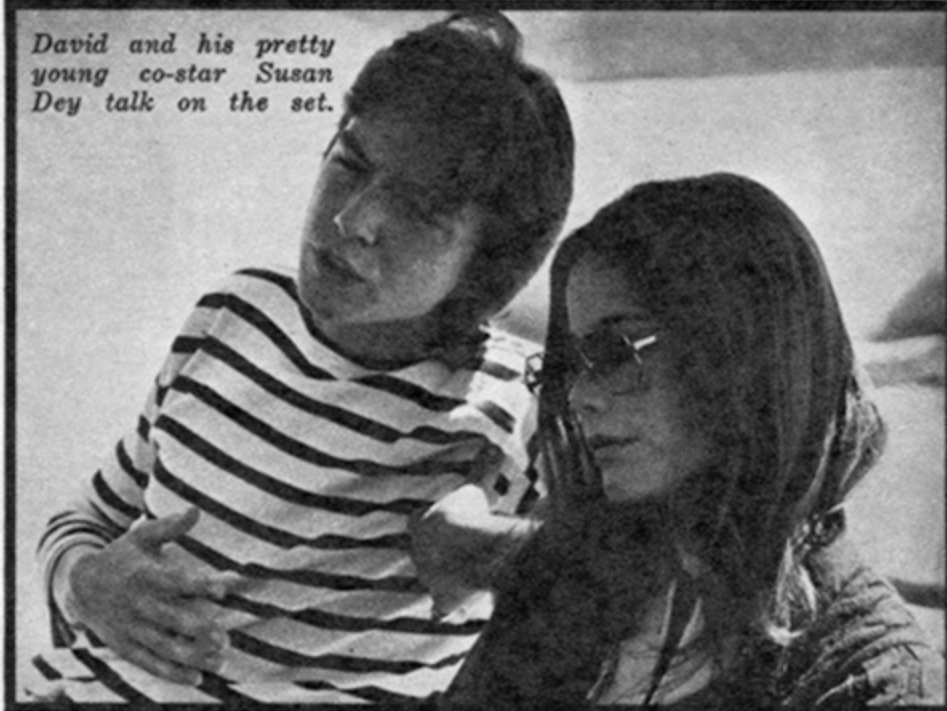


David and his pretty young co-star Susan Dey talk on the set.



David Cassidy tells how he met his real-life stepmother, Shirley Jones.

■ When he was three years old, he suddenly leaned out of the first row balcony and at the top of his lungs shouted, “There’s my daddy!” breaking up the audience, but not breaking up his dad, Jack Cassidy, who managed to keep his cool and keep his first big Broadway musical, *Wish You Were Here*, still rolling along on stage. Not too long after that, young David Cassidy made his own acting debut, first on a daytime television series, then in a summer stock production of *Pajama Game*, with his mother, actress Evelyn Wood. “It was kind of a groove. I wouldn’t have gotten in the show except that she was in it, and I wasn’t scared. I was never scared. I was used to seeing both of my parents on stage. I loved watching them—I wanted to be an actor even then. My mother always took me with her, especially after she and my dad split up.”

That was when he was six, and it shattered his whole world. When he was six-and-a-half, his dad took him to see his stepmother-to-be, Shirley Jones. Not to meet her, she was out on the west coast doing *Carousel*, but to catch the last twenty minutes of a film called *Oklahoma*. “We walked into the dark theatre and there in blazing color on the screen was this huge head of a beautiful lady with her mouth wide open singing, Ooooooooooooooooooklahoma . . .”

“Oh no,” I thought, “Wow, she’s weird!” He laughs about it now. “And then about six months later I really met her, when she was in New York. Before I’d met her I decided I wasn’t going to like her. I didn’t like or understand the whole scene—what had happened to my parents—but I found I couldn’t dislike her, she (Continued on page 78)

“I THOUGHT
AT FIRST I WOULD
HATE HER...”

