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the point where I hated to leave them. . . . I was weeping bitterly every time I was asked to do a picture . . ."

The solution to the problem of being an actress and a mother seemed to be a television series, and when *The Partridge Family* came along, Shirley jumped at the chance to do it.

Still, it's not an idyllic situation. Shirley must work four or five days a week, leaving the house at 5:30 A.M. and not getting home till 8:00 at night. But weekends are for the kids, and on Saturdays and Sundays, Shirley is no longer a famous star, but just plain "mom."

But Shirley's children are still having a hard time adjusting to the fact that their mother is an actress. As far as show business goes, Shaun says, ". . . Well, yeah, I know it fits Dad. It's Mom I can't see. I can't picture her as an actress . . ."

And then there was the time when Shaun told Shirley, "Oh, Mother, just once I'd like to see you in the kitchen with an apron, making pudding."

But that's a bit of an overstatement, for Shirley does cook—and friends who've dined at the Cassidys' say she does very well. But though Shirley does her best to keep her home life separate from her professional life, it's hard, especially since her stepson David Cassidy won a role on *The Partridge Family*.

It's not unusual for younger boys to idolize an older brother—as a matter of fact, it's more or less par for the course. And when that older brother is David Cassidy, it's not hard to understand at all. After all, David is handsome—as all the girls will agree—besides the fact that he's talented (he sings, acts and plays musical instruments), intelligent and thoughtful. So naturally, Shaun, Patrick and Ryan think their stepbrother is just great.

Because they emulate David so much, all three boys have been bitten by the show-biz bug since he's become a star.

DAVID'S COMPLETE STORY

(Continued from page 29)

no fun. You miss a lot of your childhood that way. Who wants to cope with the problems of show business when you're a child? I have a hard time coping with it all now, but when I was younger, I never could have dealt with it.

"Yet I wanted to run in and try it. But my mom said, 'Listen—you've got a lot of years ahead, you know. There's plenty of time.' She wanted me to grow up, and she insisted that I wait. I can never repay her for that, because I don't know where I'd be without her guidance. I just know I wouldn't be here now, because I couldn't have hacked the business when I was younger."

Shirley—who tries to forget all about the business of acting when she's away from the studio—must constantly listen to her own children begging her to put them on the show. The answer is a firm *no!*

Because she's trying to be the best mother possible to her sons, Shirley doesn't want any of them to be child stars. She knows the life of a child actor isn't an easy one, and she wants her sons to have normal, well-adjusted childhoods.

She points out the fact that David didn't really start acting professionally until after he finished high school, and she tells them that when they're old enough, they can do whatever they please—but until then, Mother knows best!

Though they'd be a lot happier if Shirley gave them the go-ahead on TV careers, the boys don't really resent her negative attitude. They have a lot of faith and trust in their mother and know she always does what's best for them. And Shirley wouldn't dream of just issuing a solid "no." Instead she's explained all the reasons behind her decision, so that the boys know exactly why she's said thumbs down to show-biz at this stage of the game.

So if all you working mothers think you've got troubles, remember that you're not alone. We often tend to think that the rich and the famous have it made, but actually they have the same problems we do. Shirley would give up her career in a minute if she thought it was hurting her children. But at the same time, acting means a great deal to her, and she'd like to continue in her career as long as possible.

The Cassidys are a multi-talented family. There is Daddy Jack, a fine actor in any role, mom Shirley, whose clean-cut beauty and talent haven't diminished one bit since she starred in *Oklahoma*, and stepson David, who has become one of the most popular young Thespians on television. And someday—if they have their way—there will also be Shaun, Patrick and Ryan!

Evelyn did comprise a bit as far as training David to be an actor was concerned. "When I was about nine or so," David recalls, "she sent me to an acting school back in New Jersey. And she always encouraged me to sing, both at home and in our church choir. We even used to sing together at home, my mother and I, a long time ago . . . when I was very young."

After graduation from Redford High, David went East to New York to try to break into show business. In his junior year, he had gotten some very valuable experience by appearing with the Los Angeles Theater Company.

In New York, he lived with his father, who had since remarried actress Shirley Jones, and went to work in Manhattan's garment district. During his lunch hour, he would pound the pavements, going out