

ding, Brenda and Bill tossed a wedding party for the friends who were not at the services. He rushed over to greet us when we came in the door. I've never seen him so exuberant. I recalled a couple of years ago we were standing in front of the club and talking about the fact that he'd probably never get married—well, at least not for five years!

"This is my wedding suit," he said as he proudly showed me the white jacket, shirt and slacks. "I wanted it to be virginal—like me!" Brenda was wearing a simple brown dress (or was it black—it's hard to tell colors in the dark discotheque!).

"Is this your wedding gown?" I asked. "No," she laughed. "My dress was an heirloom and I wouldn't take a chance dancing in it." I understood what she meant by "Taking a chance" when I saw her dancing later!

However she was wearing the heirloom wedding band. "It's my great-great-great-great-grandmother's," he said. Brenda showed it to me—two hands clasped at the end of two thin bands. Bill wasn't wearing a wedding band. They'll take their honeymoon next January in Acapulco at the end of EDDIE'S season. (I wondered if guests **David Janssen** and **Rosemary Forsyth** got the wedding bug at the Bixbys' party?)

RANDOM REPORTS:

● Talking about various members of a family having a show while others are unemployed (so to speak—temporarily, in this crazy world of TV), we are reminded of many similar cases where the husband is the star, only to have the wife become a TV star while her husband's career goes into a temporary eclipse. Like **Barbara Eden** and **Mike Ansara**, for example, who were sensible during those years when she was the heavy bread winner with **JEAN-PIERRE** and he found the sledding rough—after having had a big start on his career before her.

And now, of course, the perfect example of **Shirley Jones** and **Jack Cassidy**—plus son **David**, of course. And I don't have to note that Shirley and Jack have had their trials and separations during, before and after the success of one or the other. So, I hardly think that her career will decide whether their mar-

riage will be permanent. And just because Shirley's obviously busy because of the TV show, doesn't mean that the very talented, Emmy-nominated Jack isn't busier than even she. Not only did he direct and star in his own play, **A WALTZ FOR WILLY RYAN**, here in Hollywood this summer, but he was readying another TV series—in which he'll (appropriately) play the devil, that devil!

And Jack was also very much the father of David—despite the fact his son is 21 years old. When we talked about the young Cassidy's gall bladder operation this summer during the show's brief hiatus, Jack admitted to me, "It's quite major surgery, you know. And I hope he gets enough time to rest before going back to work." (See story on David's operation, page 6.)

I was curious about such surgery for a young man and Jack explained, "It takes years to develop, but he had an early start on it, I guess. When he was a baby, he had colic. Furthermore, I think he inherited the possibility of such trouble. I inherited my bad stomach from my mother. And I guess he got it from me. I hope he doesn't inherit my liver," Jack laughed—as we knew he is known to be handy with elbow bending with the lads.

Jack was grateful that his son, in his ill condition, was working on a show where someone was looking out for him. The "someone," of course, being Shirley Jones. "She watches his rigid diet every day on the set," said Jack. "Although he lives in his own apartment." David was plenty nervous about the surgery. He had been in the hospital earlier—when he was 10—for eye surgery. "And that was no picnic," papa reminded. "He had to have muscles cut and adjusted."

One thing's certain, David had plenty of other "help" in his convalescence. Like a long list of volunteer "nurses." And papa Jack, who has a good eye for the lassies, himself, says he has always approved of the great taste David has with women. (Maybe he does take after his dad!) "I've given my voice of approval to them," he laughed. "Not that he needs it! He always seems to go with very quiet girls. Whereas I always went with loud ones. And I always wanted to go with girls who were smarter than I." Does this apply to Shirley Jones Cassidy? "Please don't let her know she's smarter than I am," he laughed. (Or loud?)

● **Andy Williams** claims he and **Claudine Longet** are not legally separated. What are

they then? He smiled. "The same thing we've been since Claudine put something in print about a year ago that we were separated, we were sorry about it." But, I told him, "I just saw Claudine yesterday and she didn't object to the fact that people were acknowledging the rumor you are both now legally separated." "Well, she wouldn't do that," he said.

Since Andy and I have long been friends and leveled with one another, I told him that, for the first time Claudine was not wearing a wedding ring when I had seen her that previous weekend.

"She never wears the ring when she plays tennis," he explained.

She had been playing tennis at La Costa in the celebrity tournament with **Steve Peyton** who also helped arrange the tournament with **Tommy Cook** and the list of Hollywood celebs. They didn't win their mixed doubles event, but helped make the event a big success for the local YMCA.

One of the things Andy was upset about was hearing (not from us) that he was babysitting for the children while Claudine and Steve were out, playing tennis or dating. This really bugged him—and understandably.

