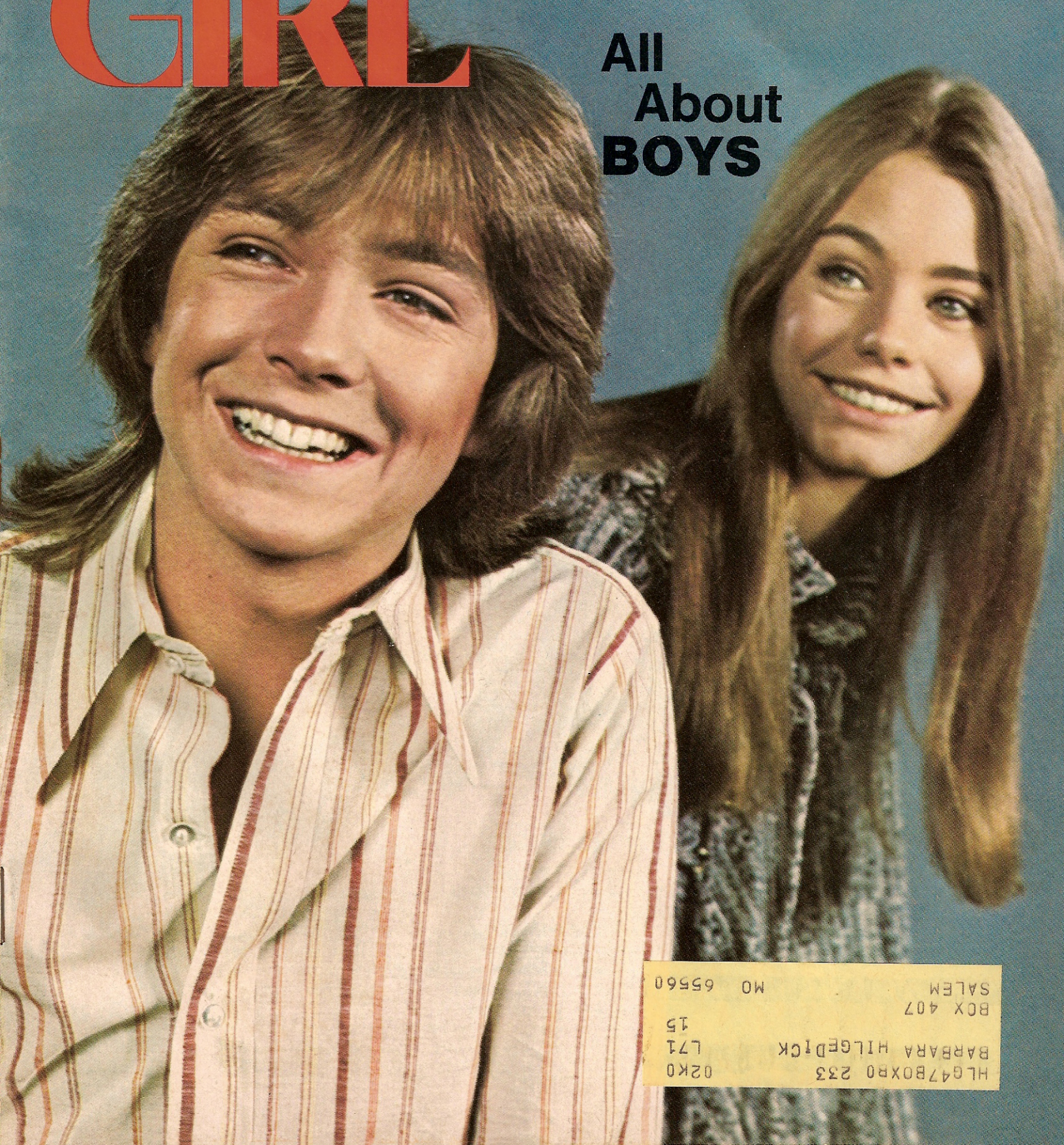


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"David's the greatest!" claims Susan Dey, his *Partridge Family* co-star. "He's kind and funny and the best friend ever."

But relax. That's all they are—good friends. David and Susan care for each other too much to get involved any other way.

"If we did date, seeing each other all day and then in the evening would probably put a strain on the romance," David confides. "It might really make for hassles at work, too. There could be arguments—and what happens if it ends? There we are, facing each other on the set from six in the morning to six at night!"

David pauses a minute; as he contemplates his life, you can't help contemplating him. This handsome boy with the slender build actually has the power to send sparks. The long, shiny brown hair makes you ache to ruffle it. His eyes are hazel and so like him, changing in color the way his moods change in temper.

"Besides, I'd like to stay free for a while," he says. "Though I really look forward to marriage, I want to wait until I'm thirty or so. I'd like to get the wandering out of my system first. It's difficult for me to stay in one place now. I leave for somewhere almost every weekend. I guess I like to get out of the city—away from the noise and the grind and the pressure."

In fact, you never know where you might run into David. The Grand Canyon, Yosemite, the Big Sur have all been his favorite stomping grounds, but they change continuously. Any place he hasn't been is where you're most likely to find him.

"But my married life I want to be settled. To come home to kids and a small house somewhere secluded—with lots of space and trees. And a wife that's affectionate and devoted and also capable of being an equal partner.

