

During the long "talks" at the Cassidy house, I wondered if there was any indication of Pete having a drinking problem. Shirley has been around actors who drink—even drunks. And husband Jack is not a teetotaler, but she said to me about Pete. "I knew he drank, but I never saw him drunk. And I never knew he had a problem because there never was any report of it at work and you can't drink and do a series, believe me! We did several game shows together, and I can tell you there was never any indication that he had been drinking when we worked together."

● The timing for the Cassidys was again strange—as she went on vacation from the "Partridge Family"—and a rest from those 5:30 a.m. calls, Jack suddenly went out of town to work on stage in Bucks County as "Cyrano." For the full story of their marital problems see page 16.

Shirley, who now has four gold albums and three gold singles, reminded me that she still gets hefty royalties from "Oklahoma" and "Carousel." These standard Broadway albums will never cease being top sellers—particularly at the Holiday time. Not that the Cassidys will ever have to worry about money again!

● I asked Shirley howcum **David** took off all by himself on the trip thru Europe. She said, "He really doesn't tell us. You know he lives by himself (in the Valley)." He didn't want to take any "buddies" along because he knew it would only be a matter of hours or days before they would be talking "the show" and he really wanted to get away from it all. He didn't want to talk showbiz for a spell. He did stop in NY, however, to visit with his mom, **Evelyn Ward**, before heading out to London, Rome, Greece, etc. And I wonder what a Rome thief thought when he checked the Traveler's checks he'd swiped from David's VW bus and found the name thereon "David Cassidy." Mama mia!

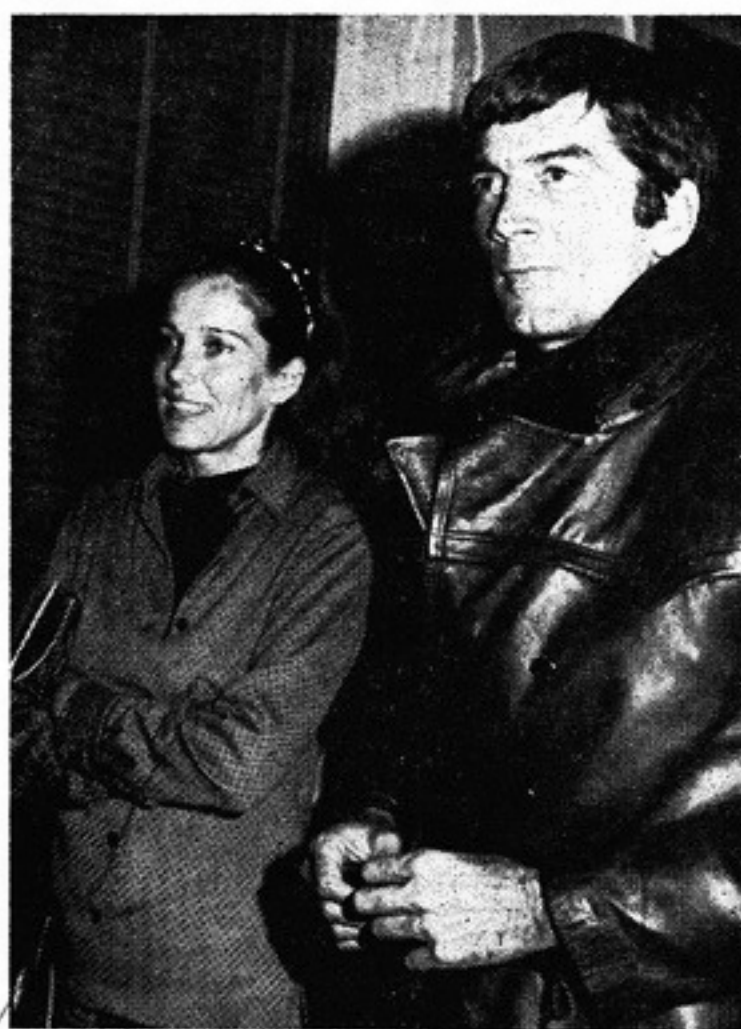
David had planned to spend some of his vacation money in Padua, and the reason was **Laura Guild**, a lovely he had met here who now lives in bella Italy.

