

STEVE MCQUEEN (Continued from page 29)

Oldsmobile Toronado. Off he tootled until he reached Fourth Avenue—the town's main, four-lane highway. There he proceeded to drive around in circles.

Well, Fourth Avenue may not be the Freeway, and there wasn't exactly a traffic jam—but Steve, driving around in circles was a peculiar, maybe even frightening, sight. So not surprisingly, along came a policeman to find out what all the funny business was about.

"Hi," said Steve when he saw the cop. "I'm Steve McQueen and I'm having a good time in your little two-bit town."

"Hi," said the cop. "I'm a policeman and you're under arrest."

The next stop was the jailhouse, where nothing but bail and a fine could induce local officials to release him.

"I don't understand what happened," one of the people working with Steve in Alaska told us. "He's a funny guy. But he's never been weird before—not until lately anyway. And he's never used his sense of humor when it put somebody down. He's not one to make fun of a small town. Let's face it, the city of Anchorage is a small town compared to Los Angeles or New York. But Steve's not stupid. He's been around and he knows this is no burgh. What he did was no joke, not even to him. There seemed to be something much deeper involved."

More than one friend of Steve's couldn't help but agree. They felt his behavior and subsequent arrest were just symptoms of something that's really bothering him deep inside—something he can't seem to solve or do anything about.

"His behavior has been very self-destructive in more ways than one," a source close to Steve told us. "And I wouldn't be surprised if this happened again—or maybe even something worse. And if you ask me, I think it's got something to do with his blessed singleness. You know, he suffered very badly when he and Neile divorced. He thought it was his fault—that he just made a very bad husband. So he decided to lead the bachelor's life for a good long time—with no commitments in the immediate future. You remember when he was dating Natalie Wood and Raquel Welch and so on.

"Well, Natalie's gone and gotten herself married, and Raquel is looking elsewhere for deeper commitments, and Steve just goes on dating. But the truth is, he's terribly lonely. He is no longer a single man in his heart. And in spite of his divorce—he liked being married! And I'll tell you something else. He really liked Natalie. I think he was very disappointed when she chose to remarry Bob Wagner."

Chose to remarry Bob? We thought that was a funny way to put it. "I have reason

to believe," our informant explained, "that Steve did have some kind of a bid in with Natalie. I'm not sure he specifically mentioned marriage in the very near future—he's much too frightened to do that right now. But I believe there were long-term plans in his mind.

"That's Steve's real problem as I see it. He has got this terrible conflict. He's afraid to marry again now. He doesn't think enough of himself as a husband, and couldn't bear to go through the pain of separation and divorce again. But what he misses and wants more than anything else is a partner in life. He almost can't operate without one."

Another man, who claims to know Steve well, agrees. But he also thinks the situation might be a bit more complicated. "For one thing, he may be afraid that Neile's been right all along in terms of his crazy, dangerous stunts and his love for anything with a loud motor on wheels. He's beginning to feel the strain of all his physical exertion. He's literally going deaf from the sound of those engines, and he can't do lots of things he could before. Neile's always tried to get him to slow it all down, and maybe he could do lots more if he'd listened to her.

"Not that he's exactly incapacitated or doddering. But let's face it, when you've done as much as Steve has, any little lessening of your capacities is terrifying. And also, whether he wants to admit or not, Steve, like everybody else, is getting older. I believe that also scares him."

Suddenly, our source began to laugh. "You know, I think half the thrill Steve got out of doing those crazy stunts was fighting it out with Neile beforehand. She said he'd kill himself, he said no, and they were off and running and screaming and fighting like lovers. Now nobody can stop him and, worse, nobody really cares the way she did. I think that not only hurts him—it bores the life out of him. Those stunts just don't give him the same kick anymore.

"He's kind of like a little boy who's mommy isn't saying 'no' anymore, so it just doesn't matter. And I believe that's what that arrest was all about. He was like a little boy—testing and misbehaving. And that's why I think this kind of incident could happen again and again. Right now, he's a man who's emotionally troubled. And while I don't agree with the rest of his friends—that remarriage is necessarily the whole answer—I do believe his loneliness does have a great deal to do with it." •

BARRY WILLIAMS (Continued from page 27)

acting. He'd like to do more TV. But no more funny kids in sitcoms. He'd eventually like to try movies.

In other words, serious acting, on any level he can get it. The problem is that

Barry feels he has been typecast. And we can understand why. That freckled face with the big smile is perfect for playing happy-go-lucky kids in situation comedies. But what happens when Barry outgrows his parts?

That question is very much on his mind and accounts for all the talk about another career. If acting pans out, there has to be something to fall back on.

At the moment, Barry has sheepishly admitted he would like to just spend his time walking barefoot on the beach, one of his favorite pastimes. But he doesn't claim that's a realistic solution.

And Barry Williams is a realist. He's young, but he has no illusions about his future. He knows he'll have to work very hard to maintain any kind of a career in show business. But he thinks that acting will satisfy all the requirements he sets for a career and his life.

Free time when he isn't filming. Good money. And the opportunity to travel. (His parents got him hooked on moving around when they took him to Hawaii.) And he feels that acting would provide opportunities to see different places.

Whether or not Barry will continue acting, only time will tell. In the meantime, he's got a secure part on *The Brady Bunch* and a year or so in which to make up his mind. •

DAVID CASSIDY (Continued from page 21)

nightclub act so he can appeal to adults as well as teenagers. Let's face it, he's not going to look fifteen forever. Also, I hear that the image-creators aren't too pleased about Jessie. They don't want David getting seriously involved with anyone until he can establish himself with the adult crowd. And knowing the way David feels about Jessie right now—I guess you could say that is a source of trouble. Also—but this is something I heard about and I'm not absolutely sure it's true—David's mother, his real mother Evelyn, is a little upset by the relationship. I haven't spoken to David about it, because he's a little sensitive on the subject."

But another source close to David has. "It's certainly not that Evelyn doesn't want David to become serious about anyone. She wants nothing more than for David to find the right girl and settle down. She thinks that's more important than his career or anything else. What she wants most for him is personal happiness. But she's in New York and he's in California and all she knows is what she hears. And somebody told me that she heard David's been secretly going with Jessie for a long time now, without telling anyone—and she can't understand why."

But that still isn't David's biggest worry, says our first source. The person he's really in trouble with, claims our informant, is