

I'm A Loner ~ I Have To Be

THE success of the Partridge Family, which demands that he work 18 hours a day has come between David and a steady relationship with any one girl. But this doesn't mean to say he doesn't know the sort of girl he'll eventually settle down with.

His favourite food might be steamed clams but he's no good at cooking them and he says without hesitation when you ask him about his ideal woman: "She'd be earthy and a good cook. Definitely a good cook."

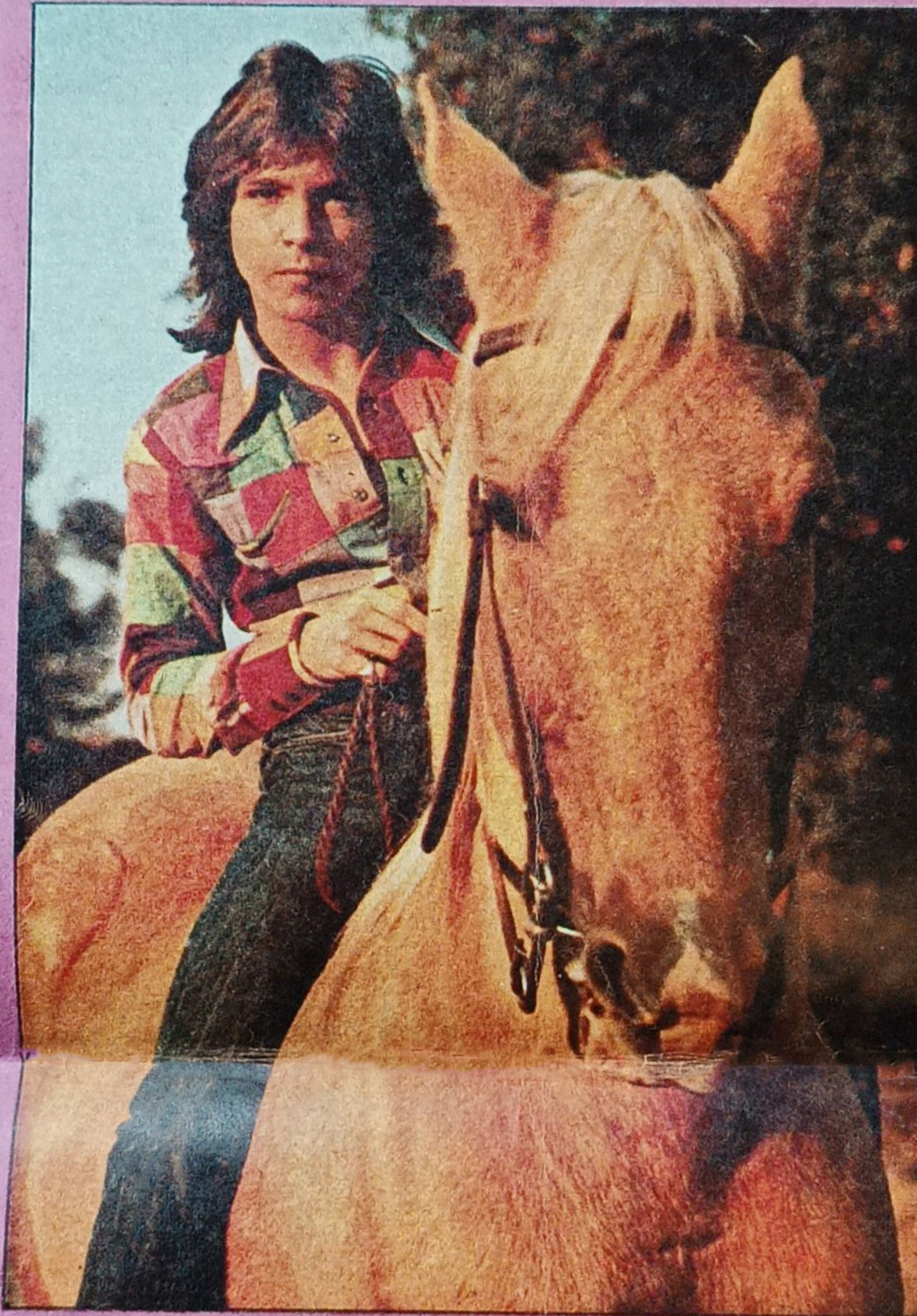
Of girls in general he admits, "I have very little opportunity to meet them; it's difficult to establish a relationship and I'm very much a 'loner.' A lot of people think that because of my position I constantly have lots of ladies around me. People are always expecting me to walk in with two ladies on each arm. But I wouldn't be happy."

