

# David Cassidy Returns On 'Ponderosa' Segment

David Cassidy wasn't an idol of the teen-age set when he filmed an episode of NBC Television Network's "Bonanza" in 1969. It would be a year later that he would be signed to a role in "The Partridge Family" and would record the song "I Think I Love You," which would top the national charts.

Cassidy plays a young man accused of murder in "The Law and Billy Burgess," which will be reprised on Channel 2's "Ponderosa" Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Ruth Aarons, who manages David as well as his father Jack Cassidy and his step-mother Shirley Jones, has known the younger Cassidy since he was eight years old.

"It wasn't until David was 18 that I became aware that he wanted to act. His father came

to me and said, 'Ruth, David doesn't want to go to college. He wants to go into the business. As long as he's going in, you better keep an eye on him.'"

Cassidy took acting and elocution lessons, and landed a role in "Fig Leaves Are Falling" on Broadway. The play folded. Miss Aarons told David he could stay in New York for seven years and learn how to act — or he could return to Hollywood and be a star.

"I was an actor," David says: "I was out to earn the bucks. I wanted to be a working actor — one who works all the time. Honestly, my goal was not to be a star."

Today, David Cassidy has eight gold records and has sold-out concerts all across the United States — including Madison Square Garden and the Houston Astrodome.