

MUSIC

Some people called them teen-age idols

By JENNY VOGT
Cox News Service

Just when you think the world's becoming a safer place, 10,000 screaming Florida teenagers 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, at 34 one of the oldest and biggest teen publications with 1.4 million subscribers.

Here's what has happened to some of those idols:

DAVID CASSIDY

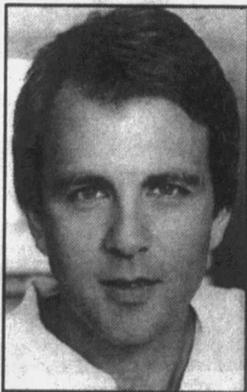
Fifteen years after his last concert tour, David Cassidy is back on the road with new music, a new wife and a new image.

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 show.

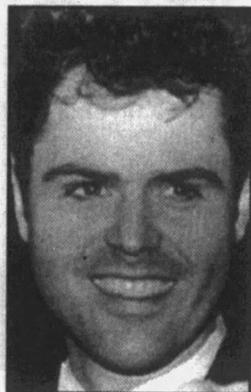
When asked to describe his current musical style, he said simply, "successful," referring to his 1990 album "David Cassidy, which spawned a Top 40 single, "Lying To Myself."

Although Cassidy promises to play some of his old hits such as "I Think I Love You" while on tour, he stresses it is not a nostalgia tour.

Cassidy married his writing partner, Sue Shifrin, last year and they have a 7-month-old son, Beau Devin.



Fabian...
..pitches Nutri-System



Donny Osmond...
..cultivates sultry look



Frankie Avalon...
..back to the beach?

BOBBY SHERMAN

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

Not bad for a guy who was propelled to teeny-bopper heart-throb 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.)

"I didn't stutter in real life, but at the same time I was pretty much a shy person," recalled Sherman, 44. "I've pretty much stayed that way all my life."

The teen idol-cum-loner is back in the spotlight again with the August release of his first greatest hits collection on CD by Restless Records. Episodes of "Shindig," the 1960s TV rock show on which Sherman sang and played guitar, were recently released by Rhino Video.

He became interested in the production end of entertainment in the 1970s. He and his now-ex-

wife, Patricia, had two sons, Christopher, now 18, and Tyler, 17. After deciding to learn first aid for their sake, he became a volunteer paramedic in the San Fernando Valley where he lives.

DONNY OSMOND

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

First, he was the youngest, toothiest member of a Mormon singing brood. Then, he went solo at age 13, carving out a niche as a squeaky-clean teen idol with hits in the early '70s.

And 20 years later, Osmond, now 33, has reinvigorated his career with image-breaking albums in 1988 ("Donny Osmond") and 1990 ("Eyes Don't



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Lie"). His publicity photos are more evocative of George Michael than Donny Osmond.

"You know," Osmond told "Rolling Stone" magazine, "the name Donny Osmond is starting to become hip again."

A devout Mormon, he lives with his wife and four children in Irvine, Calif.

FABIAN

The Fabulous Fabian was one of the first real teen idols. He epitomized the '50s teen heart-throb with his dark 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.

But by 1961, when he was only 18, he bought out his recording contract because he was fed up with control-minded managers. Over the next few decades he appeared in 30 movies.

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

FRANKIE AVALON

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

He's still still traveling the world with a nightclub act and in 1987, reunited with Annette for "Back to the Beach," a sequel of sorts to the popular '60s "beach" movies. Now 50, he lives with his wife, Kay, and eight children in Los Angeles.

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