

## DAVID CASSIDY

(Continued from page 37)

But older, and seemingly wiser, heads prevailed and David's lunch was ordered—a small salad, a thin butterfly steak, and milk. David has been known to take liquor at special functions, but when the public's watching his advisers see to it that he drinks a non-alcoholic beverage.

The star of ABC-TV's *The Partridge Family* lives a Peter Pan existence in that like the fictional sprite of J. M. Barrie's fairy tale that has thrilled millions of youngsters, he must never never grow up. His magnetic appeal is to young girls who can identify with him and who would like to be with him.

But as David has said to his stepmother, Shirley Jones: "Maybe the girls who write me letters today won't even remember who I am or who I was two years from now. I might be a washed up hasbeen." Shirley favors him with her sweet smile and tells him not to worry. . . , his true fans will never forget him.

But Shirley knows the anguish that David is undergoing because he has been brought up in a show business family and he is aware of the grim realities that exist—and always will—in the entertainment world for a youth who is hailed as a teenage idol.

"It's quite simple," Shirley explains. "David will grow up. We all grow older, and in doing so we lose a lot of the fans who loved us at a certain age. They find new favorites, that's all."

Although estranged from David's father, Jack Cassidy, Shirley considers David is still her son. She never uses the word stepson. She worries about him and is always there when he wants to talk. And she was visibly upset the day a public relations man and a photographer arrived with a young man to take photographs with David on the set of their series. The young man had been a rock and roll idol of the 60's and was now appearing in low-budget movies where he barely earned a living after having had millions of young fans.

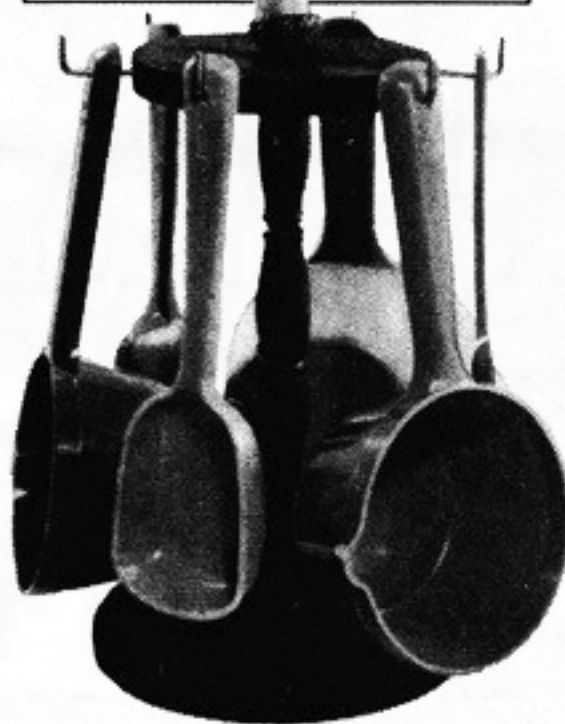
"David didn't want to take the pictures because he knew the young man was—to put it bluntly—a hasbeen," Shirley said. "It wasn't his fault, of course. He just grew up, married, and the kids turned away from him. He was embarrassed and David was embarrassed for him."

"You see, David knew the photo captions would read about the teen idol of yesteryear and the teen idol today. It was a delicate situation and one that could be cruel. But the way David handled it was wonderful. He listened to the young man as though he was gaining great experience from him and as though he was his favorite fan. His attitude broke the tension and the pictures turned out to be fun things, where they could have been cruel."

After the photo session was over, David turned to Shirley and asked: "Is that going to be me two or three years from now? Will I have to pose with

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