

# *Partridges Send Musical Cards*

'Tis the season to be jolly, remember? So, all of you so-called "hip ones" who regard the music of the **PARTRIDGE FAMILY** as teeny-bopper, bubble gum or trash, be nice and don't be too upset when your wondering eyes read the next few lines.

This writer is not about to say that instrumentally and vocally the group is the best around; quite the contrary, in fact, but; and this is a big but, the Partridge Family is a good group and they should be given more credit. They have a fresh, clear and easy-to-understand sound which is bright, usually up tempo and original. As a lead singer for the group, **DAVID CASSIDY** may not have the vocal range to sing such songs as "Cherish" the way the tune was originally done and his tones are not rich enough to get him a spot with the Metropolitan opera, but he does wonders with what he has.

**SHIRLEY JONES** is no fly-by-night entertainer either. She knows her stuff and has been around long enough to know how to make the best of things. Though one of the Partridge Family "stars," Shirley is not as dominating as is David, yet she can handle a song and has added an over-30 touch to pop music. One might wonder how an "old gal" like her can keep pace with a young vibrant group. Well it's simple, number one, she isn't old, number two she is as vibrant as the other family members are and number three, she is hip to what's going on and looks great in the group.

One of the welcome additions to the record racks during this

holiday season is the Partridge Family's "Christmas Card" album. I am thoroughly opposed to the high price of some Christmas albums since the discs are only used a couple of months a year. In fact, I think it would be great if some of the major record companies would sell all their Christmas LP's for a buck simply as a good will gesture to the public who buys their records all year long.

One of the sides, believe it or not, opens up with David singing a one-time **BRENDA LEE** classic, "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree." The tune is quick and bright, but visions of pretty little Brenda still dance around in my mind when I hear the tune. Another highlight of the album is the wintertime favorite "Sleigh Ride." "Jingle Bells" will never be the same thanks to this album, and "Blue Christmas" is treated in a most enjoyable way. Among the other pleasurable cuts to make the holidays merrier, are "White Christmas," "Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town" and "Winter Wonderland."

All of the tunes are done in very original and creative fashion, and this indeed is an out-of-the-ordinary Christmas album. It is extremely interesting to note how the group has adapted the rock sound to Christmas music.

**DALE ZAHN**