

## DAVID/"MY REAL MOM" (Continued from page 10)

doors are very hard to knock down, you know.

"The same thing happened to me when I started in show business. But I was just a little more fortunate in the fact that when I started working, I kept working and I didn't stop. She started working, and then she gave up the whole thing for me . . ."

Evelyn later married director Elliot Silverstein, of *Cat Ballou* fame. David was 11 years old at the time, and he recalls that with marriage, his mother gave up all thought of acting and dedicated herself to her family. Evelyn and Elliot are now divorced.

But the former Mrs. Cassidy didn't try to push her son into show business. She was far from being the typical "stage mother." Instead she allowed him to go to acting school when he was about nine years old and encouraged him to sing at home and in the church choir. But as far as being a professional actor goes, David wasn't allowed to pursue this career until after his graduation from high school.

After he graduated from high school, David left for New York to try his luck with Broadway. "When it came time to leave, my mother just let me spread my wings and fly," he remembers. "It was fine with her that I was going to stay with my father and Shirley, who were living in a big house at Irvington-on-Hudson while they appeared together on Broadway in *Maggie Flynn*. Actually I lived in a little guest house on the estate and spent a lot of time in New York City, so I didn't see too

much of them."

David feels it's because of Evelyn that he was able to accept Shirley as his stepmother. Often it is impossible for a child to become friends with his father's second wife. David says, "Thanks to my mother, I was able to accept my father and Shirley much more easily, because she never built up a hatred for them in my mind the way many mothers do when the father remarries after a divorce.

"Too many mothers feel hate inside themselves, and they try to make their children hate, too. But my mother isn't that way, and she never was. For that I'm very grateful."

One thing Evelyn is very grateful for is David's success. She knows that David worked very hard to get where he is today. When David got his first professional role in a musical called *The Fig Leaves Are Falling*, his mother was ecstatic and thrilled for him. She shared his disappointment when the show quickly folded, but it didn't matter that much, for by that time David was well on his way to stardom.

Today *The Partridge Family* is one of the most popular shows on the air, and the songs they record together (albums and singles) are best-sellers. No one could be happier with her son's success than David's mother herself. "She was really pleased about the success of the records and the concerts that I recently started doing," David says. "She read the reviews of the concerts and was happy for me. Also, she likes *The Partridge Family*, thinks it's a good show and hopes it runs a long time—and so do I!"

Of course, David's mother isn't the only one who's pleased with his rapid rise to

stardom. Both Jack and Shirley are glowingly proud of David. And David himself feels a great deal of self-satisfaction. "I think I've done it, you know?" he says proudly. "Whether I become this big or that big, I don't really think it matters that much. The fact is that I feel successful within myself. I know that I'm a success—that I've made my own mark. I've contributed something. And that's a good feeling. It's satisfying for me."

By the time you read this, David's mother—who was living on the East Coast—will have returned to California. David is extremely happy about being able to be near his Mom again. "I'm all she has in the world," he says, and he'll do right by her.

It's in an effort to do right by Evelyn that David has brought her into the limelight now that he's made it on his own. He says, "My own mother has gone unmentioned in the publicity about our show and about me, and people are beginning to think that Shirley is my real mother. Well, she's not, and I don't want my real mother shoved aside because of Shirley. My own mother is not in the limelight like Shirley and my father, and because of that she's been forgotten."

Evelyn Ward may have been forgotten by the fans who once applauded her before she gave up her career to be a mother; she may have been forgotten by the press, who write reams of copy about David's stepmother; she may even have been forgotten by her first husband, David's father, Jack Cassidy, who has since found happiness with another woman. But Evelyn Ward has not been forgotten by her son, David Cassidy, and we don't think she ever has to worry about *that*. ■

## JEREMY/SUZANNE (Continued from page 56)

nun (like Dave Madden's older sister).

Then there is Trudy who earns her living being an X-ray technician, a highly specialized skill. And Gail Marie is a high school student. Gail Marie is also a model, which makes it apparent that the entire Crough family is blessed with good looks.

In the boy's department, there are Timothy and Patrick, both bright young boys who are finishing up their educations right now but both of whom have great futures ahead of them.

Suzanne also loves pets—she's got three: a cat named Johnnie, a rabbit named Cotton, and three unnamed guppies. Suzanne feeds and takes care of these pets all by herself.

So, as we can see, even though Suzanne is only seven, she has a busy, happy, normal life. And she hopes to grow up to give her children the same things.

Unlike his female counterpart, Jeremy

(Chris on the show) Gelbwaks is the oldest of his brothers, of which he has two.

But he doesn't have one thing in common with her. He plays the youngest of the boys on the show.

Nine-year-old Jeremy tells us he often has his last name mispronounced. So let's clear that up right now. It's pronounced *gilbwax!* He is the eldest son of Norman and Sydney Gelbwaks. His father, Norman, is an electronics engineer.

Jeremy isn't the only acting member of the Gelbwaks family. His middle brother, Matthew Gelbwaks, has appeared in two episodes of *Julia* and in addition he has appeared on the *Danny Thomas Show*. He's eight years old.

But lucky for Jeremy, he's the one in the family who got the really big role. Lucky for us, too!

Daniel, six, and the youngest of the Gelbwaks, hasn't gotten bit by the acting bug yet. But, who knows? Especially with two older brothers in the profession. Look at the Fonda Family of acting. First there was the Barrymores, then the Fondas.

Maybe a generation from now, it will be the Gelbwaks!

A family friend, after observing little Jeremy around the house and seeing his antics, suggested to his parents that they find an agent for their son. Well, they took the friend's advice. And the agent they found flipped over Jeremy. He immediately found work for Jeremy.

In addition to his starring role he now has, he's appeared in two commercials and in a skit on the *Pat Paulsen Half A Comedy Hour*, which led to his present role.

Jeremy, in addition to being a sparkling and imaginative little actor, is also a brilliant little boy—perhaps of genius quality.

He enjoys school very much and his principal recommended to his parents that he try for the Gifted Children's Association, to which he has been accepted.

He spends his spare time on his hobbies which include bike riding, skiing, reading, sailing and fishing, at which he excels.