

And in general, they seem to have a great deal of faith in their daughter's ability to manage her own life.

The Deys, however, do have to face one problem most parents will never confront—the possibility of their daughter some day accepting a role which required nudity or explicit sex scenes. How would they react?

"I wouldn't like it at all," Mrs. Dey said at once.

"I have to agree with Gail to some extent," Mr. Dey seconded. "After all, it is our daughter, and we see her differently than we see other actresses. But this, too, would be her decision, although I don't think she'll need to face it for awhile.

"We'd go along with it, of course, if this happens when she's older, but I'm sure that if she decides to stretch nude across 20 feet of screen or whatever—well, we're parents, and it would be a jolt."

Would they go to see Susan in such a film?

"Oh, yes we wouldn't stay away from it," Mr. Dey answered. "And I suppose, if the role really calls for it..."

"If the role really calls for it, OK—but I don't want Susan to do it," Mrs. Dey interrupted.

The question of Susan losing her privacy onscreen is now only theoretical; what immediately concerns her parents is the loss of her real-life privacy and her chance for love and happiness.

She has learned to be cautious about the men she sees, both those in showbusiness and those outside it. Outsiders may want only her "image;" fellow actors bring problems of competition and, perhaps, exploitation. "I don't see how it is easily possible for an actress to have a meaningful, somewhat normal relationship," Mr. Dey pondered. But he hopes Susan will be able to do it, and the Deys are happy that their daughter is dating more frequently this year.

They know, too, that they can trust her ability to maintain the best of her qualities. Knowing how many adjustments Susan had to make last year, her parents were reassured to learn that others still see her the way they do.

During the months Susan spent modeling in New York last spring, she shared an apartment with two girls in the city. When she left to return to California, one of her roommates sent the following letter to Mt. Kisco:

"I had to write and tell you what a perfect delight Sue and I found Susan to be..."

"You have a beautiful daughter, both inward and out, and I know you are very proud of her.

"Sue and I at one time were discussing Susan and her Hollywood life, and decided that as long as she felt she had a home where love overflowed and she could be herself, she would not really ever change. We know that in your home these important qualities will never lack, so we feel contented concerning Susan.

"You see, we love her, too."

—KAREN WALKER