

poor Shirley had to either stand up or kind of perch on an extra high chair. Anyway, she looked just lovely—so beautiful, in fact, that the first time Danny saw her in her costume he said, "You look just like the top of a music box!"

Of course, the more elaborate costumes for the girls in the show made getting dressed take longer, just as the hairstyles required even more care than usual. In one scene, Susan had to have her pencil snatched from her hair by Mean Sidney. Just to get that effect—of her hair falling down into her face—Susan and the hairdresser Jo Robicheaux spent several hours trying to figure out a hairstyle that would "behave" and still look nice. (And still look school-teacherish, too.) The result was that two strands of hair stayed up only with one hair pin to keep them in place, and of course that pin sometimes just decided to slip out. It wasn't unusual to turn around and see Susan with two dangling wisps of hair and an unhappy look on her face.

• DANNY'S MR. CLEAN

Well, there was lots of action to keep everyone busy. I think the biggest sacrifice anyone made for the show was made by Danny. His costume was all white, and he had to keep it all white all week. And Danny is usually the first person to find the best and dirtiest places to play in—it just isn't often that the rest of us see him really sparkling white and clean.

Of course, one bonus for Danny in his role as Little the Kid was riding on that big beautiful white horse. I bet you already know that he once owned a horse named Patience, but I don't think any of us here thought he could handle a horse as big and spirited as the white one. And it was big! Actually there was originally a scene in which Little was supposed to come tearing around the corner of a building, pull his horse up really sharp, and look like a true hero to all the townsfolk. Well, the producers thought it would be too



DANNY MAY LOOK like he has the upper hand, but it was a rough job for him to stay clean and white all week long! Danny's character on the show was named Little The Kid.

dangerous for Danny to do that kind of riding, so they hired a jockey, put a red wig on him, the white costume too, and let him do the scene. Then when Danny showed us all his ability to ride, I suppose the producers began to wonder if all their bother had been necessary. Of course, there was always the possibility of an accident happening, so it was the best thing to have a double do the stunt. In fact, the same kind of scene was shot for Mean Sidney, but this time the horse was jet black and even more jumpy than the white one—and once again the producers hired a double to do the riding for Dave Madden. Those two horses were really beautiful, I must say.



A SINGING COWBOY THAT CAN'T SING? That's what happened to David during the filming of the Partridge Christmas show—but only on film. Now that IS funny—number one singing idol David Cassidy not being able to sing!

Speaking of doubles doing stunts, there was a scene I'm sure you remember—when the sheriff is thrown out of the saloon by Mean Sidney. Well, that really wasn't David being tossed out but his stand-in, Jan. Remember I told you how much they look alike—with the sheriff costume on, Jan looked so much like David that sometimes it was almost impossible to tell them apart. But Jan knew it was her and not David who landed on the sidewalk in front of "Belle's Place." That hurt!

As I said, we did a lot of filming outside. Most of the action took place in the area of the lot called Western Street. Here, already built, are the fronts of all the stores and office buildings that look as if they came from the time of real cowboys and Indians. Just walking down the street, even when no one else is around, makes you believe you are out West and that at any minute a show-down will take place before your eyes. With all the extras in their costumes (and me too), the horses and buggies, and just the plain hustle and bustle of so much activity, the street just came alive!

We spent one Friday afternoon and night outside, and while the sun was warm during the day, the evening was quite cold. So cold, in fact, that the kids were given hot chocolate and everyone huddled around the heaters. It was unusual to be working at night,

especially so late at night (until eleven-thirty or so), and since it was a Friday night, we missed the Partridge Family show for that evening. Now that's dedication to your work! But the reason for working on Friday was so that everyone could sleep the next day without having to worry about coming in for work, something I think everyone was happy about.

Some of the little things that made the show seem better than ever were made possible by the use of special effects. There was a scene in which David had to have a lollipop stuck in his hair, and although he tried to get Jan to do it for him, he finally had to put the candy in his own hair. Really,

though, the lollipop wasn't sticky at all—but the scotch tape certainly hurt when David tried to pull the candy off his head! It seems that the first few times the special effects man used the tape, there wasn't quite enough to keep the lollipop from falling off, so more tape was added. After a while, there was quite a wad of the sticky stuff on David's head.

Another special effects job was to make the bus look as if it had broken down. The engine was fiddled with, oil came out in a little stream, and sure enough, it certainly did look as if the bus had broken down. Well, it really had—not badly, though. It wasn't until the next week, when the bus was needed for a scene in another episode, was it discovered that it wasn't running properly—and probably because of the "special effects!"

As I said, the Christmas show was probably my favorite program. Maybe it was the fact that filming that show in October as we did made Christmas itself come a little closer and that looking back on it now makes me have happy memories of the holiday times. I think also that seeing the Partridges having a good time because they knew they were working on a good show that would make you happy was one of the best presents anyone could ask for. It also promises a good new year for everyone here—and I hope for you too. See you next month!