

A JACKIE EXCLUSIVE FROM THE STATES
PART THREE OF OUR FOUR-PART SERIES ON DAVID CASSIDY

Susan And I? We're Just Good Friends

DAVID CASSIDY's world for most of the year is the giant inside of Studio 30 on the Columbia Ranch in Hollywood. A set where most of the famous Westerns have been made, and a suitable setting for one of the biggest modern show business success stories.

But success in itself can mean loneliness. A life apart from those things the rest of us take for granted. So it is with David when he arrives each morning and drives his Corvette car past the central guard post at the Ranch.

As the red and white striped pole rises into the air to allow him in to work, there are few other people around. David usually has the earliest make-up call.

He goes first to his luxurious dressing-room, where his mail will be delivered from his manager's office later in the day, and then down to wardrobe to change into whatever clothes he has to wear for the first shot.

Before filming starts at eight o'clock, his director Lee Philips has a few words with him about the morning's work. David checks back anything in the script he doesn't quite understand, because every night he takes the yellow script of the next day's shooting home with him. This is the last thing he reads at night.

"I don't really have to learn the script all at once. I just acquaint myself with the story and what I'm meant to be doing, and then I'll read it all through once or twice to myself. I find I can learn my lines on the set just before I film them. It's easier that way than trying to learn it all at once. I reckon that would almost be impossible."

As I stood beside Lee Philips behind the camera while the next shot was lined up for the technicians, David was to be seen pacing up and down beside the set muttering words to himself every now and then making a determined movement with his shoulders or arms.

Once shooting starts it seems that everyone shouts "David!" if he's busy learning his lines.



then he gets really immersed in them and is often to be found wandering at the deserted end of the giant studio. Meanwhile, his stepmother and co-star in the Partridge Family series, Shirley Jones, quietly prepares herself on the set.

The way work well together, these two. In fact, when the series first started three years ago, the producers had some fears about how well they'd get on together. When David was finally given the part he was called into a room at the studio and asked if he'd mind working with Shirley. His stepmother had been put through the same process. The studio explained, "We just wanted to make sure. Sometimes a stepson will secretly not get on with his stepmother."

But this is certainly not the case with David and Shirley. Off duty they appear more as friends: often consulting each other and talking over the day's work together.

But, apart from Shirley and Lee, David's success marks him down as a person apart.

"I have one or two close friends

—who were my friends before it all happened—as well as after," he admitted. "I suppose you're always a bit wary of new people, because when you get more famous, people just want to be around. I don't like 'yes' men, or people hanging around me. That to me is the epitome of loneliness. I'm just not that lonely or desperate."

His two closest friends are Sam Hyman, with whom he first shared a bachelor house when he moved to Los Angeles from New York, and Steve Ross who plays guitar for him in the studio and when he appears in concert.

Steve and I have been jamming together for years in garages and pool halls and things like that," he said. "He goes on the road with me."

So what about the girls in David Cassidy's life? There were the much-publicized visits to the pictures and dinner dates with Susan Day, a fellow actress on the Partridge Family series.

"But there was nothing to it," David told me. "We just worked together, and because we got on well we'd sometimes go out

together in the evening."

But most of his time is spent avoiding girls. David has such an effect on them that they almost come out of the chimney at his house! Girls have turned up on the set posing as journalists and then halfway through the interview have leapt upon the unsuspecting David. Girls have caused him to move his house three times because once they found out where he lived they gave him no peace. Girls have meant that he can't go out like other people.

But David is philosophical about it all. He likes his fans and he likes girls—and yet the very discipline his success requires means that he can seldom meet them. His time off is almost non-existent. An average working day is eighteen hours while the series is being made, because he has to go into the recording studio in the evening. It would have to be a very patient girl who would put up with all that waiting.

David admitted however that there's been one special girl in his life. The relationship is over now, and he won't name her because he knows that, once named, her life too would no longer be private. But in the end, it was the relentless work pressure that came between them.

"I was unable to give enough of my time and myself," he admitted honestly. "That's one of the reasons I don't have any special relationships at the moment, because I was unable to keep her satisfied. It was unfortunate because it was very important to me, but I suppose I'll have another year or so of the series and that'll be the story until I get more time to myself."

"It's just not fair to ask a girl to give up everything, and then never have me around."

Next Week: David's attitude to fame and his future career.



Susan Day