
DAVID

(Continued from page 11)

"Is it the divorce that's got you down?" I said gently, keeping my eyes fixed on his in the mirror. I knew, of course (who didn't, in Hollywood) of the impending split-up between his father, Jack Cassidy, and his stepmother, Shirley Jones.

David nodded, wordlessly, and fingered his father's old ring with a family crest that hung from a chain around his neck. Hanging from the same chain was a medal that was a present from his real mother, Evelyn Ward.

"Divorce is never easy," he said softly. "It's rough on everybody involved. Until it happens to you, you just think of it as another word. Like now. My father and I get along fine. I don't see him that often. It's a pleasant relationship. But I'm not really a member of his family.

"His family is Shirley and his kids. I'm his son but I never lived with him after I was 5 or 6. He left, I think, when I was 5."

He paused, and I could tell that the old hurt was beginning to pain him just as fiercely as a fresh wound. Brave words from a kid who proudly proclaims that he's made it all on his own. He did—with his own talent, and charm, and guts. But brave words have a hollow ring when they mean the end of some thing precious—like a place in a loving family.

And now his family is falling apart. Certainly he has never loved Shirley Jones as he does his own mother, but their years together and the close relationship they developed from working together have been become increasingly important to him. She has been a good friend, a shoulder to lean on, a companion to share joys and sorrows. Now, if the divorce becomes final, there will be a tremendous barrier between them.

"Do you think your success has something to do with the break-up?" I asked him.

"It's funny—he always warned me that popularity and success in this business can disappear as rapidly as it comes, and he did a terrific job of drumming it into my head." He grinned wryly. "I wish he had remembered his own teachings a little better. One night I even tried to play back it all back to him—but he wasn't having any.

I mean, I know their split is not my fault, but sometimes I wish that we

weren't all so inter-connected. I know Shirley says she and I won't have any problems working together—well, I hope she's right."

There was a sharp knock on the door, and a voice shouted at David that it was time to get back on the set.

"Gotta go," he said, jumping up and flashing an almost happy David Cassidy grin at me.

And yet—he had cares. Big ones. His father and stepmother are involved in their own thing—breaking up a marriage of 16 years duration. He can't fit in there. He's not that close to his father, and the career competition seems to have driven a bigger wedge between them. His relationship with Shirley—onstage and off—are seriously threatened by all this, because sooner or later their human feelings of guilt, anxiety, and anger will erupt to cloud their relationship.

While David has a lot of girl-friends, he has no steady girl now who can give him the love and comfort he so will need so badly in the coming months. There is no special person to hold his hand tightly or to kiss away the glistening tears. No one to talk to late at night, no one to telephone on the spur of the moment.

As I looked around that comfortable, dressing room so imprinted with David's personality, I prayed that David wouldn't face heartbreak a second time.

CHAD EVERETT

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mightily pleased and thanked them over and over again.

No, Chad's new love isn't interfering with his other loves, his wife and little girls and his series stardom on **Medical Center**.

"Chad's like that," Shelby said recently and with pride. "He goes after something and gets it, never giving up until he does. I'm all for him. He has a beautiful singing voice and I think he'll be a star in that department too."

She ought to know better than anyone else about Chad's persistence. When they met—at a photographic session—actress Shelby Grant was very involved with another man. But for Chad it was love at first sight and he wouldn't give up, sending her flowers daily, telephoning her, and insisting she give him a chance. She was so intrigued she did—and very shortly forgot the other man. They were married May 22, 1966 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tucson, Arizona. And theirs is a beautiful marriage. They had both daughters by

natural child birth with Chad right on the spot helping.

Shelby appeared once on **Medical Center** as a girl Dr. Gannon fell deeply in love with (naturally), but for the most part she has given up acting, preferring the role of wife and mother above it.

Meantime, Chad visits the clubs, studies the technique of other singers, plays others records at home, searching, learning, planning.

His new love is his singing, but it doesn't in any way interfere with his love for Shelby and the little girls, for their new home—their horses and pets, for being a good citizen, a good neighbor and seeing their friends. And one of their closest friends is Jim Brolin whose house the family fled to when their own burned. The two competing video doctors and their wives have great togetherness.

When she can get away, Shelby goes to the nightclubs with Chad, but if she can't, she knows he loves her above all his loves—and doesn't worry.

DONNY BE MY LOVE

(Continued from page 8)

cheerfully help him plan something else for the day, and not to sulk because things didn't work out as they'd planned.

Donny is very athletic. He would want a girl who enjoyed horseback riding, swimming, tennis and other sports just as much as he does. Although Donny's working routine is a busy one, he doesn't believe in wasting time when he's free. Instead, he wants to go out and do things. And he knows that exercise is an important part of staying healthy.

Of course, his girl wouldn't have to be a champion swimmer or skater; just someone who enjoys sports.

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