"Now, though, I think I'm fortunate not to be tied down to a family. I can get away. I've been living on my own since I was eighteen and I like being free to come and go. The same with girls. I seldom go steady because it wouldn't be fair. I want to do everything and go everywhere. That's why I don't have 'things.' They tie you down.

"My house, for instance, is just rented. All it has is a bed, a table, a closet and that's it. Oh, except for my roommate. And Sam."

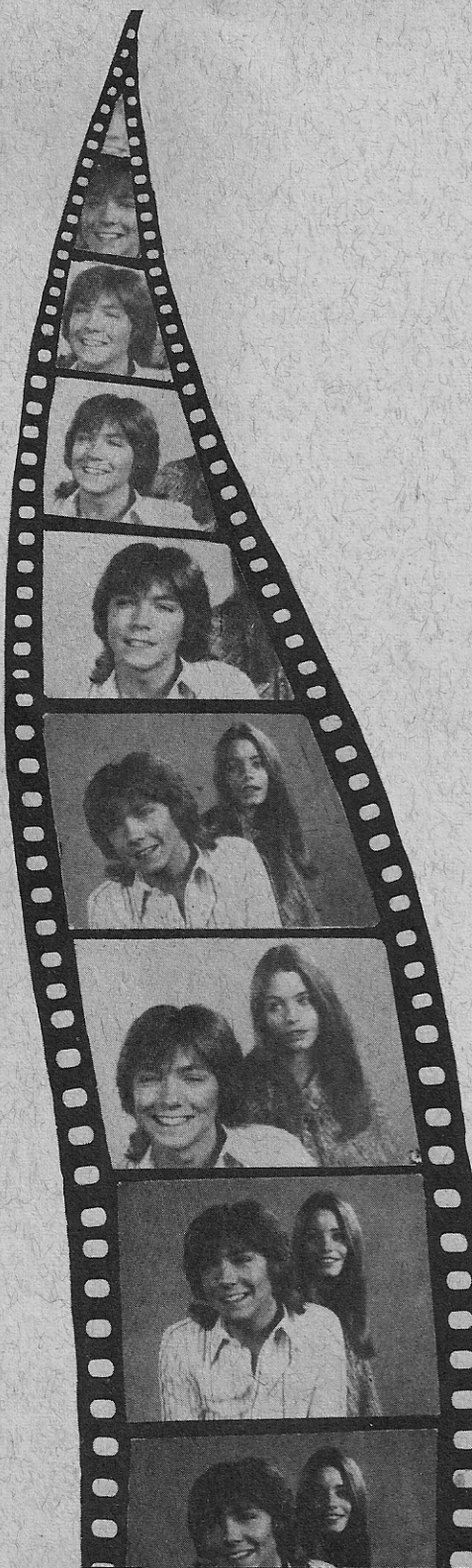
Sam, David's dog, is a mixture of wire haired terrier and springer spaniel. "I named him after a line in a Donovan song," he reveals, "'run, jump, skip along Sam.'" He's the only thing I value that belongs to me. My Mustang runs a poor second. It just gets me to work."

I love the business, and I've wanted to be an actor since I was three. But I can't

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Talking with David Cassidy

by Joanna Green



say that I'm taking lessons or anything. I've become a little disillusioned with acting. There's an awful lot of politics involved and a lot of stepping on other people. I've also discovered there's more in this world that I would like to do.

"My music for one. I have to practice my singing and drumming. And I like to travel. And a game of baseball is never going to pass me by."

David told us something he's been keeping secret until now: he writes music as well as singing it! (He does, by the way, do his own singing on ABC's *The Partridge Family*.) Furthermore, he's actually given us the verse to one of his songs.

"I've never recorded any because my music is not really the Partridge image. It's heavier, more country-western. Anyway here's how the verse goes:

Feel I've been born again,
Don't want to be changed anymore,
Now I've stepped out of the rain,
Like I've opened up a closed door.

I know you're feeling that way,
You're reaching out for the sky,
Tomorrow's beginning here today,
We're spreading our wings to fly."

Isn't it terrific? Kind of the way you feel on a great day, sometimes.

Still, David says he does some of his best work when he's depressed. He'll go off by himself because he doesn't like "to bring friends down too. And while I'm alone, songs come out about the way I feel."

But his depression seldom lasts long, and people can pull him out of it. "I like having them over to my place," David admits. "Not tons of people—just one or two I really like.

"I also like to go out. Not on dates. It's more informal. It's just seeing somebody. I'm not really big on discotheques or that whole scene. Crowds kind of turn me off. But we go to a movie, or a play, or just hang around listening to music.

"I really dig all kinds of girls. There's no special pattern. What I like is a positive type of girl. One who's bright and happy and thinks for herself. A girl who wouldn't be afraid to call me up if she felt like seeing me. Sometimes I need the reassurance of that, too.

"What I don't like is the 'plastic' people. You know, the ones that aren't real—that do everything for an ulterior motive. They date you because you are who you are, not what you are. It turns me right off.

"That's why I think my fans are great. Because they're sincere and I think they like *me*. I never say no to an autograph for that reason. If I ever do, it's because I have to for some reason.

"I'll tell you, though," David says in a confidential whisper, "I can't understand it. I live with me and so does Sam and neither of us would ask me for an autograph."

That's OK. There are enough of us who would. Right? □