

Melanie claims. Linda pulls Danny's over. Everyone uses everyone else's gold canvas chair.

David hunches forward, listening for the questions:

How old were you when you first got into television acting?

"Nineteen."

How do you feel having a girl stand-in?

"Uh, it doesn't make me feel one way or another. She's a nice lady."

(Jan Freeman, 24, is slender like David, with the same wide-set eyes, the same hair style. They could be twins. She is crocheting and quietly talking with a friend on the set while waiting to be called.)

Do some of the people on the street mistake you for Jan Freeman?

"No! (Laughs, emphasizes again) No. (Mimics a fan) 'Hey aren't you Jan Freeman?'"

Have you ever dated your stand-in?

"No."

Have you ever had a boy stand-in?

"Yeah, the first year I had a male stand-in, but he was an adult, like 40 or 45 years old. A stand-in doesn't mean he has to look like you or anything like that. A photo double looks like you. Like Johnny Albright, stand-in for Dave Madden, is a little smaller than I am and is built like I am, but he's Dave's stand-in and Dave is big and tall. Jan is my photo double and my stand-in. She's a stunt lady too. Long shots of me falling off a horse, for instance — that's really Jan."

Who designs the clothes you wear on The Partridge Family?

"They're just bought at stores in Los Angeles and Hollywood. A wardrobe person is responsible. He knows what I'm comfortable in."

Does someone design them for your concerts?

"Not any longer. At one time there was a fellow who did, but all those things were stolen from me a few months ago. I was debating whether to stop wearing them. I felt almost out of place in them and almost like I'd outgrown them. I now just wear things made by like people in leather shops, different places. There's no one person who designs them."

Do you watch The Partridge Family on Friday nights?

"Not very often. I'd like to. But I am usually traveling or recording or busy. When I get an opportunity, I do."

(David is on the go several weekends each month giving concerts. He was performing in England for five days in September.)

On your birthday, what do you like to get from fans, your close friends and parents? (He was 22 last April 12.)

"Um ... I don't really have any preferences. Just Happy Birthday is really enough. I don't really have any gifts I'm looking forward to receiving or anything like that."

Now that you have become a star, do you think your father envies you or is proud of you?

"I don't think he envies me. I have not spoken with him in a long time. I don't know if he's proud of me. I'd like to think so. But I really don't know."

What does your real mother think of Shirley Jones?

(Guardedly) "She . . . likes her. They like each other."

When do you visit your stepbrothers?

"Rarely. When do I visit myself?!"

Do your stepbrothers like your record album?

"Yes. As far as I could tell. The last time I was over there they were playing it."

Are you going to do a second solo album?

"Yes, it's done. It was released last month."

Do you ever have any of The Partridges over to your house for dinner or lunch?

"I can't recall ever having any of them over, no. I've had dinner at Shirley's a few times. But I don't cook. We don't get together in between times."

What do you do in your free time on the set and at your house?

"On the set I sit and talk to people. I try to catch a few winks every now and then. There's not really a lot of time. You can't leave, really. You don't have time to get into something. It's almost not worth it. At home I play my guitar a lot and I sing. Play with the dog. I read sometimes, like everyone else does, I guess. It is nice being in my own house. I lie out by the pool a lot, too, when I get an opportunity and when it's warm."

Do you have a bodyguard?

"I have had. And on occasions I do have. There was a period when I had one with me for about a month all the time, and I have one with me occasionally still when my manager thinks it's necessary. I personally don't like it, though."

Do you play any other instruments besides the guitar and drums?

"I write sometimes for the piano, but I'm not a piano player, y'know? I know chords and things like that. But I'm not an accomplished pianist."

Have you ever met Donny Osmond or Michael Jackson?

"Sure."

What do you think of Donny Osmond's singing?

"I think he sings fairly well."

And Michael Jackson?

"I think he sings VERY well."

How do you like Bobby Sherman now?

"I like him the same as I liked him before. I haven't seen him in six months. He's growing a mustache, I hear. He's trying for straight dramatic roles now. Y'know, he never was a singer, and I think he's admitted that. I think he's now doing what he wants to do, and that's act."

(Fan magazines, prone to exaggeration and distortion, for months kindled a supposed hot rivalry between the two singers.)

When you appear in big foldout pictures in magazines, do you wear makeup?

"Each one is different. If they shoot me on the set, yes, because I wear makeup here. If they shoot me at home, no."

Can you go anywhere without being recognized?

"Yeah, there are places. Most of the places I go — and I don't go out too often — but when I do, I do get recognized. I know a couple of small restaurants where they know who I am, but they don't usually really bother me and it's usually very empty. They're small and very inconspicuous. Being recognized is definitely a restriction. It becomes a lot of harassment, like