

everybody's eyes in the whole room are sort of on you and it's like you're performing. It's very difficult to deal with that."

When you were younger, did you like to swim?

"Yes. I still do."

What age were you when you started scuba diving?

"Nineteen."

When did you first go to Hawaii?

"When I was 12. I went again this summer for a couple days. There's a refuge I like, a place where lots of other rock 'n roll stars go."

When you give a concert, who picks out where it will be?

"Agents and promoters make offers and you just decide what area it will be."

Do you have something to say about where it will be?

"Absolutely. Yes."

Do you give both afternoon and evening performances?

"Yes, both. Usually on Sundays I give matinees so I can be back in Los Angeles like before two or three in the morning."

Are your concerts the same in each city?

"I change it all the time. I'm always adding new material, taking out old and trying new things. I try experimenting to

see the reaction. The acoustics on stage and the acoustics in an auditorium are completely different. Completely different. I have monitors on stage so I can hear every word, but I don't know if the audience can. I've given a lot of concerts recently where the enthusiasm has been there, but they listen. During soft quiet songs they are quieter."

Do you still have to dash for the exits the minute a concert is over so your fans don't mob you?

"Absolutely. More so now. If anything, it's gotten worse."

Although dying to ask, the girls agreed not to question David about girl friends, a subject much overdone in the fan publications.

Georgette Deveney, one of The Partridge Family publicists, tells us, "David is so busy, his schedule is so jammed, he just doesn't have time for girls. Fans and magazines keep trying to make a big thing of David and Susan Dey. They're just friends. They do crack each other up a lot when they're working together. When they deliver lines to each other, they have to look over each other's heads or they start to laugh. But they don't date."

Several times during the questions David is called back to the set for a brief

scene, which the girls watch. They're fascinated to discover that mere feet away from the actors, just out of camera range, a dozen men are going about their jobs as director, cameraman, sound technician, carpenters, lighting experts, prop and makeup men.

When not on camera, Shirley Jones chats with friends. Danny Bonaduce practices with a bull whip. Suzanne Crough quaffs a soft drink, walks about with the paper cup between her teeth. Brian Forster and Dave Madden obligingly scribble their autographs.

Temperament, a characteristic associated with stardom, is lacking on the set. During the six-hour visit, the mood is businesslike but friendly and cooperative. Georgette tells us, "It's always like this. It's really due to Shirley. She's a very relaxed person. Everyone else just takes their cue from her."

Apparently David does too. The young interviewers watch him rehearse several scenes and witness the final take. It almost seems that their idol has shifted in their minds from an unattainable high pedestal to another — lofty but accessible. Rather than dealing in flibbertigibbet superlatives about him afterwards, they agreed, "Gee, he's a nice person." □