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four or five days to find out if I'd get it and I was really worried because I wanted to get it because it would be such a great thing to work with her."

And now he is doing just that. Costarring. Also they've just cut an album together. "With me there is no generation gap," David says. "I've always existed in a world of adults. As a matter of fact, as I see the character I play, Keith, he's a kid who definitely mothers his mother. Being the oldest in the family, with no father, he has to take over, protect her, in the show business world into which



Robert Young

continued from page 39

planned on a career in musical comedy and could have done it. She starred in musicals all through her years at S.C., worked her way through school singing.

"But marriage to Bobby has always been my career," she tells you. "That's what marriage is, a career. Right at the beginning I was booked for several concerts but I found it interfered with my married life. Bobby wasn't too tolerant of it at the time—he wanted me with him, on location—wherever—and that's where I wanted to be. I was always sorry I was doing a concert because I wanted to be with him. And I found from the first that if you're interested in one creative field, you can be very creative in other fields. Marriage was my field and it's been marvelous. Not because we didn't have any rough roads—I don't think anyone can miss the rough roads!

"We started out about as opposite as two people could possibly be. I was like something on the end of a string—happy-golucky—and Bobby was very, very serious, with no sense of humor, something he has a great deal of now. I guess he was one guy I couldn't make do just what I wanted him to. I couldn't pull him around, he knew what he wanted and that was that. I've often laughed about it. Of all the guys I went with, I probably liked him least. I loved him, but he was the only one who wouldn't let me do just as I pleased with him and that proved the best thing in the world for me. Nobody admires anybody they can pull around by the nose. So often we look for people who are just like us when what we need is to marry people who are different! What happens is that you learn to value those differences, to

love even faults.

"For instance, I used to worry because Bobby was so generous with his money. I was practical, he was not. I kept thinking we'd end up with nothing. Then all of a sudden it dawned on me that this lack of pinching pennies, this innate generosity of his was the very thing that gave me the freedom I loved in my own life. For Bobby has always given me the freedom to express myself, dress as I wish, run our house as I wish, be totally myself. And this I think is one of the most important things in marriage, to allow each other to

be one's self.

"That he's given me and love he's given me. I've always felt myself a loved woman. We've been so lucky, Bobby and I, we've always been able to communicate, not just talk things out—because sometimes that doesn't work, you say one thing and feel quite another—but we feel things out. No matter what was happening, he always

the family ventures. He has to be ready for the bad and the good."

That's something David knows all about because that's been his life. The children of a good many show business families have never been able to make it on their own. They've become lost or embittered or over-indulged; but David has somehow taken the bad with the good and it's been, he says, "a great trip."

Jane Ardmore

Be sure to see David on ABC-TV's THE PARTRIDGE FAMILY.

came first with me and I feel I always came first with Bobby. As Eleanor Roosevelt said when someone asked her which came first her husband or children, I feel as she did that your husband is the other half of you which makes a whole. When you two are together and whole, then the children come first."

And she gives you that quick bright smile she's given him through all the years. Thirty seven of them. They've had anniversaries in London and Carmel, at Rancho Santa Fe (their other home) and on movie locations throughout the world. The last was in Dallas. They cut their anniversary cake at a reception before a thousand dignitaries, including doctors from all over the state, gathered to meet Robert Young, who between seasons on Marcus Welby, M.D. was on tour for Easter Seals. The work Bob has been able to do for this organization which does so much for children with cerebral palsy, the interest he has been able to engender in the cause wherever he goes has been thrilling. Eleven cities, thousands of people. A man of very real personal dignity, Robert Young's image as a doctor is flying high with the number one series on the air.

"A far cry," laughs Betty, "from the day we were married when Bobby really thought marrying me was going to end his career. Oh, yes he did. Young actors were told not to get married in those days, as a matter of fact it was a studio order. Mr. Mayer himself warned Bobby. To enhance his glamour he was to date movie stars. Bobby tried. He did as he was told for six weeks after the order and then we sneaked away, sneaked down to Santa Fe where no one would ever know us, and where it wouldn't be registered in L.A. County and were married by a Justice of the Peace. He is now a Superior Court Judge, Kenneth Morrison.

"We almost didn't get married, actually. It was a holiday and the courts were closed, but one woman was working that day. She let us in and sold us a license, and there was a chap in the corridor, we didn't know who he was but he said he'd be glad to stand up with us, and did. He drove with us to the Justice and it was sort of funny, on the way he mentioned knowing that I was a graduate of S.C. and that I'd been in musical productions. Wouldn't you know he was a newspaper man. Somehow he'd gotten wind of this, was down there waiting. By the time we got back to L.A. that night, there we were on the front page of the L.A. Herald with pictures and everything and Bobby took one look and said, 'There, that's the end of my career!'

He kept right on thinking that way. In those days options came up the end of each year and he would wait for option-time like a man expecting the guillotine. "This is it. The end. I'm finished," he'd tell her and Betty would try to laugh him out of it. Or talk him out of it. Or try to build his confidence. "I always had absolute confidence in Bobby's acting ability, from the time I played Maid Marion to his Robin Hood at Lincoln High in Santa Monica. I