

there's a mess, you can say, 'Take her home. It's *your* kid!'" he laughed.

But the humor doesn't hide Jim's real feelings about his granddaughter. He's so devoted to her, in fact, that Elizabeth manages to creep into almost every area of his conversation.

So when he began to discuss "Medical Center," answering my question about whether or not an actor identifies with the role he's playing, he chose an example which featured his grandchild. "A couple of months ago when I was still out in the Valley, my granddaughter and Tyne and George were over for dinner. Elizabeth was playing and somehow she fell and hit her chin and got a really bad cut. . ." Jim's voice echoed the gravity of the situation, almost as if he were reading a script.

"I picked her up and she was bleeding like a stuck pig. And screaming bloody murder! Her mother came running in from the kitchen—scared, naturally. Her father was in shock! So I guess I sort of took over and led the emergency bandaging that we finally all had a hand in.

"After it was all over, I thought, 'Well, a couple of years ago when I wasn't identifying so closely with medicine, I probably would have been less efficient.'

"The bandage I put on her was ridiculous, but we staunched the flow of blood and there was no serious damage. The doctor said later that we had done quite an adequate job—for amateurs! The point is, in this situation I moved more automatically than I think I would have before 'Medical Center'—although my ex-wife always says that I'm great in a crisis."

Jim shrugged self-consciously. "I don't know whether or not she's right. I don't like to say it, because I'm superstitious. I mean, people say that and I think, 'Maybe the next time it won't work so well for me.'"

Yes, Jim's surely in love with this little gal—but he has a few words of warning for her father.

"Daddy is now giving my husband lectures on how terrible it is to have your daughters taken off in all directions by strange young men," Tyne laughs. "He looks at Elizabeth and tells George, 'Watch out! You'll get yours when they start coming around after her!'"

Now Jim was fumbling to express how he felt during the transition period when his daughters were changing from "Daddy's little girls" into full-blossomed young women. It was a time that was obviously hardest on Daddy!

"I guess all my girls weren't dating at the same time," he reminisced, "but as I look back on it, suddenly the place seemed to be inundated with callow youth! I don't know if any father is really prepared for that time in his life." He sighed and gave a resigned chuckle. "A very curious thing happens; you don't quite know what to say or do.

"I mean, you walk in a room and there's your kid in some embrace with somebody on the couch. So you very quickly back out. And you go into another room and there's another one of your kids—and the same thing. So what do you do?" he threw up his arms in a mock, helpless gesture. "What *can* you do? You go in your bedroom with a book—and hide! At least that's what I did."

There's another problem, too, that Jim sees for George in the future. What if Elizabeth, like her mother, decides to be an actress?

"Daddy and I worked together in a 'Medical Center' a few months ago—and that was really a milestone!" Tyne declared. "It was a big psychological hurdle: you see, Daddy was never overly enthusiastic about any of us going into showbusiness." [Tyne has two sisters, both married and in their twenties, and a 14-year-old brother, Timothy, who attends private school in Vermont.]

Yet Tyne has gone into acting, and now Jim can only proudly announce, "She's a very good actress, that one!

"But I certainly didn't teach her," he

hastens to add. "When she was growing up I simply told her, 'Don't be an actress!' I thought it was too rough a road for a woman, especially my daughter, so I never encouraged any of my girls. But you can't really *discourage* anyone who's really interested," Jim admitted.

"Today," Tyne says, "one of the greatest things is that my husband and my father are both actors—and they admire each other's work! They're big fans of each other, which makes it very comfortable for all concerned. George has done a number of movies [including "The Comedians," "Bullit," and "The Forbin Project"] and loads of TV."

With Elizabeth's looks and background, the next question was obviously, "When does *she* make her debut?"

"Not for a long time!" Tyne decreed. "So far she's escaped commercials strictly by my devices and George's. I guess I *am* my father's daughter. I'm absolutely *not* encouraging this sort of thing.

"About a year ago I was in New York, doing 'John and Mary,' and they needed a mixed kid to do some little scene. Someone said, 'How about Elizabeth?' I said, 'Absolutely not! When she's got something to do and say about the whole thing, that's a different story. Right now this little girl is not on the open market!'

"It was a scene where the kid had to cry throughout and I asked, 'Just how are you going to make her cry?' Somebody said, 'It's easy. You'll walk out of the room and she'll cry—right?' I said, 'Wrong! She'll be here for ten minutes and make friends with everybody.'

"When I told Daddy how I'd turned down his granddaughter's debut in a major motion picture—and why—he just sort of smiled. He had this twinkle that he gets, you know, when he's secretly pleased. But he didn't say anything. He didn't have to. I knew he approved *100 per cent!*"

—JANE ALLEN

See James in "Medical Center," Wednesday, 9:00 P.M., EST, CBS-TV Network.

DAVID CASSIDY

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death at the age of 27 had shown, if anything needed to, that fame and money were no protection against disaster. But then, David was learning how little protection against *anything* could be derived from fame and money. Wasn't that why he was leaving his home today? There were other things to be moved: books for those fleeting moments he could spare between work and sleep and his 23-inch color television set, which he mainly used for studying his own work. He found little time to enjoy it otherwise, nor did watching TV hold his interest that much.

But there was almost no furniture. He didn't like it, and he'd had little more than a bed for sleeping and a milk crate for sitting in his nearly-bare room. His roommate, Sam Hyman, had lived in similarly Spartan style.

Sam was an understanding sort, and he could sense instinctively when David wanted to be alone, which was fairly often. Sometimes they barely saw each other for days at a time.

As Shirley Jones, David's co-star in "The Patridge Family," has said in speaking of her famous stepson: "He's a private person." Throughout his life, David's friends and family have often found it difficult to tell what he's thinking. His moods have been many and unpredictable.

He can be outgoing and friendly one minute, tense and withdrawn the next. One day you feel you could trust him with your life, the next that you really don't know him at all.

His withdrawal into himself may well have begun because his parents were away from him so much during his childhood.

His father, the musical comedy and dramatic star, Jack Cassidy, and his mother, Broadway actress-singer Evelyn Ward, were often out touring the country either separately or together in stage or nightclub shows during David's early years. And he was often left in the care of his grandparents, whose house in New Jersey became the only home he knew for much of his childhood.

His withdrawal became more intense when his parents' marriage broke up. At the time, David was only of kindergarten age. Then Jack Cassidy married Shirley Jones when he was six.

Although David did not blame Shirley for breaking up his parents' marriage once he understood the situation, he did blame showbusiness. He still believes that the marriage might have worked out if his folks had not been in the entertainment field. The traveling, the pressures, the separations—all these could not help but strain their relationship; and finally it cracked, scarring David's childhood and influencing his life to this day.