And because of his approach to life, David makes a point of not joining in Hollywood's show business set or mixing much with other rock singers and groups.

"I did meet Elton John, though—I thought he was a very nice fellow. His writing partner Bernie Taupin was with him. We all had a good time. I've got a couple of Elton's albums which I've played a lot. When I'm at home I listen to old Beatle records all the time, and play Harry Nilsson's albums. He's very good."

"There's no-one I've particularly wanted to meet in the pop world because I've never had this thing about placing people up on pedestals. I can enjoy their music and respect them for that. Meeting them is just like meeting any other person. I mean, what do you say in the end? 'Oh hello'."

"Really, the only group I think I'd like to have met would be The Beatles; so few people understand the situation I'm in. It'd be a gas to talk to someone who'd experienced all this heavier than me."



"People have a distorted image of me, which is something I can't really control. It's a very fresh, clean-cut, white knight, Prince Charming sort of thing. I've been compared a lot with Paul McCartney when he was sort of the good guy of the four of them."

"I'm not that. I have as many problems as anyone else, maybe more so."

Already David is aware that other pressures are upon him, just like The Beatles who gradually had to change their music style to stay alive. He sees a lot of these changes coming in his music, which has become increasingly more important in his life. Although even here he has to stick to the disciplines demanded by the TV series.

"Every time I go into the studio I say, 'Let's do something different, let's try something different', but people are frightened and they don't want to change a winning game. I always want to try new things and experiment. I'm writing more music myself now than I used to do."

"Mind you, I can only write when I feel like it. I'm not really a songwriter despite all this. I can't just sit down and write a tune to order."

One of the things that impressed me, after I'd been with David for some hours, was his calm acceptance of his current situation, and a feeling that he's going to be around for a long time in the future. Whereas many other stars—especially someone of his youthful age—would be big-headed or would surround themselves with dozens of hangers-on, David prefers at this moment to face life alone. He knows he can call at any time on his two faithful friends, Sam and Steve.

Watching him on the studio set, you can sense a strength coming from within the loneliness of stardom. It's precisely this 'loner' approach to life that has carried him through the pressures that have beaten many lesser, and older, stars.

Above all, he remains calm, which is a quality admired by his director Lee Philips. Usually when a journalist visits a studio, he or she is asked to stay in the background. With The Partridge Family a totally different atmosphere exists. "Don't hesitate to stand right behind the camera with me," assured Lee. And David didn't mind either, hurrying over between each 'take' to continue our conver-

sation.

You get the feeling that when he's talking to you, you're getting his undivided attention, even though there may be several admiring people in the background. He's firm but polite, doing one job properly at a time.

He admits, for instance, almost casually about his current fame, "I was an actor originally, and that was all that mattered. I didn't think it would be like this, I never expected to have it like this at all. Being successful is one thing, but being in my position is bizarre. I've had to move house, and I have to zip in and out of disguises so people don't come chasing after me. It's impossible to walk down the street, to go into shops, even. All that is ridiculous, but it has happened. And it's the price I pay for success."

How long will David's career in The Partridge Family continue? He's now 22 and Keith, the character he portrays every week, is seventeen. A fact that hasn't escaped him.

"In the show this year I'll be eighteen and at some point in the story I'll have to go off to college. It's fun and I like it, the other people in the show are good, and it launched me."

"But there comes a time when you grow out of things. I'll finish this series of 26 and do another series of 26 before stopping it altogether. I don't think I could go on under this pressure for much longer, but we'll have to see."

One thing is sure. David has showed, in Britain at least, that he doesn't need the TV series now to prove his superstar status.

His future looks bright, which is good news for all his fans. After all, he's going to be around for a long, long time.

P.S. If you're in the habit of reading Jackie backwards and haven't seen it yet—turn to page 5 for exciting news about David!

