

enced movie actor they'd have there . . . Well, it would be pretty hard for anybody to have less TV experience than I had at that point!"

In fact, David's TV experience was limited to the one part he'd played when he was only eight years old! And he couldn't really remember too much about that — except for how scary he'd felt, and how awful he'd looked when he watched the show later!

"If I felt scary then, how much more nervous did I feel with 'Ironside'?" he went on. "You see, I was nineteen at that time and I'd done enough acting classes and enough work on stage to know that you needed an entirely different technique to act in front of a camera. And I knew that I didn't have it yet!"

Actually, according to Director, Bill Foster, David is being 'overly modest' on that score. Bill still remembers how impressed he was by the way David seemed to sense the extra subtleties he'd need as a screen actor.

He'd spent years in acting classes, learning how to broaden all his gestures and emphasise his facial expression on stage, so that his performance would carry its full weight to every member of a theatre audience — and that included the ones sitting in the very back row!

SUPERB ACTOR

Now, he realised that the quiver of a lip, the raising of an eyebrow — even the tensing of a face muscle . . . all these could carry tremendous dramatic force in a close-up shot.

David was extremely flattered when he heard about Bill Foster's high opinion of him. But he still admitted that:

"I learned an awful lot, just sitting watching on that set. Well, I guess that'll come as no surprise to anybody who's seen Raymond Burr on the screen! I guess he must rate as Being America's most successful TV actor. And he deserves it! For one, because he is such a marvellous guy on a personal level, and also because he is such a superb actor."

The qualities that David specially picked out were Raymond Burr's tremendous control . . . his power to switch from being completely relaxed one minute to a frightening intensity the next . . .

"And you always felt that he still had plenty more to offer," David continued. "He was never stretched to the full; he had tremendous reserves of power and feeling there. Somehow you felt completely at ease, and kind of 'safe' with him."

David was delighted to find that he got on with all the cast, in fact. They turned out to

be a great working team, and had become really firm buddies by the end of the week.

There were quite a few other young actors in this particular show, because the story involved a local basketball team who got themselves mixed up with a crime syndicate. In fact, the script could have been written as a charity to young, out-of-work actors!

SHORT SHOTS

That was nice for David in another way, too, because it meant that there were other fairly young, inexperienced guys around on the set — so he didn't feel quite such a goof! The first thing that struck him when the cast started work on the script was that it was lucky he'd bothered to get the story into his mind beforehand!

He knew that movie work differed from live theatre because the Director split the story into much smaller sequences for separate shots. You can't grow up in a show business family without learning that much! But somehow he'd never realised that the shots would be so short — sometimes only taking in a couple of lines of the script at a time! And he'd always more or less assumed that they'd be filmed in the order they came up in the story-line . . .

"Oh, boy, did I get a surprise when I found they were jumping about all over the place," he told me, smiling. "Gee, was I green in those days!"

I asked David if he could remember what the story was about, for the benefit of people who hadn't yet 'discovered' him in those early days, and were now burning to know every slightest detail about every single show he'd appeared in.

After some really tough brain-racking and mind-searching, David did finally manage to haul out some of his memories of the show and its plot.

But I'll have to pass those on to you next time . . .

DON'T MISS PART 27
OF THE DAVID CASSIDY STORY
WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE
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ON SALE AUGUST 1st

