

The Girl(s)? in David's Life!

THE rumours are around, flying everywhere, that David is on the brink of finally settling down . . . with one girl. Now hold on, there is a good reason for thinking that, but it's not what you think.

What I want to do is to make it perfectly clear exactly what all this does— and does *not*—mean.

These rumours began during David's visit to Britain last spring. Inevitably, the

questions of a number of journalists turned to that private side of his life that David has always been so unwilling to discuss in public.

And one of those questions was "Do you intend to get married in the near future?"

RELUCTANT

David has, as I said, usually been reluctant to discuss his private life. But he did answer this question pretty honestly when he told the assembled members of the press "I've been so busy lately, I mean in the last few years, that I haven't really had the time to devote to a relationship.

"It really wouldn't be fair to

a girl for me to be working all the time, and I certainly couldn't have given her much of myself."

But, David continued, "Maybe now I'll be able to find the time to be able to know someone a little bit better."

This harmless, almost whimsical remark started most of the rumours. Of course, as you know, what David meant was far from a confession.

David has always seen himself as a normal kind of guy, and he has always thought that he wants a normal sort of relationship. A wife, a couple of kids, the sort of regularity that most blokes want, these were the things that David wanted.

But, all the time, in the back of David's mind, he wanted to be very, very sure before he

made a decision. He had seen a good deal of unhappiness resulting from marriages in show business.

Of course, his parents' divorce when he was only a child was the first, and perhaps the strongest argument against rushing into anything. Even though Jack Cassidy and Evelyn Ward had had some good years, the stresses of their professional lives had finally proved too strong.

MARRIAGE

And even afterwards, the failure of Evelyn's second marriage made it even more clear to David that marriage is, at best, a pretty tricky subject.

As if that wasn't enough, David was all too aware that his father and step-mother, Shirley Jones, had had *their*

share of problems as well. Despite their years of happiness, Jack and Shirley had seen a few rough spots, and once were almost separated.

All David wants to do is to have a chance to catch up on his private life, to grow a bit and to find out more about himself. But people who didn't know David too well were all too prepared to read something very different into his statements.

That's why there was so much public attention given to one of David's girlfriends when she flew off, on David's invitation, to visit him in the United States. It was no more than a simple, casual friendship.

But because David had seemed to suggest that he was thinking of marriage, the

David, as you can see in these pix has nothing against girlfriends.



But so far they've been just that - FRIENDS

