



periods of time.

His early dreams of quick stardom were getting dimmer by the moment. Yet each time he played a new part or was seen by an important critic, his hopes rose. And well they should have, because Jack's ability was easily recognized and praised. Most agreed that he had an illustrious career ahead of him and could be Broadway's next matinee idol. Somehow it never quite happened.

Career troubles soon clouded Cassidy's first marriage until finally Jack went off with a touring show and didn't come home. He and Evelyn agreed to a divorce when David was five.

She recalls, "At first we couldn't bring ourselves to tell David. He was used to having his father away so nothing seemed that unusual. But eventually a young friend told him his parents were divorced and this hurt him even more.

"I remember that Jack took him out in the car one day and tried to explain it to him. But how do you tell a five-year-old that his parents don't love each other any more?"

After the divorce, Jack's career took on a new vigor. Star roles came his way and so did another young actress-singer named Shirley Jones. Shirley was a newcomer and Jack was fast becoming a star.

They fell in love almost immediately and this time Jack felt confident enough about his career to enter into another marriage. It never occurred to him at this time that the young girl he married was about to become the star of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma*.

Shirley Jones was an immediate success in the film version and her performance was acclaimed as "fresh and exciting." More star roles were lined up for Shirley, while Jack concentrated on his stage work—a career which rarely brings with it the fame of motion pictures.

The Cassidy family settled in California where Shirley continued to make films. In between jobs Shirley presented Jack with three handsome sons, and to most outsiders, their marriage seemed a good one when compared to some of the other Hollywood disasters.

Jack continued to get parts in both TV and on Broadway. His success on Broadway was greater than in Hollywood, but his luck with shows was not good. They were never the major successes which could have brought him the stardom he felt he deserved.

Meanwhile Shirley's career continued in high gear though it was somewhat hampered by her girl-next-door image. Finally a role to change all that came along. Shirley portrayed a prostitute in

(Please turn to page 62)