

Theatre Company. Soon he was on the road to success—and emotional stability. He transferred to Rexford High in Beverly Hills, a fine private school, and pulled excellent grades. The theatre had been a restorative.

After graduation, David went to New York to settle some scores with his father and Shirley. "For the first time, I was living with my father and Shirley, and it was a nice experience," he says. "It was too bad it didn't happen a little earlier, though, because at that point I didn't want to be with anybody, really."

David got along famously with Shirley—but his father gave him a bit of trouble. Never very close to begin with, "I was a little skeptical of my father at first," he admits candidly. I didn't really know how to adjust to him, but it was the best thing for me. It really helped me to grow up out of that adolescent thing.

"I know that there's a lot of frustration involved."

The rest of David's story tells of an immediate uphill climb—emotionally as well as fame-wise. One Broadway show started the whole thing rolling. TV guest shots followed, and today *The Partridge Family!*

The boy in the middle—today he's pulling slowly away from the past. "I go to visit my Dad and Shirley on weekends, and they're always very nice to me. But I always feel like a visitor, not a member of their family. It's not their fault. It's just how I feel. After all, I don't live with them . . ."

But David is with them a great deal of the time. Whenever Jack and Shirley have a social function they must attend, nine times out of ten, David is usually along with his date. In a very real sense, David doubledates with his parents. For a young, swinging bachelor, this can be somewhat restrictive. Some observers of the Hollywood scene have concluded that David's presence helps keep the peace in the Cassidy marriage. Shirley herself has, in fact, confessed that she has gained some valuable insights about relationships from her stepson. But David must surely be tired by now of taking his girl along on dates with his parents. In a way, it's almost as if David had never left the nest. But now that he has a nest of his own, and has his own lifestyle, playing mediator in his father's marriage may be more of an inconvenience.

David was called back again—during the one-day separation between Shirley and Jack. To comfort his step-mother, to plead with his father. Wearied, a bit angered, frustrated, he pleaded with both, as a mature adult, now. "I have to exist in a world where everyone is older," he sadly confessed.

David Cassidy now has a home, in the Hollywood Hills, that he shares with his friend, Sam. The house is built far off the road, and allows both boys the privacy they so need. He uses his agent's address as the mailing place for his letters and business transactions, and refuses to give out his phone number to anyone other than his agent, his press agent, one person at Screen Gems, his roommate Sam, and "a very close friend." "I can't even give it to my mother and father, because every time I did, my little brother would find out

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