

# PARTRIDGE

THE FINAL PART OF JACKIE'S 3-PART SPECIAL  
ON DAVID CASSIDY

## KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY



**T**HE Ocean Sabre, all sparkling white, rocked gently in the middle of the Thames, guarded by Tower Bridge. On the banks of the river towards the Tower of London there were dozens of people crowded together.

From the yacht's deck they were a lot smaller than in real life, but you could see all those arms waving and above all you could hear their shrill continuous screaming.

David Cassidy waved back and admitted, "I think it's really fantastic. I'm really, really pleased and a little taken aback by it, you know. It's really nice."

Being with David, you always get the feeling that he's being screamed at or photographed for the first time. It never seems as if he has been through it all a hundred or thousand times before. For him each day seems as exciting as the last.

The last time Jackie spoke to David was on the set of the Partridge Family in Hollywood. That was in the summer of 1971 and David was feeling a bit fed up with making the Partridge Family show.

He needed a holiday at the time and the strain of the almost con-

tinual 18-hours-a-day work schedule was showing. Now relaxed and on holiday, he re-thought what he'd said before.

"Oh, eventually I'll leave the programme. But not for a while yet. When I return, I'll finish off the year and then perhaps another year after. I can't see myself becoming ageless and all that, but I'm going to do a bit more on it.

"It's still fun, and hasn't gotten to the point where it's boring. I still like doing it, and the folks on the show are really nice. So I'll be there for a while yet."

David is in mixed minds about the BBC's decision to drop the show in England.

"On the one hand it has let me develop as a personality in my own right and not just as one of the Partridge Family. But on the other hand it's a good show and I still get letters from people saying how much they enjoyed it."

In fact it was taken up by one commercial television company in London, and it is hoped to restore it to the ITV network if the experiment proves successful.

The conversation strayed from the Partridge Family to the pret-



tinous of English girls. There they all were, hundreds of them lined up on the river bank. One or two had actually thrown themselves into the Thames in their eagerness to get closer to David! He simply couldn't get over the response.

"Honestly, I'll tell you the people, the ladies here, are just fantastic. They're so lovely I think I'm staying." And he laughed readily.

The problem of actually meeting girls is ever present with David. In London he did stop and talk as much as he could to fans, as long as they didn't threaten to tear him to bits.

But always he has to be whisked from place to place in a large car and if he goes anywhere everyone knows who he is. In those circumstances it's very hard to find a genuine girl friend.

Still he does read most of the letters sent to him from England and adds that he enjoys them very much.

He relaxed in an armchair sipping a glass of milk and reading the morning London newspapers.

He knows he has an image and is willing to explain it.

"I'm not infallible, you know. I think the image is clean and there's nothing wrong in that. We've all got images and mine is the real me.

"People often try to knock it. There was one interview in an American magazine which tried to present me as something else altogether. I regretted what they did because it was negative and untrue. They were really nice to me when they came along and interviewed me and then the last thing they said to me as they left was 'We're going to crack the image.'"

A lot of people read the interview and it hurt David, but he isn't bitter. There's a lot of jealousy

about his success and of that he is well aware.

But he has a lot of real friends. Sam Hyman came with him to London. They've been friends since school and Sam now looks after all the posters, programmes and other Cassidy souvenirs when he does concert tours.

David is actually a great believer in giving his public value for money.

"We never sell the same poster in the same town twice. We always have a new poster made for each tour, a new photograph taken and we see that the programmes are good value and contain all the information fans want to know.

"I've always had a 'thing' about this because so many groups and singers go on the road and sell shoddy goods to young people. Sam is terrific at running this side of things.

"It also means that when he isn't on the road with me he can concentrate on his own acting career. He's studying right now and I think he'll be very good."

Another friend whom he caught up with in London was Elton John. They had met in Los Angeles and Sam went down to Elton's house on the Wentworth Estate.

Elton told me: "I wanted David to come as well but he had to fly back to America. I'm trying to persuade him to come over for a holiday, though."

Well, next week David does finally arrive in Britain, but not for a holiday. He'll be doing some television and some live shows—but unfortunately, he won't be staying for long.

Give him a good welcome, though, and you might be able to persuade him to stay for just a little longer—perhaps even for a holiday!

In the meantime, see page 28 for some more exciting news of David.

David on the other side of the camera.

