

# Susan Dey

Our interviews with Susan took place over a period of several months, and during that time many things changed in her life! She turned 18 and no longer needed a guardian, so her friend Jane Joyce left for Europe and Susan now lives alone.

The "Partridge Family" was a certain success now, placing 9 in a listing of the top 20

TV shows, and Susan approached her role with growing confidence. She was no longer new to Hollywood, being an actress, giving interviews or being away from home.

This was the Susan Dey who greeted us on our latest visit to the Partridge set—relaxed, happy and eager to chat—so we snapped on the tape recorder and started right in!



*"I can talk to David about everything—he's someone I can be completely honest with!"*

## HOW DO YOU LIKE LIVING ALONE?

It's wonderful now that I'm more familiar with being in California and working on the show. But in the beginning it would have been awful without Jane around. When I was upset about anything, she was there to talk to and understand. That's one thing I'll have to reconcile myself to! With Jane gone, I'll have to work out more problems on my own.

## DO YOU EVER GET BORED WITH ANYTHING?

Not doing anything bores me—or doing something that isn't really stimulating or so easy I don't have to put myself into it! I feel that way about conversations people have sometimes too, where there's a lot of talk, but nothing is ever said! I get bored on the set sometimes too, but I think it's understandable. There's so much waiting around between scenes. But I overcome it by keeping busy. I talk to people, or read, or work on the scarf I'm knitting.

## ARE THERE THINGS ABOUT YOURSELF YOU'D LIKE TO CHANGE?

One thing that really upsets me is that I feel I'm not outgoing enough with people. Many times after I've talked to someone I think I acted too reserved—I was too self-conscious. I would love to be able to communicate with everyone easily, and I get depressed about it when I feel I haven't.

## HOW DO YOU GET OUT OF A DEPRESSED MOOD?

It's a matter of accepting yourself as you are, really. I just

keep trying, and I do think I'm getting better about handling my problems. I try not to worry too much, and take things as they come.

## ARE YOU HAPPY WITH YOUR LIFE TODAY?

Yes, I really am. I feel I've been given a great opportunity. There are things I'm missing, like continuing my education, but I still hope to be able to take some courses, even if I don't get a degree. I'd enjoy studying psychology, for instance, because I'm curious about what goes on in people's minds, and why they think the way they do.

## WHAT ONE QUALITY DO YOU FEEL IS MOST IMPORTANT IN A PERSON?

Honesty! If I find out someone is not being honest with me, I immediately turn off! I can only speak for myself when I say this, but I would rather have someone come up to me and say exactly what they're thinking than to be dishonest about it! It would hurt and I'd be upset if I was getting criticized, but I would still rather know! I can't dislike someone who is being honest with me.

## DO YOU TRY TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST WITH OTHERS?

That's more difficult. I do try to be. But before I really level with someone, I try to see how they will react. There are times when it's impossible, because I don't want to hurt someone by stating exactly how I feel. What's good for me could work the opposite way with someone else.