

## Shirley Jones *continued from page 23*

problems of any two personalities working together constantly. The professional jealousy such situations breed has ruined many celebrity marriages and destroyed close blood-ties between members of the same famous family. Lucille Ball is an example of both cases, having lost one celebrity marriage, with Desi Arnaz Sr., under the pressure of combining both professional and personal relationships and more recently suffering a heartbreaking breach with her son, Desi Jr.

Yet Shirley and David continue to work together on ABC-TV's *Partridge Family* without any apparent pressure building between them. When the series first started production, Shirley was a full-fledged star, an Academy Award-winning actress who should have, by all odds, "run away with the show." On the other hand, David's status as an actor was near zero and, although few will admit it today, most show-business observers back then were positive that young Cassidy would be lucky just to maintain that nearly nonexistent talent rating.

In practically no time at all, of course, David's impact on the television audience soared. His stardom rivaled Shirley's and in some ways even surpassed it.

Modern success stories like that may be

marvelous plots for heart-hugging human-interest stories—but they just as often are the ego-shattering themes upon which envy and resentment build. David's skyrocketing to fame created no intrigue, no animosity, no personality clash with the star of the show. Instead of that familiar pale shade of green that outsiders anticipated, Shirley simply beamed a bright blaze of pride and happiness. Once again, it just didn't figure.

Perhaps the most bewildering problem to confront David and Shirley was the very first one they faced together—many years ago, when they first met. David was almost nine years old and Shirley was the woman who had replaced David's mother in Jack Cassidy's life. Now that role is an awful lot tougher to play than any television portrayal. That pressure is something that can't be shrugged off. Real life had cast Shirley as "the stepmother"—a role traditionally reserved for the villain in almost every story.

The plot of this drama called for the stepmother to face the challenge of winning over the young confused child. It's an ancient tale filled with tragedy and tears. Good human-interest stuff—almost always culminating with an unhappy ending.

Jack Cassidy wanted his son to like the new Mrs. Cassidy—and he certainly wanted

the lad's new stepmother to like little David. Shirley wanted more. She wanted her husband's son to love her and she was determined even before she met David to make that wish a reality. So determined was Shirley that she almost wrecked their entire relationship from the outset! Shirley twinges even now when she looks back at the chaotic beginning. "I knew I had the toughest job of my life ahead of me. It was just like in the theater. When you want to do a great performance, but you know you've first got to prove yourself to the audience, you can press so hard that you're most apt to blow it all—lose the audience and louse up the role as well."

Shirley admits today that she was so anxious for David's love that she "pressed" her role as the "loving stepmother."

"In the first place," Shirley remembers, "I was scared to death by him [David]." In an effort to avoid creating tension, Jack made David and Shirley's first meeting a surprise. That way, Jack reasoned, she wouldn't have time to get nervous and she'd just be herself.

Jack's logical approach may have looked great from his side of the family, but from Shirley's point of view, "It was one of the dumbest things Jack has ever done!"

## Sidney Skolsky *continued from page 18*

MITCHUM is deceiving. He is literate, intellectual, gracious, kind, with good manners.

ZERO MOSTEL's greatest fans are other actors. Especially comedians.

LEE REMICK is sexy, but in that nice, quiet "still-waters" way that whispers rather than shouts at you.

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I've been told that the sarong DOROTHY LAMOUR wore in the "Road" pictures is in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington next to CHARLES LINDBERGH's "Spirit Of St. Louis." I said I've been told, but I don't believe it.

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I guess just about everyone (female) has played Dolly Levi of "Hello, Dolly!" and I guess everyone will continue to do so for years and years.

ELEANOR PARKER is good-looking with a plain face. I seldom recognize her because her face hasn't any distinguishing features. Yet Eleanor is pretty.

PHYLLIS DILLER and TINY TIM aren't pretty, but I recognize them

immediately. I don't believe TUESDAY WELD has had a picture worthy of her talent. JULIE ANDREWS is trying to prove she is sexy. GEORGE SANDERS has been described—not by me—as the kind of friend who's always around when he needs you.

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Out Of The Mouths Of Celebrities:

BEN GAZZARA: Successful acting isn't necessarily good acting.

JOAN CRAWFORD: I had the great advantage of growing up in front of a camera. I know just how to turn, just what to show on my face and when to let the other performer have it.

MARLON BRANDO: It's when I'm not satisfied with a script that I can't remember my lines.

WARREN BEATTY: I remind myself of me.

JACQUELINE BISSET: Every woman should have a secret. Even the girl next door is alluring if she has a secret.

MAE WEST: Sex isn't even a four-letter word.

AUDREY HEPBURN: Funny, but

I keep getting older and CARY GRANT keeps getting younger.

ANDY WILLIAMS: I'm the legendary Californian—an Iowan.

GRETA GARBO: Better I should stay a legend.

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CARRIE SNODGRESS thinks her insistence that she be allowed to use her real name for movies was a blessing in disguise. ("I just wanted to pay homage to my parents, but the name really worked for me. You might say that Snodgress is somewhat unforgettable, huh?")

Once, when her agent asked her to use another name, Carrie suggested that perhaps her mother's maiden name would be a good one. That's the last time he asked her. Her mother's name was SNECK.

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Hollywood is a town where you can be all fed up and still go hungry. It's a town where if you see a movie star talking to himself it's a sure bet he's listening to a flatterer. But don't get me wrong. I love Hollywood. □