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DAVID CASSIDY (continued from page 47)

close family. Once famous, Elvis never missed an opportunity to tell the world that it was his mother and father who inspired him to better things. Whenever they were together, Elvis had his arms around them. And when on the road, he rarely let a night go by when he didn't call home just to say hello to Mom.

David always lived in nice neighborhoods in homes that lacked nothing—except a father. Jack Cassidy and Evelyn Ward were divorced when David was five. Furthermore, his father was a singer and actor. So David had a chance to study the business first hand.

He admits he was never close to his father. And he is very quick to tell anyone who asks, "I've done this whole bit on my own. It all happened after I split from home when I was 18. My father never helped me. I was only five when he was divorced from my mother. It's true that Mom contributed a great deal to my mental attitude regarding show business, but she had no connections that could have helped me. As for my stepmother (Shirley Jones, his *Partridge Family* co-star), she rarely discusses acting with me. We talk about everything but that subject."

No pictures of David with his arms hugging his mother and father. No emotional thank-yous from David. He respects his parents but they are not particularly close.

If anything, David probably feels closer to his fans than anyone else. Whereas Elvis was always kind of bewildered by the sensation his appearance caused, David fully understands what he symbolizes.

When the fans mob him, he admits, "it's scary and it's frightening but I love those girls. I really do, and I think it's because I understand them. Many of them have reached that age, 14 or 15, where I've become their first love. They identify with me. I know it's all vicarious. But they don't. They fantasize a lot. They dream of me. They talk to me. They think of me. I'm part of their dream world. All kids have dream worlds. Boys want to grow up to be great athletes. Girls want to grow up and take good guys for good husbands."

Naturally, David sees himself as one of the good guys. But he is a long way from marriage, the same distance Elvis was when he first became a superstar.

Like Elvis, David has a good manager to handle his career and his money. He has several companies. One, RU-DA Music, handles the publishing of his songwriting material. David probably has a better technical knowledge of music than Elvis who mainly strummed basic chords on his beat up guitar when he was a kid. David was exposed to music and expensive instruments when he was quite young. With that background, David spends a good deal of time writing his own material, including a song for his first LP, "Cherish" which became an instant hit.

Perhaps the main difference between Elvis and David is the emphasis each has

placed on his career. With Elvis his singing and hit records came first, acting second. Nobody ever tried to put Elvis into a good movie, even though several important critics have discerned a certain, raw natural talent. Colonel Parker tried to keep Elvis' idol image intact. So his fans grew old with him and the new music fans turned elsewhere for excitement.

David implies that he will be happier when his present teen idol period has passed. "I still want to act, you know." He reminds you. "That's how I started in, playing dramatic parts on a lot of TV shows, *Marcus Welby, Mod Squad, The FBI*—but I know I'll never stop singing. Whether I end up selling records is another thing, but I know I'll still make out, still make singles, still make records. My voice has grown and matured over the last two years. It's a lot better now than it was. You know, I'm pleased with it. I think I sing fairly well.

That's the kind of statement Elvis never made, except with humility to protect himself against his detractors. There were plenty of those.

Humility may be something that David lacks. Or it may be that young people today do not put on their best manners for their elders.

It doesn't matter, because David constantly faces the same kind of put-downs that plagued Elvis when he first became The King. Critics are always from the older generations and rarely do they appreciate the talents of the young.

The critics don't have to as long as David is around. He doesn't hesitate to say that "A big reason why viewers tune in regularly (to watch *The Partridge Family*) is the music, certainly the best on television."

David reflects his generation and times just as Elvis did his fifteen years ago. Youth today is bolder, brasher, more sure of itself. That describes David, a boy much more alienated from his parents than Elvis ever was. But in Elvis' day, boys listened hard when their elders spoke. Elvis was the '50s; David is the '70s.

MOVIE LEE

CHRISTINA ONASSIS (continued from page 36)

Mrs. Bolker. At long last, they have mutually agreed on a man for her.

The next day, Ari flew out of Paris. No one knew exactly where he was going. There's been much speculation about his own marriage to Jackie. They don't seem to be together as much as they were last year and have had some public spats.

Of course, Jackie realizes that it is as important for Ari to spend time alone with his children as it is for her to be with John and Caroline. Especially when it means meeting a prospective son-in-law. Although Jackie and Christina get along well together, Christina still must view her as an outsider. She probably would not look to Jackie for guidance or approval. She has her own mother for that.

So Jackie was cruising on the family yacht "Christina" while Ari was hitting those Paris nightclubs. It is significant, how-