



awful long time to fix a decision," she said with a sigh. "I figure that, after working with David, anything's going to seem like one hell of an anticlimax. I don't remember ever being happier in any job, and I've missed it all an awful lot already!"

Jan explained to me that she had only left her job-in-a-million to go back to college:

"I could never have quit to take up any other job. But, you see, I'd decided a long while back on the plan of going back to college this year. And I knew that, if I let it ride for one season, I'd be in danger of giving up the idea for good. So I forced myself to say goodbye to David and the rest of that marvellous crowd."

I can't help betting that Jan's got some regrets about her decision, but I didn't want to depress her by dwelling on those. So I asked her instead to tell me more about her happy memories:

#### DAVID!

"Well, I guess the greatest thing was getting to know David so well," she began. "I've gotten to see him in all his moods, and sometimes when he's been awful tired. But I can surely say that I've never known him take a bad mood out on anybody!"

"And that's something you learn to value as a stand-in. Because, as often as not, you'll be first in line of fire if an actor does turn it on. But from the very first day I met David he impressed me as being a really nice guy. You can't

help admiring him as an actor and singer, but it was certainly nice to find that I liked and respected him as a *person* as well!

"One of the things I'll treasure most," she continued, "was the way he always treated me as an equal. He never suffered from the superstar's over-inflated ego. And it's a wonderful feeling when you know that a guy like David looks on you as his friend and partner."

#### ACTORS

"It's sad, but there are *some* actors who reckon that stand-ins are some sort of inferior species. You see, it's a fact that we're often useless as actors, and there are folks around who figure that, if you can't act, then you must be some sort of dumba boy below their notice!"

"But David and the others on the Partridge show were so different from this, I can't tell you. They were great!"

Jan had already mentioned that you don't need to be a great actor to become a stand-in. So, at once I was all attention to hear what she reckoned you *did* need to be!

"Well, first and foremost, I'd settle for stamina," was Jan's verdict. "And you can't afford to have a massive ego or be an exhibitionist either. You see, you put your whole life into the show, but you do it all in the knowledge that the audience'll never know anything about it."

"You do the hard grind for the tech side, and you've got to be the type who gets

enough out of knowing that inside your own head . . . You never expect anybody to thank you, and you can't hanker after the limelight for yourself. Otherwise, you'd get awful fretful and that wouldn't do the show any good!"

With the position of David's stand-in now vacant, I couldn't resist asking Jan if she thought that one of David's fans would be a good choice to take over her job . . .

"Aw, gee . . ." she came back, "that's a tough one, 'cos so much would depend on the individual. But it's my personal opinion that being a fan of David's would be more of a hindrance than anything, unless you could put that right out of your mind while you were on the job."

#### STAND-IN

"Anyhow, I guess the problem doesn't really arise, because I gather that Columbia don't plan on appointing a one-for-one replacement for me."

Well, that came as a bit of a blow. But I quickly recovered from the disappointment enough to ask Jan how on earth a guy like David was expected to manage without a stand-in for a whole season . . .

"Oh, he won't be without one," she reassured me. "Most likely they'll use the closest extra on the set, or maybe Dave Madden's stand-in will double for David as well. I don't rightly know what they've gotten planned, but you can be sure that David will have a stand-in all right!"