



David and his California family, father Jack Cassidy and stepmother Shirley Jones share laugh at party.

David Cassidy's Frustrated Search For Love

There can never be too much family love for David Cassidy. He's missed so many of the things that are important, yet he's received almost too much success and material things for someone so young.

It is no accident that, at 21, David is sitting on top professionally. He has been looking forward to this point in his life for many years. But the corners of his mouth turn down just enough to let you know he's been hurt more than once. He studies you closely, suspiciously, almost as if he expects you to hurt him, too. But as the moments pass he becomes more at ease and willing to explain what it's like reaching fame so early.

"My father, Jack Cassidy, and my mother, Evelyn Ward, were both in

the musical theater from the time I was a baby. I think the really bad thing about that was the separations it caused. My dad would be out on the road often in a show and it was always special when he was home. I know now that these separations weren't good for the marriage."

Jack Cassidy and Evelyn Ward were divorced when David was six. "Before it happened, "David recalls, "they used to call me 'Smilin' Sam.' After that I guess I didn't smile so much."

The years after the divorce were hard ones for David. He felt shut out when his father left, but his mother did all she could to keep the boy's spirits up. Of course, she had to go back to work in order

to help out and David spent much time with his grandparents. And through all this time the one burning desire in David's life was to grow up and become a part of show business. Even though he knew the profession had come between his mother and father, David still couldn't get it out of his system. He loved music and especially acting.

Some of his earliest memories are of sitting in a darkened theater watching movies, then coming home and secretly playing many of the parts to himself in the privacy of his room. There was never a day David can remember when his future life in the theater didn't affect him.