

Cassidys back on track again

By NANCY ANDERSON
Copley News Service

HOLLYWOOD — Shirley Jones and husband Jack Cassidy bought two carloads of antiques, found in byways and barns, while taking a holiday in New England.

Among their finds are a beautiful clock, a walnut hutch, four posts for their bed, and a primitive painting.

Jack, Shirley, and their sons holidayed in a house in upstate New York which the Cassidys had rented for three months.

Built in 1670 in Springfield, Mass., it had been moved to New York in 1926, and is authentically colonial even to having a ghost.

"Yes, the house has a ghost," Shirley beams. "I spent a week there alone, and I'd awaken at two or three o'clock in the morning to hear him bumping around on the third floor.

"I kept hoping that he'd show himself, but he never did."

As for the state of her marriage to Jack, recently revitalized after a separation, Shirley says, "You ask if my marriage is straightened out. I can only ask in return to that, 'Can anyone ever think that a marriage is straightened out?' Anyone who does is in trouble.

"I honestly don't know when our separation began or when it ended."

While Shirley is terribly

proud of her sons, Sean, 14, Patrick, 11, and Ryan, 7, and of her stepson, David Cassidy, she confesses that David's enormous success as the star of "The Partridge Family" has created some problems.

Sensible Shirley says, "It's hard to give the younger boys the right perspective when they see what's happened to David.

"It's hard to convince Sean that he should study hard and make good grades so that he can get into college and prepare for a job when David's making so much money and doing so well.

"We have another problem, too. Girls sometimes use Sean as a means to meet David. He knows when this happens, and it hurts him."

Even so, the Cassidy boys remain close and loving with superstar David taking the kid brothers to a movie occasionally.

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Like Christopher Lee says, the practice of black magic is the worship of evil, and evil is real. So the stars and their hangers-on who are fooling around with witchcraft should try another hobby.

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Bette Davis and her ex-husband Gary Merrill missed each other by a scant week-end when she came to MGM to make "Hello Mother, Good-bye," a half-hour comedy-pilot for NBC.



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