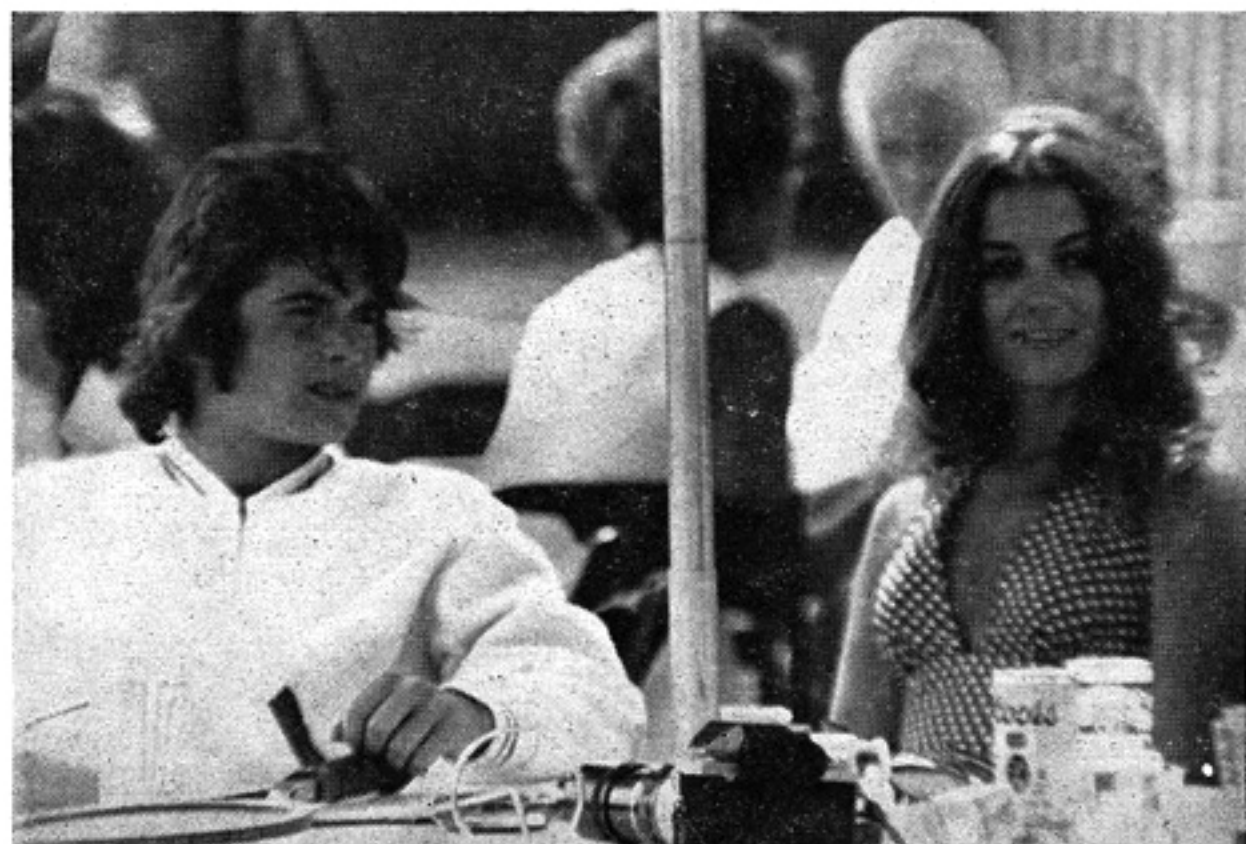
"I love her more than anybody," he volunteered to me. "And she tells me the same thing." What about Steve Peyton, I asked. "She says the thing with Steve Peyton is nothing," said Andy. But I did hear that Andy called up La Costa before Claudine and Steve played their match—to wish them luck. As for the rumors about himself and **Ethel Kennedy**, Andy also claimed that, too, was nothing.

If, as Andy said, there is no change in his status with Claudine, what's to happen in the future? "I don't want it to change now," he said honestly. "Maybe I'll get my head straightened out soon," he laughed. He's got his head buried deep in music these days, and if music can straighten him out, he's way ahead! He also had the pleasant company of the **Lennon** ladies working in both Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe to keep his mind on the pure, straight and narrow—in those towns of temptation and—?

TV TIDBITS

● **Merv Griffin** brought his family—and dog—with him to the tennis tourney at La Costa. He's a convert to the sport along with such strange tennis court visitors these days as **Don Adams**, **Jack Carter** and **Don Rickles**. Rick-

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Desi Jr. took Henry Kissinger's interest, Judy Brown, to La Costa.



Dean Martin was thrilled over Dino's win at tournament.