

# ON THE SET WITH THE The PARTRIDGES!

by Jane Joyce



Happy New Year, everybody. If you haven't made enough resolutions to last at least three new years, then I'd like to suggest one: Promise to watch the Partridge Family show every Friday night this year!

I know there are many great shows coming up during the rest of this season—I should know because I've seen every one of them being made, and I can't think of any of them that won't please you very much. So, if you don't stick to any of your other resolutions when they seem kind of hard to follow through on, give yourself a little break: Partridges for you in '72!

I always begin a new year by seeing what has happened to me in the old year, and this year has just seemed packed with memories, both sad and glad. (Mostly glad, I'm happy to say.) I'll never forget when David became ill and was rushed to the hospital, when I had to play the back of his head. I remember the first time I met Brian Forster . . . and the first time I saw him play the drums. I remember very nice summer weekends with Dave Madden and some friends, with the Crough family, with the Bonaduces.

I remember being in Ireland and watching the Partridge Family on television there, hearing the song, "I Think I Love You," played by a band in a club, and wondering if I would ever

This month in her exclusive column, Susan Dey's best friend, Jane Joyce takes you behind-the-scenes for the filming of this year's Christmas show. If you saw that fabulous episode, you'll want to know all about how it was filmed. And, if you missed the show, Jane will tell you all about the show that was the Partridge Family's favorite!

get back to California. I remember coming back to California. I remember my camping trip with Susan and her brother. And most of all, I remember telling you all these things and being happy I could share them with you.

If you asked me which show I liked the best of all the ones we filmed this year, I'd definitely have to say the Christmas show. I know you just saw it a few weeks ago, but actually it was made at the end of October, and as long as I'm telling you some of my memories in this column, I might as well tell you the best . . .

Maybe the reason why I really liked working on the Christmas show was because everyone seemed to be very happy. Even though Mean Sidney tried his best to be very mean, even nasty, at last even he became happy. But before the show itself was being filmed, everyone was pleased to be able to play his character in a different way. I

bet you never thought of David as a sheriff who couldn't even sing straight, let alone shoot straight and Shirley as Belle, the beautiful and kind soda shop owner. Do you remember David's line, "What's a 'bell-bell,' Belle?" after Susan, as School Marm ("But you can call me 'Marm.") announced, "Something terrible has happened—someone stole the bell, Belle!"

Maybe you can't remember particular lines, but I guess you couldn't forget the costumes. Shirley probably won't forget her costume either; because of the bustle in the back, she couldn't sit down very comfortably, so the prop department found a padded stand for her to lean against. If you looked at Shirley only from the front and couldn't see the stand, she looked as if she was miraculously leaning against the air and not falling over! It wasn't too bad for her inside the studio, but we did a lot of filming outside, and



**ALL THE PARTRIDGES** got a kick out of dressing up in western clothes! Susan's hair was a special problem, because it had to stay up, but then fall down on cue. Susan worked for many hours with the hairdresser.