

But resisting the tide, she and Goffin continued, for a while, to write smash hits for others. Notable among these was "I'm Into Something Good" which was a double hit, "Natural Woman" which started Aretha Franklin on her career, "Goin' Back," the all-time Byrd classic, "Wasn't Born to Follow" which gave the Byrds a second winner and put them on the sound track of *Easy Rider*, and "Hi-De-Ho" which scored big for Blood, Sweat and Tears.

When writing for others became even less promising, so did her marriage to Goffin. She had to turn her back on everything that related to her old life—her husband and New York City—and she migrated to Southern California to find "a new identity."

The new identity, unlike so many others, did not enter the mainstream of political involvement. Carole would never be helping out a Presidential candidate or singing in the forefront of Women's Lib. In fact, her new songs (for which she wrote the lyrics as well) show her particular acceptance of a "woman's role." In regard to the male-female relationship, her lyrics announced, "Where you lead, I will follow, anywhere that you take me to."

She wrote about personal things, like love affairs and having children. And expressed her own outlook so necessary to the kind of life she wanted to lead.

"You got to wake up every morning with a smile on your face and show the world all the love in your heart."

She began performing as one of the threesome called The City, in 1968. Their only album was not a success. But she did work with Larkey who became her husband. And she got enough confidence to eventually appear as a solo artist.

Her first album, "Writer: Carole King," received good critical acclaim. However, Melissa Mills, writing for *Rolling Stone* did say, "Alas, her singing is the weakest element of what is in all other respects a very good album." Still, Carole was on her way to the top as a performer-writer.

About her recent album, "Tapestry," writer Jan Landau said, also in *Rolling Stone*, that she has "fulfilled the promise of her first (album) and confirmed the fact that she is one of the most creative figures in all of pop music. It is an album of personal intimacy and musical accomplishment and a work infused with a sense of artistic purpose. It is also easy to listen to and easy to enjoy."

Landau's enthusiasm is shared by the public at large. At this writing, Carole's "Tapestry" is the number-one selling album. Besides that, she has the country's number-one single, "It's Too Late." Behind her on the charts are such superstars as Paul and Linda McCartney, the Rolling Stones, Jesus Christ, Elton John, Aretha Franklin whom she helped with

the earlier "Natural Woman," and her own frequent associate, James Taylor.

Today Carole lives with her second husband and her two children (ten and eight) in a small house off Laurel Canyon in the Hollywood Hills. She is expecting her third child.

No doubt she enjoys her small home, her family, her isolated existence. In this environment, as elsewhere, she is completely unassuming and even modest about her success.

Although she still likes being in the background and listens fondly to golden oldies, she has moved with the times. She thinks other singers' attempts at revivals are "not moving forward. They're just capitalizing on sentimentality. That period's over, you know. They're beating a dead horse."

For herself, she has come up with an old outlook on life decked out in her own uniquely new wrappings. An important part of her success rests on her ability to sing her own songs with the freshness of a new insight. ●

DAVID CASSIDY (Continued from page 19)

For many hours David sat and thought about his friend and his own life. He thought about a guy his own age who was on the threshold of becoming a man. Kevin wanted to become an actor, and showed real promise of making it. He was a handsome guy who dated some of the most beautiful girls in Hollywood. He was even reportedly sort of making the steady scene with one of the lovelies on "Room 222."

For many hours David sat and thought and prayed.

When he was able to speak to someone about the tragedy, he said, "I know that Kevin didn't commit suicide because he certainly wasn't himself. It was murder. He was murdered by the people who manufacture and sell these drugs. No one can really do anything about it except the people themselves," he added with a heavy sigh.

Everyone who knew Kevin had to agree with David that it wasn't suicide. He had too much to live for. He had talent, girl friends, and a good home and nice family.

"Listen," David Cassidy went on, "Kevin had problems just like everyone else does, but nothing that couldn't have been worked out. I guess he had girl friend problems, problems with a career he wanted so much. They all seem to blend, don't they? But that isn't what killed Kevin. He was a happy but very emotional boy. And I guess if you add drugs to a guy who is somewhat dramatic it can be disastrous." ●

We had learned that David too had been offered grass, drugs, all of those little "turn ons." According to reports, he was even supposed to have tried it. But that was all. And true or not, he certainly didn't wait to get caught or to go on to bigger and freakier types of "turn-ons."

David read the drug reports in the newspapers. He heard the tragic stories on television. He didn't need drugs to turn on. To him, just living was a turn-on enough. He wasn't about to flirt with death.

Many times he would try to talk friends out of taking drugs or smoking grass. He would try to show them that life was beautiful and rewarding. One of his buddies told us that David gave up many a friendship because he couldn't reason with the person about giving up the use of drugs.

"I'm sure that he wasn't aware that Kevin was so into the drug scene," one of David's buddies admitted, "or he would have offered more help. He was really broken up about the way Kevin died."

"I hope that my friend's death is a warning to those young people who think drugs is the easy way out," David said afterward. "It certainly isn't any kind of answer. It can only kill, and what bugs me is that the people who push the stuff are still walking around free. It just isn't fair."

"I suppose," he continued sadly, "all Kevin wanted to do was to prove to other kids, or probably to himself, that he had his own mind. Any doctor will tell you that all young people have to rebel from time to time. That they tell their parents; 'I'm doing my thing right now. Maybe in the end I will come back to your way of thinking, but right now this is something I have to do.'"

David Cassidy didn't say it in so many words, but what he meant was the crazy food jags his friends went on, the far-out clothes they wear, their long hair that they just refuse to cut because it isn't "in", the weird music they like to spend hours listening to, and the crazy killer drugs that some of them like to play with.

David is the kind of guy who doesn't put people down for trying the new styles and mode of living. But he does put down anyone who pushes their lives to the point of no return.

At Kevin's wake, the funeral parlor was filled with young boys and girls—all good friends of the young boy who would have given anything in the world for him to be given another chance at life. A tear coursed its way down David's face as he said a prayer for the friend he would never see again. He prayed that maybe somehow, someday, Kevin's death would not be in vain. It might even be a lesson to another guy or gal who was looking for a "kick."

"Please, dear God," David Cassidy prayed, "please don't let this happen again." ●