



Shirley Jones and stepson David Cassidy

# Casting Coincidence Gives Shirley Jones, 'Relative' Film Parts

By VERNON SCOTT

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — Coincidence in movies and television invariably is the work of wily press agents, but a new video show has cast together step-mother and stepson in a single throw of the dice.

When Shirley Jones tested for her starring role in "The Partridge Family" she was stunned to see young David Cassidy, her husband's son by a previous marriage also on the set testing for the role of her television offspring.

Both were hired.

Moreover, David, 20, has exploded to popularity with young girls, a species given to idolatry with the abandon of lemmings.

DAVID IS pleased and appalled by his new-found idol status. He's a clean-cut youngster with an open face who is still somewhat dazed over the sudden adoration of thousands of immature females.

Following the Cleveland Thanksgiving Day Parade some 20,800 young things mobbed him.

He employs a ruse just to enter and leave Columbia studios to escape panting, aggressive females.

They recognize his automobile, so David leaves in the back seat of a station wagon with a blanket thrown over him. A friend drives his car out and they meet at a predetermined rendezvous.

DAVID HAS also become king of the fan magazines which have designated him a junior grade Elvis Presley.

"It's flattering and all that," David said. "But all

this attention takes some getting used to."

David doesn't live at home with his father (actor Jack Cassidy) and step-mother Shirley. But one of the great residual benefits of the series is getting to know his stepmother.

"I always lived with my real mother," he said. "But after spending so much time with Shirley on the set we've become very close friends. Not on a mother-and-son basis, either."

"They say the star sets the mood of a television series. Well Shirley has kept everyone on the set happy and working together. She's one of the very best."

DAVID'S popularity may be an indication of the swing away from the grass-blowing young folk heroes of the 60s.

His appearance and image is in keeping with the popularity of "Love Story" and "Airport" and the resurgence of square music, novels, movies and television fare.

David's first record, "I Think I love You," sold more than 3 million copies.