● **Merv Griffin** really pulled a fast one on me. He had joined forces with my wife **Selma** in staging the biggest surprise birthday party I've ever had. Sel was trying to figure how to get me out of the house while guests were arriving for the bash. So she, Merv and **Warren Cowan** arranged to have me "drop by" the show (as I have on other occasions). During the hour-and-a-half I was at CBS, all the guests piled into our house. When I arrived home, it was indeed a huge surprise. It's tough to believe that so many people in Hollywood (about 150 were involved in the secret and party) didn't spill one word to me. And even over at the show, where **Tony Curtis**, **Connie Stevens**, **Stu Gilliam**, **Elgin Baylor**, basketball commissioner **Walter Kennedy**, **Willie Shoemaker**, all friends, were in on the gag, no one said, "Happy birthday," or any note of giveaway when I finally left for home.

On the show, Connie was proudly telling me how four-year-old **Jolie** (by **Eddie Fisher**) was "a genius." And how she wouldn't marry anyone in show biz again. Tony told me how he hoped "The Persuaders" would get picked up



Elanore Donahue, the little girl you watched grow up on "Father Knows Best", chats with Mary Ann Mobley.



Julia Adams ("The Jimmy Stewart Show") is being seen around with (ex!) husband, Ray Danton!



Our own Army Archerd was the guest of honor at a surprise birthday party instigated by his wife, Selma.

because the show's so successful in Europe. Everyone carried the usual conversation with me, not letting on about the party. When I got home, the gang included such funny men as **Dick Martin**, **Buddy Hackett**, **Jack Carter**, **Red Buttons**. Also **Greg Peck**, **Charles Bronson** and **Jill Ireland**. Plus so many people responsible for our favorite shows such as **Ed Friendly**, **Arthur Jacobs** (my "Apes" producer), **Walter Mirisch**, **Marty Rackin**, **Irwin Allen**, **Bob Weitman**, **Aaron Spelling**, **Harold Robbins**, **Herb Schlosser**, **Howard Koch**, **Merrill Heatter**, **Wally Grauman**, **Dick Fleischer**, etc. **Carol Burnett**, at our last party couldn't come because the baby was sick. And **Marlo Thomas** (so extravagant in her gift!) also had to go back to NY and **Mel Torme's** baby also ill so they couldn't come. But it was really a fun "Hollywood party" where people loved being jammed together—I think—and also listening to a new singer make her debut—my wife! Selma warbled a parody dedicated to yours truly that had the professional gang yelling for more. (Actually, she's a pro—since she was one of "Pass-words" all-time champs last year, won \$3,700 and is coming back for the battle of the champions, they tell her).

TV TIDBITS:

● **Merv Griffin** is plenty happy to be going on earlier in the evening on his new tie-up with Metromedia. And you know where that will leave **David Frost**! Was sorry to hear **Diahann Carroll** was having health problems as we went to press and was in Cedars of Lebanon hospital for corrective surgery. It cost her (and New Yorkers) her Plaza date.

Had a nice chat with **Jack** and **Marie Lord** when they came to say aloha and farewell to the Mainland. They'd maintained an apartment in Hollywood for all the years "Hawaii Five-O" was shooting. I don't know why. When we visited them last year in their fantastic apartment next door to the Kahala Hilton, they told me it was their permanent home. Now, Marie and Jack were finally moving out of Hollywood. He asked me not to talk about the fact he was giving away items in the apartment to various charities. It's his modest way of not seeking publicity. But I want you to know that many places are happier today because of the Jack Lord giveaways. Jack is still plenty up tight about making his show perfect and doesn't care who thinks he is rough about getting it done—but his interest is strictly to see that the show is successful and there's no half-way to do it. That's why he told me he turned down doing any guest-spots on other shows while he was here. "I just didn't feel I could have the time to do it justice," he claimed. He's also smart enough to know it makes his appearance on his own show that much more important for fans who want to see him—and he's got the toughest time spot on the network, he claims.

"I just want to lie on the beach," he laughingly told me, "until it's time to work again." I asked him how long he'd stay with "Hawaii" and he said "I think we'll last as long as 'Gunsmoke.' Our show has legs."

There are some noticeable changes in the "Five-O" shows upcoming—and that's the absence of Zulu who was replaced by Al Harrington and "Squirmin' Herman" Wiedemeyer.

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