

papers turned a quiet holiday into a front page story.

I'm not blaming them, for a number of reasons. First of all, I tend to agree that anything David does is worthy of attention. I just wish that the pleasant side of his life was given more attention.

But, furthermore, there is another reason for not blaming the regular press on this matter. You see, they are only writing about David when he is "news", when he does something that attracts the interest of the entire public. That means, of course, that they are largely unaware of what is really going on in David's life.

So of course, they must leap to conclusions about what is happening, and sometimes they make mistakes.

Let me assure you, David is far from marriage at the moment. And I can assure you, he's going to spend a lot of time thinking about it before he actually does decide to be married.

SPECIAL

However, that's not to say that David doesn't have a very special girlfriend. He does, and her identity is known to all of us—the lucky girl is Susan Dey!

Before you get excited, let me assure you that Susan is a girlfriend in the strictest sense of the word. By that I mean that she is a friend. She is David's friend in just the same way that you and I have girl friends.

As David himself says, "It's really funny, but after all the time that we spent on *The Partridge Family* set, acting as brother and sister, she's become like a real sister to me.

Susan told me "It's really

funny, because, even though David was fairly popular before *The Partridge Family* it was nothing compared to the fame that he's achieved since then.

"Why, when I first met him he had never even been in a recording studio! So in a way, I've been able to watch him grow and develop into a very fine actor, as well as a singer."

I wondered if David had changed much since those days. "Well, yes and no," she told me. "I mean, of course he's changed as an actor. He's more confident, more sure of what he's doing, and his technique is better."

"Of course," she continued, "the talent was always there, right from the start. But I think it's more polished now."

"But in some ways, he hasn't changed at all. You know how some people begin to think that they're the most important people in the world, just because they have a few successes?"

"Well, ever since David began to achieve his absolutely enormous success story, he's stayed the same kind, thoughtful guy as always. I guess that's one way he'll never change."

I asked Susan what she thought it was that kept David and her together as friends, now that they had stopped working-together. She thought for a moment and then replied.

"I guess that, during the time we were working on the show together, we naturally became friends. But it's more than that.

"All the time that David was in the process of becoming a superstar, there was a tremendous pressure on him. And I guess that, because we had known each other when David was still relatively unknown, he

felt that he could trust me.

"And now that so much of the pressure is off of him, we actually have a chance to get together some times for a chat. And it's really nice."

And that is the new girl in David's life.

But how does he feel about her?

SOMETIMES

"You know, I mean I can say things sometimes and I don't have to explain to her what I mean. She just understands. "But it isn't just because we've known each other for a while. No, there's more to it than that. It's mostly that she's a really nice person."

There you have it, the story behind the "new" girl in David's life. As I said before, it's nothing for a Cassidy fancier to get upset about. But it does make a few things clear that anyone who likes David should consider.

He'll want someone who is understanding, someone who can take a joke and can also share one.

And Most Of All, David will want someone who can take him for what he is—David Cassidy the person.

Too many people have been chasing the illusion of David, and ignoring the real, down to earth, David Cassidy.

This is something that Susan has never done, and I can tell you that, whatever David does in the future, he won't be wanting to share his life with someone who always expects him to smile and be happy, and who will be afraid when he's angry or upset.

No, he'll be looking for someone a bit more understanding than that.

Any volunteers?



Here she is, one of David's closest friends, Susan Dey