

Hollywood

David Cassidy will accept father, step-mother break

By DOROTHY MANNERS

HOLLYWOOD (KFS) — How will teenybopper idol David Cassidy, take the separation of his father, Jack, and stepmother, Shirley Jones, and what effect will it have on his continued appearance on "The Partridge Family" TV show, which also stars Shirley?

David will take it in stride, thank you. If we are to judge by some of his remarks in the past, young Cassidy is very much a "man" on his own.

During a recent TV talk show on which his father was host, David was asked by Jack: "How did you take the separation of your father and mother (Evelyn Ward) when you were very small?"

To which David replied: "I took it hard, I felt estranged from my father for many years." I don't know whether that was the answer Jack was expecting or not, but it gives you an idea of this kid's cool.

Even though Jack and Shirley's marriage lasted for 15 years, this "trial separation with no divorce proceedings contemplated" is not smashing surprise. It has been strained to the breaking point several times in the past. But they have usually put a patch on the assorted blowups. They have three sons, Shaun, Patrick and Ryan and there's no arguing that Shirley was deeply in love with Jack and he with her for many years.

But there were problems. Jack's work as an actor-singer frequently took him from the family home in Beverly Hills to engagements on Broadway or touring on the road for long stretches at a time. He is an excellent and respected actor. But as sometimes happens in the marriage of two show business personalities, he's never hit it as big as Shirley has recently in the top-rated "Partridge Family" series.

Still, it wouldn't be any enormous surprise, either, if — aft-

er this particular trouble clears away — Shirley and Jack gave marriage another whirl. They've done it before.