



DEAR RONA
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Dear Rona,

I would like to commend you and your article about Mike Connors (Nov. RBH). It was wonderful to read about something other than divorce and tragedy. Although these things really do happen, we should take more time out to see what the stars' opinions are. So many "movie magazines" neglect to treat the stars as people. I hope to see more such articles in your magazine.

Rona Bonwick
North Hollywood, Calif.

Dear Rona,

Just a little note to tell you how disgusted I am with you! In your Dec. issue someone wrote in asking you about the Supremes and Diana Ross, and you answered that he should look in your magazine (*Right On!*) which features black people. You must agree this was the height of racism. I am white and I was dumbfounded. Print this one. HA! You couldn't admit you were wrong.

R. Dana
Waltham, Mass.

Dear "R",

Our sister publication *Right On!* is devoted to black stars and we're proud of it! This does *not* mean RBH won't continue to give you news of our black stars, just that *Right On!* is filling a much needed place in the fan field. Our black personalities have been much neglected and *RO* is trying to fill that gap. If you want to know more on the Jackson-5, the Supremes, Ike & Tina Turner, Marvin Gaye, the Temptations, etc., get yourself a copy. And tell them Rona sent you. We're proud to be published by a company which sees that black fans have a right to a special magazine of their own!

Dear Rona,

I have never in my life written to a fan magazine, but agree so strongly with Linda Fanella. More gossip and less stories. Stories you can find anywhere, but not the quality of your column writers. I discovered RBH last summer and am so thrilled to find all the columns, which are the only reason I buy a fan magazine.

Mrs. Lyle Martin
Irving, Texas

Dear Mrs. Martin & Other Fans,

So what do you want? We like our columns, but wouldn't give up our interviews with the stars for anything—unless you want us to! Let us know. Do you want more columns, the same, or less? Drop RBH a line. Remember, this is *your* mag!



JACK CASSIDY
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Elmer Gantry and won the Academy Award. Jack was very proud of Shirley's success, but friends regretted that Jack's talents had yet to find the right showcase.

There were many months when Jack's work schedule didn't coincide with Shirley's. She would be busy while he had nothing to do. Then, when Jack had to be away for work reasons, Shirley would be free, but alone. This led Shirley to the decision that they should work together more.

They did a road tour of the play *Wait Until Dark* where Shirley portrayed the blind girl that Audrey Hepburn later played in the screen version. Jack was the villain. Critics agreed that both Jack and Shirley were superb in their roles.

Later, Jack and Shirley appeared on Broadway together in a short-lived musical. Again, critics were kind, but the musical folded.

The constant moving was difficult for the Cassidys because of their young sons. Shirley thought it important to keep them on a more regular schedule and she wanted to stay with them as much as possible. Jack agreed, but he enjoyed working and knew he had to go where the work was—and it certainly wasn't in Hollywood.

Touring is always tough on actors but some aspects were even harder on Jack because wherever they appeared, it was always Shirley, the movie star, who was fawned over. Everyone had heard of Shirley Jones. Many had not heard of Jack. (But when they traveled, it was *Jack* with the 21 pieces of luggage and not Shirley, the star. She travels light.)

Jack Cassidy has the makeup of a star. He's immaculate in his appearance at all times. He wouldn't think of appearing in public looking less than perfect. Then, too, he is devastatingly charming and this charm enchants most women. He's articulate, sure of himself, and quite amusing in average conversation. He, indeed, has all the qualities a super-star must possess—plus the intense desire to be on top.

It came as no surprise to Jack that his son, David, inherited much of that star chemistry. What *did* surprise Jack was the fact that David never really wanted to be a top performer. David enjoyed acting and was good at his craft and his interest in music was real. But he didn't have his heart set on being a star, at least not in the same way Jack Cassidy did.

Then came the surprise casting of

David as Shirley Jones' son in *The Partridge Family*. No one, especially David, thought *The Partridge Family* would be the major hit it's become.

David told his father in no uncertain terms that he didn't want to become a teenage idol and he didn't want to be victimized by all the various magazines and publicity hungry vultures around the country.

Jack gave David some good sound advice. He sat his son down and told him to either accept the responsibility that goes along with being a performer or else get out now. David accepted his father's counseling and settled down to becoming a teen super-star.

Today David Cassidy is featured on practically every magazine cover in the country, from *Life* down to the teenybopper books which first introduced David to his millions of fans. He's in demand as a singer for concerts and there are producers waiting in line for the opportunity to star David in his first feature film. He's not likely to be making one soon, because his TV chores and recording work keep him far too busy to consider any other projects.

Shirley Jones has emerged as one of TV's top women stars, joining Lucille Ball, Doris Day and Carol Burnett. The demands on Shirley and David are tremendous and Jack Cassidy has once again been given the opportunity to be proud and happy about success in his family.

There is no truth to the rumor that Jack is jealous of his son and wife. He isn't. They are no more talented and gifted than he. But luck has come to them, enabling both Shirley and David to taste the success that so long has eluded Jack Cassidy.

If you wonder if this causes Jack problems, the answer must be yes. He seems always to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. It was ironic, indeed, that last year Jack's performance in TV's *Andersonville Trial* lost out to George C. Scott's. And there was Jack again standing in for his close friend Scott, accepting an Emmy that Scott didn't want, but that Jack would have been proud to own.

It's not easy to be the husband of a star. It's not simple to be the father of a star. And it's miserable to be a fine entertainer and not a star.

Jack Cassidy must face all three of these difficult situations every day of his life. So far he's managed to handle them successfully—if not always happily. Only the future will tell how the three Cassidys continue to balance their lives.

But two of them would gladly relinquish a bit of super stardom if their shares could go to the one they consider the most talented of the three. •