

Susan Dey is a girl. An obvious statement. She's really got to know David Cassidy through co-starring with him on television, and if it's just not true that they've ever had any big romantic scene going, then it's surely true that she has been as close to David as most girls.

Her summing-up of him:— "He's usually happy. If something's bothering him, he'll keep it to himself most of the time, because he'd hate to feel he'd made somebody else unhappy. But sometimes it shows through, and that's where he needs a friend. He'll talk to you if he knows he can trust you.

"David means love, too, and he's a very easy person to love. He's gentle and affectionate."

And another girl, but much younger, who knows David well is Suzanne Crough, another co-star. She thinks he's "cute". She also admits to having been very scared of him at first ... "because big guys usually don't like little kids hanging around them. But he was willing to treat me as a friend, and when I get to work he acts just like one of my brothers at home."

Two views. The fact is that David is the idol of millions of girls all over the world. That word "idol" also means problems ... like the rumours that are spread almost every day of the week about him. If you believed all the stories, he: hates Susan Dey, loves her, is engaged to her, is married to somebody else, doesn't like girls at all, is scared of girls,

What girls mean to David

and even "prefers the company of his dogs to girls."

Take your choice. But certain facts do emerge, and these are facts straight from David himself. First, he just doesn't have the time these days to have girls around him wherever he goes. He has a work schedule that would scare the pants off most people, and more often than not he just topples into bed at home, arming himself first with some milk and crackers, and he's dead to the world within a matter of moments. He sure doesn't help the late-night movie ratings!

But girls play a very important part in his life, because they buy his records by the million and he's got intense feelings of loyalty towards them. He admitted to the Sunday People: "I've been physically attacked by boys who don't like the effect I have on their girl-friends. Pretty frightening for a little guy like me, but I usually try to have a few friends around for protection."

And he makes no secret of the fact that he had to move house four times in Hollywood to escape from intruders. He says: "But if there is a certain amount of strain in my life, then at least I can cope with it that bit easier because I come from a show-business family. Even so ... I'd not be telling the real truth if I said I was never a bit scared when in the middle of a crowd of fans. I'd hate for to see any of them get hurt, but sometimes it gets to be a real crush ..."

David says that he doesn't date anyone regularly now, because of lack of time. But that doesn't stop him thinking about the kind of girl he would marry, if she happened along. He won't commit himself to whether she'll be a brunette or a blonde or whatever ... "that would be stupid, to prejudge a situation like that. But I do go for the girl who doesn't smother herself with make-up; the girl who lets her natural beauty show through.

"I've lived a long time in the Hollywood-ballyhoo scene, but I don't suppose there's ever such a thing as instant, love-at-first-sight romances. My theory is that I'll see a girl, like her, get to know, find out whether the feeling is reciprocated ... and then, maybe, we'll fall in love. No song and dance about it ... we'll know. That's all that matters."

He likes feminine girls; girls who care about the problems that beset the world; who will appreciate that he can't go on doing his show-business "thing" if he's always being nagged about being away from home so often. In other words, the girl of HIS dreams must appreciate that if she's the most important part of his life, then singing and acting and clowning aren't all that much behind.

But she could be sure that when he was away, there'd be a lot of pets around the house to keep her company!

The fact that David doesn't go for all the glitter of the pop scene — at least



once he's away from the studios — will also colour his view of the sort of girl he might eventually marry. "I like girls who like ordinary things ... say a picnic out on the beach ... and enjoy being with me just for myself. If I get the feeling that they're only interested in me because I'm some kind of pop personality, then you'll see me running a mile."

He's a bit of a realist about playing in front of 5,000 fans. His viewpoint: "I'm sure that each and every one of them would be great to date, but what chance do I have from the stage of getting to know any ONE of them? Ever been introduced to a new class or a new work-room? You're the stranger, so everybody remembers your name and what you look like; but you just don't, can't, possibly remember the names of all those other people who already know each other."

And, yes — he HAS thought he was in love. Several times in his life. He's been turned on by a girl, but in the quiet hours of the night when he's been alone and thinking over what happened during the evening ... well, something has told him that it hasn't been the one great love of his life. He's sure, somehow, that one day he'll get a signal that he's in the presence of the one girl who is for real and for keeps.

In other words, it could be YOU. If you haven't so far met David, then you're

certainly not ruled out! This message of hope applies only in a lighthearted way, of course ... and males needn't worry!

David's no bore, so he wouldn't expect the girl in his life to enjoy all the things he likes in his off-duty hours. But it would sure help if she was pretty keen on sports. He's been keen on games like football since his High School Days, though he was pretty keen on dating, too. After all, girl-dating is a "sport" for indoors and outdoors, too.

He's a terrific swimmer, is David. Since he was very young he's been a real pool-or-sea fan, and the water just doesn't scare him. Ask him where he likes to live and he'll say California, and then he'll tell you that it's because he can swim all the year round there.

