

From cottage to hilltop mansion

Probably no one ever became a top teenage idol as fast as David Cassidy. Within a few weeks after the debut of "The Partridge Family" on the ABC Television Network he had two top selling single records plus a gold album, "The Partridge Family." Magazines with teen and sub-teen readership quickly started the still-honored custom of running David Cassidy covers and stories with every issue. His weekend concert dates were sell-outs. His popularity contributed to making "The Partridge Family" one of the hits of the season. He moved from a cottage furnished largely with apple crates and a bare mattress to a luxury hilltop home.

Naturally, there has been a price to pay. The taken-for-granted niceties of privacy and leisure have practically been banished from his life.

A normal date—dinner and a movie—are out of the question. "The last time I went to a movie, kids—and their mothers—were crawling over their seats trying to get at me." After a few mob scenes at supermarkets, he no longer does his own grocery shopping. Last summer, while filming a "Partridge Family" episode at Marineland, he was forced to run from a horde of screaming girls and found there was no place to hide—not even in the men's room.

David says he has time for one meal a day. In addition to the 10- or 12-hour days spent filming the series, and doing weekend concerts around the country, there are myriad business details—dealing with record producers, filmmakers (he has considered many scripts, but hasn't had time to make a

movie yet), investment advisors, and interviews, interviews, interviews.

What has been the effect of this phenomenon upon a young man just turned 21? Has he gone on an "ego trip," or has he, on the other hand, become calloused by a world populated largely by skillful men determined to help him—and themselves?

Neither, in the opinion of those who know him. He's a very likable young man, considerate, receptive, with self-composure tinged with just a hint of shyness.

"I never dreamed of this sort of thing happening to me," he said. "Who does? Two years ago I was just another working actor

Although he has been singing since childhood, plays the drums and guitar, and co-starred on Broadway in the Allen Sherman musical, "The Fig Leaves Are Falling," he had worked principally in dramatic roles before the skies opened up. He played leading guest roles in 10 series, including "Marcus Welby, M.D.," "The FBI," "The Mod Squad," "The Survivors," "Medical Center" and "Adam-12."

David says he is grateful for his success. "The good parts far outweigh the drawbacks." And he respects his fans. "I don't know why they like me. But they do, I guess, and they show it. Adults are afraid to

know if they like you, or if they don't." And he enjoys talking to younger people—as individuals.

When the "teenage idol" phase eventually passes, David hopes to continue as an actor and singer. He wants to own a recording studio.

"And I want to see the world—everything," he says.

Following the completion of filming this year's shows, he took off for a two-month jaunt around Europe, traveling in a camper.

He gave no thought to the lucrative concert dates he was passing up for the trip.