



David's mother, actress Evelyn Ward, is very proud of her successful son. She lives in New Jersey, but has visited frequently and telephones often to chat.



David thinks of himself as basically a loner, and spends many evenings alone in his big new house, or with the company of roommates just simply rapping.

## TV's Newest Teenage Idol Confesses: "Three Families Aren't Enough!"

He was to stay among show business people all his life and when David's mother married director Elliot Silverstein, again he was exposed to the brilliance as well as the problems that go along with being part of the entertainment world. Silverstein was the successful director of *Cat Ballou* and many other hits, but unfortunately this new family arrangement for David again did not last. Evelyn Ward and Silverstein were divorced.

When Jack Cassidy first told young David he planned to marry Shirley Jones, the boy decided immediately not to like her. After all, no one could possibly replace his mother. But Shirley's first smile told David enough about her to let him know that he couldn't possibly dis-

like her no matter how hard he tried.

It was a warm experience for David once Shirley and Jack began raising their family. He felt at last that security was within his reach. He became very close to his three younger half-brothers and even closer to Shirley. She never attempted to boss him, but in her own quiet way she showed David the way it could be with a happy family.

David felt safe and wanted. But as things go in most families, there was not perfect harmony in the Cassidy household at all times. Again David saw that the complexities of show business could put tremendous obstacles in the course of a marriage. But Shirley

Jones is no ordinary actress and she manages to put her family first. Though there are constant rumors regarding an impending divorce, Shirley and Jack Cassidy remain fairly consistent in their love for one another. David can see this and it gives him strength.

The idea of playing Shirley's stepson in *The Partridge Family* wasn't totally appealing to David when he first heard of the idea. He loved the fact that he would be part of a family, even if it wasn't totally his own. He projected himself as an important part of this TV-created group and could imagine what he would have done if the real opportunity had come along for him to be a member of such

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