He likes surfing. He's surfed a lot in Hawaii, where he now owns a substantial amount of personal property (at least 100 acres, but again who's counting!). He likes scuba-diving, which is a fairly risky sport, but he tries not to let his managers and advisers know he's going. After all, they wouldn't be too pleased to know that a multi-million dollar personality was taking the sort of risk that could end him up in a hospital bed.

However David really studied the whole business of deep-sea diving. He also studied the art of ski-ing, but he could never make the skis obey the instructions his brain flashed to his legs. Or some such kind of David Cassidy special excuse!

So the girl of his dreams would have to be understanding about his love of the open-air life ... otherwise her own dream could turn into a nightmare.

We've talked about the effect of his parents' divorce on David in another part of our story, but be sure that the feeling of desolation, of sadness, when he first learned the news ... that feeling has never left him. It's that realisation that things can so easily go wrong that makes him stop and think when he feels he may be falling in love.

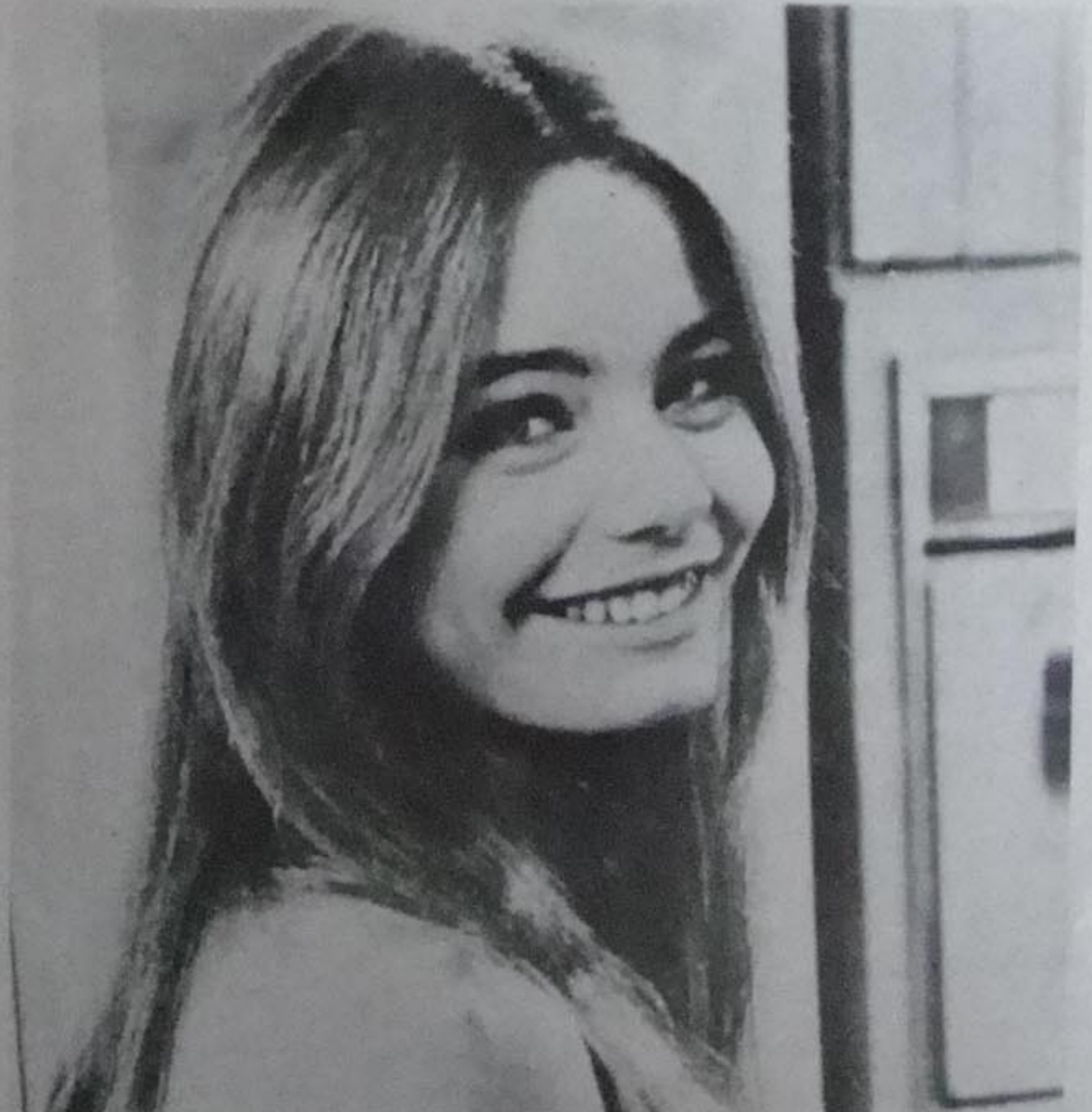
When you've led the hectic kind of life that David has done, it's only too easy to rush into a situation which seems to promise you security and peace and happiness. And only too easy for that situation to turn sour.

No, David knows roughly what he will need in the girl who becomes his wife. But he's making no firm plans. There are a lot of girls to put to the test!

And he's got plenty of time right there on his side ...



David likes natural beauty



Susan Dey: "David will talk if he knows he can trust you"