

respect his new step-mother. "I still feel like an outsider to them," he confesses when he visits his father. "After all, they have all their own children now . . ." And his mother's marriage to Elliott Silverstein, a man David respected and trusted, soon ended in her second divorce. So it came as no surprise that David's childhood was a difficult one, full of jarring memories and painful scars as yet tender. As a matter of fact, David has often confessed that he "has to exist in a world where everyone is older," and it is no wonder that he tends to look skeptically upon fickle women—especially actresses!

"I don't really like actresses," he confides. "I don't mean that there aren't some of them who are great and whom I'd like to go out with, but I mean as a group. I don't have anything against girls who want to become stars, but when I go out on a date, I like to do different things, play pool, go to a quiet dinner someplace . . . not worry about being 'seen' by people and wondering if it will make the columns."

Friends say David's concern for his loss of privacy has led him to move from his "orange crate" furnished house in arty Laurel Canyon into the Hollywood Hills with best buddy Sam Hyman. His parents were unable to have David's phone number, because one of his step-brothers were always handing it out to the girls at school, the place was overrun with fans, and David was even robbed on one occasion!

So one morning, Sam, David, dogs Sheesh and Sam, picked up, loaded everything into a friend's truck, and moved it in the dead of night to a rambling multi-level home in the Hollywood Hills, complete with pool table, piano, swimming pool, and sunken bathtub, where, hopefully, David Cassidy can remain out of the public eye.

But Shirley, rumors had it, was becoming rather annoyed at David's new-found stardom. For one thing, it has, to a certain extent, psyched out David's father, Jack Cassidy, who has been in show business for years, but has never attained the recognition David has in only a few short months. And when network execs wanted to change the show's name to *David Cassidy And The Partridge Family*, Shirley revolted.

Friend Sam, who has known David since junior high school days, insists, "We can't conceive the idea of the teen-age idol. David's not ego-tripping. He can be the life of the party, but he's not 'on' all the time. He's confident in himself. He doesn't go for fads, or do something because it's popular."

So David remains secluded, way up in the Hollywood Hills, content to make music with his friends and date occasionally. He is in no hurry to settle down with any girl in the near future—and Susan Dey is in complete agreement with him on this matter; both are enjoying their single status too much.

"I don't have a steady girl," David confesses, "and I'm not really looking for one. I like to play the field. The columnists have been writing about my dating this girl and that girl, but it isn't true. As a matter of fact, I haven't dated the same girl twice!"

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