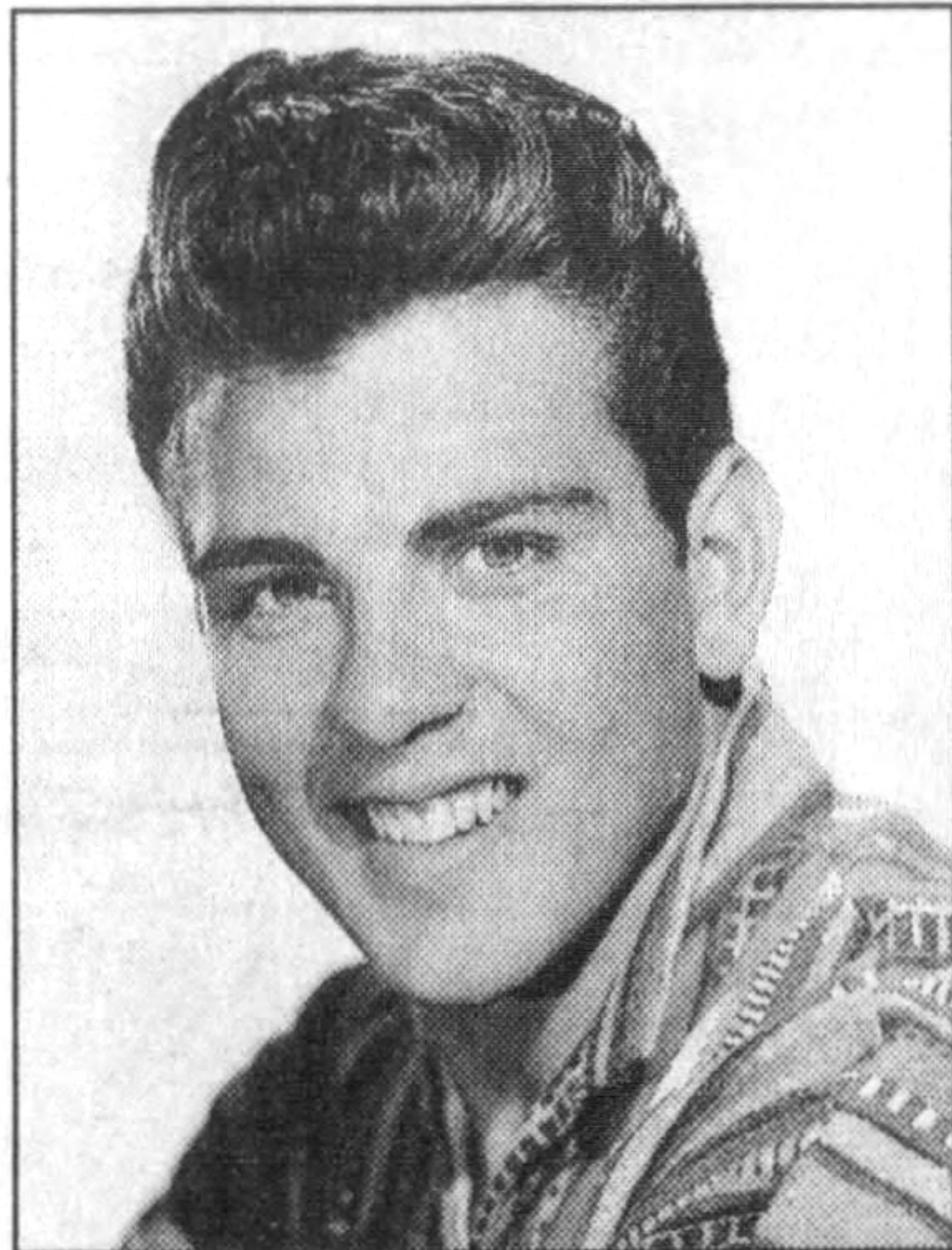
Fabian, born Fabiano Forte in Philadelphia in 1943, was propelled to pop stardom in 1959 with three Top 10 songs: "I'm A Man," "Turn Me Loose" and "Tiger." And to think he was discovered sitting on the steps in Philadelphia.

But by 1961, when he was

■ Fabian

The Fabulous Fabian was one of the first real teen idols.

He epitomized the '50s teen heartthrob with his dark



Fabian was once so hot that New Jersey police had to use fire hoses to cool a crowd at the opening of a doughnut shop. He now does testimonials for the Nutri/System weight loss program. So much for doughnuts.