

David looks bothered for a moment, and then he suddenly gets it. "Oh, come on, Sue—be serious," he says.

"I am serious, David," I add, articulating the words slowly.

DAVID'S NEWEST DREAM!

"Hey, lemme tell you what kind of car I want to get!" David continues. And soon he's off on a long description of a German car called a BMW (for Bavarian Motor Works), which is a fabulous super-beautiful car that looks like a racing car—but really isn't. After David finishes describing his BMW dream car, you ask, "Well, David, if you want it that badly—why don't you just get it?"

"Oh, I can't," David injects. "I can't afford it. Besides, I'd feel silly spending ten thousand dollars for a car!"

"Good heavens, how much does it cost?" I scream.

"Each BMW," David says slowly, as though he is talking to two four-year-olds, "costs exactly ten thousand dollars!"

"Oh," we both say—and that ends that conversation.

After lunch, David has another surprise for us. As we drive back to the ranch in my very un-BMWish new Datsun car, David tells us that he has heard that Jeremy Gelbwaks is leaving the show—today! Actually, we all have heard that Jeremy is leaving, but it won't be official until some producer or higher-up on the show sort of announces it to us. Whatever—we'll find out when we get back to the set after lunch.

As we hop out of my car, David looks at his Mustang, shakes his head and says, "Baby, tomorrow you're being replaced by a rental car—and that will have to do until and if I get my BMW."

Just about the time we're getting ready to thank David for the lovely luncheon, we notice Jeremy and his mom coming in our direction.

"Susan! David!" Mrs. Gelbwaks calls, in a sort of sad tone of voice, "I didn't get a chance to speak to you this morning. But—well, Jeremy and I want to say good-bye."

David stoops down and talks to Jeremy, who looks both happy and sad. I, for one, am not really surprised that Jeremy is leaving, cos I know that his dad has taken a job in Washington, D. C. and that—even though he briefly entertained the idea of letting Jeremy stay behind to do the show—he isn't about to let the family break up. Of course, Jeremy hates leaving his friends and the excitement of doing *The Partridge Family* series, but he also looks forward to making new friends and living in an exciting and different environment.

MEET BRIAN FORSTER

You and David and I say our last good-byes to Jeremy, and head for the studio door. After lunch, we always pop our heads back inside either Studio 29 or 30—depending on where the shooting is being done that day—to find out what make-up, touch-ups and costume changes are needed for the afternoon's work. As we enter the huge, hangar-like studio, we immediately spot executive producer Bob Claver. Bob doesn't often drop by the set, so we figure if he's here today—it must be for a

pretty important reason. He calls us all over to *The Partridge Family* "living room set" and tells us that he is about to introduce us to our brand new co-star. Suddenly an adorable new face appears among the otherwise familiar array of faces around the place.

"Susan, David, I want you to meet the new member of *The Partridge Family*," Bob Claver says. This is Brian Forster. Brian will be taking Jeremy's place, so—from now on—Susan and David, you've got a new little Partridge brother." And we all shake hands with a darling blond-haired, blue-eyed youngster!

Brian, of course, will be introduced to all 16 and SPEC readers in detail, but for the moment let it suffice to say that he's one of the sweetest, cutest youngsters you'll ever see—and I know you are going to love him as much as we've already learned to!

All at once we hear a loud "Whoopie!" Our eyes turn in the direction of a man who is talking on the phone. After letting out a few joyous yells, the man hangs up the phone and starts jumping around.

"Hey, that's Mel," David says, nudging me. "What on earth is happening with him?"

As if in answer to the question, Mel Berns, our sweet 'n' swingin' make-up man, comes rushing over and exclaiming at the top of his voice, "David, Susan! David, Susan! I'm a father!! I'm a father!! The nurse just called me from the hospital. My wife just had a baby boy!" And within seconds, we're all hugging and kissing Mel and congratulating him, as he wipes the tears of happiness from his eyes.

"Everybody on the set!" the voice of the director suddenly orders through the loud-speaker. "We're going to have a script run-through."

"Oh, good!" I whisper in your ear. "That means I don't have to worry about make-up or costumes—for now. Come on!"

And before you know it, you're sandwiched between David and myself on the set. Everyone is sitting in a large circle, and as you look around you not only see me—you also see Jane Joyce (my roommate and stand-in), Shirley, Shirley's stand-in, Betty Cantou (who is a friend of hers), Danny, Dave Madden, Micky Martin (who is stand-in for Danny, Dave Madden and David Cassidy), Suzanne, her mom, our new cast member, Brian Forster, and—to complete the circle—David, who is sitting next to you with his script in his hands as we all get ready to have a quick reading, so that we can see what work lies before us to get this episode completed in the week ahead.

As we each take turns reading our lines—and as the director gives his comments, advice and so forth—you once again sit happy and spellbound, and by now very relaxed and very much at home, for you are indeed a member of *The Partridge Family*!

S'all I have room for this month, but be absolutely sure to meet me here August 19th! That's when the October issue of 16 goes on sale—and we'll take up where we left off! See ya' then!!



Bob Claver (far right) tells us about our new "family" member.



Here's our new "Chris"—Brian Forster.