

Cassidy made his own appointments and said he was going to make it on his own.

When he and Shirley Jones went to test for roles in *The Partridge Family*, neither of them knew the other was trying. And when they each landed parts, there was such joy at the lovely white frame house near Donheny Drive.

Although David had his own apartment, "Dad always said it was a good idea for a guy to be on his own. Being alone makes one grow up faster," he often visited and stayed with Jack and Shirley.

"He adores their kids," one of David's friends told us. "He loves the warmth of the home and the fun that everyone has when they are together. He thinks Shirley is just about the greatest person in the whole wide world, except for his own mom, maybe. David calls her a superlady. If he has a problem, he is never afraid to call her or go to see her and talk about it. She's more than a step-mother to him; she's his very good friend.

"Shirley has also helped, as his father has, in terms of his career. They adore working together. They really are like good buddies. I wouldn't be a bit surprised," the friend of David's went on to tell us, "if David goes to Shirley to talk about any problems he might have with a girl friend. They have that kind of very special relationship."

Now, just as David Cassidy was really beginning to believe that show business and family life were not incompatible, it's being snatched away from him again. Shirley and Jack Cassidy are going to get divorced.

"The house," yet another of David's friends told us, "where Shirley and Jack lived will always be open to David. Shirley will always be there for him to talk to . . . but it won't be the same for David. He won't be able to bounce in to see Shirley and his dad. His dad just won't be there any more."

Sure he will visit with Shirley and his step-brothers. But it won't really be his home. His dad is gone. It is not a while, complete family anymore.

Even working on the set with Shirley can be a bit of a heartache for David. How can he chat about his father and not hurt Shirley? His dad was so a part of their conversation during breaks in filming of the hit series. What if he slips about his dad—how uncomfortable will it be? It's going to be hard. It's going to be very hard for a long time.

"But," one older friend of the Cassidy family told us, "Shirley and Jack have separated before. Sure, the separations have not looked as serious

as this one. But they have gone their different ways before. When we everyone figured it was over for good, they got back together. It think I still see a glimmer of hope in David's eyes. I think I still hear that hope in his conversation. I think that David Cassidy is praying that his father and Shirley find some way out of the problems before them. I honestly think that David wants them back together so that he can once again be a part of a family he loved so much. Listen, the divorce papers have yet to be signed. Maybe David's faith, his hopes, his prayers will be answered after all."

—FRANK EVANS

## SANDY DUNCAN

(Continued from page 19)

October when Sandy underwent a seven-and-a-half hour operation to remove the tumor "about the size of a walnut" from behind her left eye, a little facial redecorating was an unexpected bonus. "When they pulled the skin up," she explains, "they just gave me a little forehead lift. I appreciate it. It took away all my lines."

Another positive result of Sandy's illness was her initiation into some

new for-fun-only activities. Well, with her show temporarily shelved midseason and nothing to do but *recuperate*, it's not surprising Sandy decided to put a little punch into her leisure life. For example, she learned to ski.

Being a professional dancer, Sandy thought she would take to the slopes like Jean Claude Killy's kid sister. Boy, did she have a lot to learn! "I'd be standing there talking to the instructor," she recalls with much amusement, "and all of a sudden I'd start sliding down the slope." Sandy says during her first few days in the great, white outdoors she tried everything—including getting tangled up in a picket fence! Finally the reason for her seeming athletic *gaucherie* dawned on her—"Because I only have full vision in one eye, it throws my distance judgement off a bit. But I'm learning to compensate for it." There are still awkward moments of course—reaching for a telephone receiver that turns out to be a misplaced slipper instead—but those unintentional goofs are getting progressively more infrequent.

Believe it or not, loss of vision has also improved Sandy's automotive skill. "I drive better now because I'm more careful," she says firmly—and



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