



Hi! Jane Joyce here. As Susan Dey's full-time guardian, best friend, and stand-in on the "Partridge Family" set, I'll be giving you the inside track on all the members of the family right here every month! Above, is a recent shot (showing my new short haircut) taken on the Partridge Family set. Susan and I share a house in the Hollywood Hills and since the "Partridge Family" takes up most of our time, I'll be passing on their super-secrets to YOU in this exclusive column every month!

on-the-set with the PARTRIDGE Family

By JANE JOYCE

What keeps The Partridge Family alive?—it isn't chicken feed, that's for sure! By now you've seen The Partridges in their bright yellow kitchen or in their dining room, discussing their day's events or problems over a meal or a snack. I bet you've wondered if the food you see the kids or Shirley or Keith or Reuben eating is real or if it is fake.

Well, when the crew and the cast smell bacon and eggs frying or chicken cooking and hear hamburgers sizzling, they feel their appetites rise and they know that somewhere in the studio real food is on the stove. Despite the fact that you see Shirley stirring something in the pots on the Partridge kitchen stove or that very often she and Laurie set down plates of hot food for the rest of the family, the cooking

is not done by "mother Shirley" but by the prop men of the crew. The prop men's job is to set up the decorations and keep track of all the little things that make the sets look so real, and it just so happens that they have to be able to cook too! And the cooking ranges from simple oatmeal to elaborate dinners of baked squab with creamed mushrooms!

NO TASTING ALLOWED!

Unless someone sneaks a hamburger or a piece of warm buttered toast before it is set down on the table for a meal scene, there is no chance of tasting any of The Partridge Family's "TV dinners." Once the cameras roll and the "master shot" (the over-all filming of a scene) is made, the food on the plates has been "established." That means that in a close-up, say of David, if he is eating and had just put a

forkful of mashed potatoes into his mouth while the master shot was being done, he would have to eat another forkful of potatoes when his close-up shot was filmed. And meanwhile, the prop men would have to "put back" that eaten mouthful of potatoes by adding another spoonful to David's plate. Imagine—and sometimes it happens, too—how full David would feel if something went wrong during his scene, and he had to keep eating his forkful after forkful after forkful of mashed potatoes just so the scene would match the master shot!

Of course, if it were some treat like cookies or a rich dessert like strawberry shortcake, no one would mind having to keep eating. As a matter of fact, the prop men find it difficult to keep track of the missing cookies and milk when they have to set up the food for such a meal scene.

FOOD GETS COLD

Another problem is that the shooting sometimes takes so very long that the food, once hot and steaming, begins to get cold. "And ugly-looking," says Susan Dey. "After a while even the most tempting 'prop meal' can take your appetite away—especially if it's something you wouldn't ordinarily eat."

Speaking of eating "ordinarily," when one o'clock comes on a working day for the Partridges everyone has an hour, at least, for lunch, and Shirley, David, Susan, Danny, Jeremy, Suzanne, and Dave Madden usually go their own ways to have their own time for relaxation and a little rest in the middle of a busy day's shooting. Most often



SOMETIMES LUNCHESES ARE SO RUSHED that David just eats in his dressing room. A favorite meal on busy days is a ham and cheese sandwich, bought from a lunch truck that visits the set and a big carton of milk!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 73