



DAVID CASSIDY:

“My Old Man did a stupid thing in leaving Shirley!”

No one could have been more forthright—or more unpredictable!—than young David Cassidy when we visited him recently on the set of *The Partridge Family* and asked his opinion of his father's breakup with Shirley Jones, David's stepmother and TV co-star. “I'm sick about the whole affair with Shirley and my dad,” admitted Jack Cassidy's son. “To be more honest than that, I'm thoroughly ashamed of the way my dad is treating my stepmother. My old man did a stupid thing by leaving her!”

Reminded that Jack hadn't walked out on Shirley but that it was just the other way 'round, David laughed a bit wryly. “Sure, she did the walking—hoping it would knock some sense into his head. If Dad doesn't watch out, Shirley will get rid of him once and for all, and then what? My dad wouldn't know how to

cope without Shirley! At least, that is something I truly believe.”

Current gossip has whispered that Jack Cassidy and his son aren't getting along very well. Some people close to David have felt that Jack—himself a noted singer and actor—couldn't cope with the meteoric success his oldest boy has achieved. David, however, doesn't even want to hear such talk. From his point of view, he's made it big in the toughest business in the world by following in his multi-talented father's footsteps.

As he recalls, “I first saw and heard my dad sing on-stage in the Broadway musical comedy *Wish You Were Here* when I was three years old. I've been told that, when he walked out, I screamed from the balcony, ‘That's my daddy!’ I was very proud of him and always (Continued on page 59) 37