

would ever or could ever take my father's place. Still, if my dad was going to remarry after their divorce, I couldn't ask for a better step-mother."

But the fact remains that David's real mother is "back East," in New York, while David must be in California—just ten minutes away from the home of Shirley Jones and his dad Jack Cassidy—if he is to pursue the career which has made him so famous. And that fact has reportedly caused some very real problems in the life of David, his mother, and his father's second family.

A very close friend of David's has revealed to us that the sudden separation between him and his mother has hurt Evelyn Ward, that she does feel she has lost him in a way. The hurt, the feeling of loss, this friend says sadly, has caused her to ask certain things of David she never would have asked before. During a promotion tour in New York, our informant told us, she did try to get David to make his permanent home there.