

probing to do and experiments to make with my own emotions. I've reached a sort of turning point in my life . . .

"A long time ago when I talked to Shirley about what I was feeling she told me, 'Look into your mirror; not the one on the wall or on the door; the one through your eyes. Look deep down into yourself and see what's being reflected. If there's an image there that you don't like, find out why and see if it can be changed. Don't make excuses about this or that... do things. Search for your own reasons. Reasons are not excuses. Reasons are rails we travel on. Excuses are alibis to make up for our inability to travel.'

"So," David went on, "I took Shirley's advice and started searching through my own self and



I've learned a lot. Some things about me I like; others I'm correcting. But I'm also learning, thanks to Shirley's guidance, how to create an individual 'new me' out of all the pieces I'm finding...

"Most of all, I'm learning about women and what my life, as a man, should be in relation to women.

"I've always admired the way my dad's wife can still be Shirley Jones, actress and singer, in spite of the fact that practically everyone knows she's also a wife and mother. And," he wrinkled his nose and his eyes twinkled, "no-one can deny that it can be pretty rough being married to my dad without losing your individuality." Jack Cassidy is a forceful, dynamic, extremely handsome man of fantastic talent... so it's pretty easy to understand what David means!

"I know the sort of woman I need in my life is a woman very much like Shirley," David confided. "I have to know that the girl in my life likes herself enough not to become a doormat if my temper flares—and that happens to all of us at sometime or other. I have to know that the girl in my life can be strong enough not to wallow in self pity if things don't work out well and still sentimental enough to realise that sometimes I might do something stupid or silly just because I'm human..."

"Shirley taught me, more by example than by anything else, that when you're honest with yourself, no matter how bad the scene seems to be going and how dark the clouds above are, things work out.

"I do want a woman to share my life with me... I understand that a man's life is complete when he has the right girl with him. But, first, I want to find out who's the right man for me to be. I've come a long way since I started my career and I still have a long way to go professionally. Personally... well, I'm David Cassidy. That I know.

"But who David Cassidy is... that's what I'm finding out.

"Meanwhile, I'm fortunate enough to have some great people helping me make my discoveries... and I hope that when I've come up with a pretty fair portrait of myself, you will like it as much as I hope I shall.

"Tell you something else... Learning to love yourself for the right reasons helps you learn how to love others for the same reasons. And that's a pretty exciting way to live. As Shirley has often told me... it's got to be more than a coincidence that *living* rhymes with *giving*, because when you find out how much you have, you just want to share it... naturally. Don't you agree?"

ask david...

Dear David,

I've just been given a grey setter puppy and I read somewhere that you own one too. What do you call him? I'd like to name my dog after yours.

Love, Betty

I have two dogs, Betty. One is a mongrel called Cheesh and the other is a grey setter named Bull-eye. Incidentally, Bull-eye feels very honoured.

Dear David,

I'd like to be a doctor when I grow up, but my dad says that's a job best left to men. What do you think?

Love Cathy

Well, Cathy, I know some women doctors who are excellent at their profession. If that's your goal, I think you should strive for it. But be prepared to put in many years of hard study.

Dear David,

Have you ever met the Osmonds and do you like them? Do you think of them as competitors?

Love Callan.

Yes, yes and no!

I've met the Osmonds... I think they make good music and they're great guys. But they're a group and I'm only one - so I don't call that competition.

Dear David,

I like to make up my gift list early, so could you please tell me what you'd like for Christmas?

Love Anne.

Anything that shares love - but doesn't cost money! A drawing, a poem, a joke... or all the news on what's been happening to you lately. Knowing you care is the best gift of all.