

Which brings us to a rock group with a parent right in it - the Partridge Family. What with Shirley Jones on board, the kind of attention-getter the Monkees drove wouldn't be quite appropriate, so George had to come up with something a little different; something that was still young, but nothing too bizarre—or else, what was that lovely lady doing sitting right in the middle of it?

The answer, as fully three-quarters of the television-watching world knows by now, was — and is— a school bus, painted in bright colors and geometric designs. The bus created almost as much furor as the Monkees' car had, and with good reason: it was as perfectly suited to the Partridges as the Monkee-wagon had been to the Monkees.

Of course, it's got a great sound system (what would the Partridge Family be without music?) but that rarely gets used on the show; mostly it's turned on during lunch when Danny and Susan and David spend an hour in there listening to the newest and best records.

In fact, the bus has as active a life off camera as it has on, what with being a convenient place for a nap, or just something that's a lot of fun to drive off the studio lot and into the street from time to time, to give passing motorists-and waiting fans-a thrill.

Of the cast members of "The Partridge Family," only David Cassidy has gone in for customizing on any of his vehicles, and only in a small way, with a dune buggy he had fixed up by a young man in the East. But it's a start, and as George is well aware, the first experience with customizing is rarely the last.

"I've already got ideas for a David Cassidy Special," he says. "I'm just marking my time."