

Susan's Life Lonely At Top

By VERNON SCOTT

Hollywood (UPI)

YOU ARE an 18-year-old girl with a lovely face, a regular role in a television series, single and having the time of your life, right?

Wrong.

Not if you're Susan Dey, the willowy charmer who plays the eldest daughter on **The Partridge Family**.

Susan is troubled about whether she should have remained in the conventional pattern of girls her age:

cheering for the football team, having dates five or six nights a week, whispering with the other girls.

"It's a question I ask myself constantly," Miss Dey said. "Maybe I should be studying and having dates.

"Then again I wonder why should I follow the trend of my age group. I'm living a different kind of life, being educated in a different way. I'm conscious it's not an 18-year-old way of life. But I'm glad I'm aware of that fact. Some people aren't."

THE PRESS of work, her early morning calls and the fact that she plays a 16-year-old in the Screen Gems-ABC series all contribute to a paucity of dates.

"I'm lucky if I have three dates a month," Susan complained.

Boys her own age don't have the wherewithal necessary to take a television performer to dinner. And Susan wants no part of the lecherous old goats who can afford to squire her around.

"I regret I don't have a steady boyfriend," Susan said wistfully, "but there isn't much I can do about it."

THE SUGGESTION was made that she date the spectacularly popular David Cassidy, her co-star on the show. He is the right age, far more famous than she and with an All-America boy image.

"He's more like a brother to me," Susan complained. "And his life is more hectic than mine.

"I remember we had a conversation not long ago and David said, 'It's really lonely at the top.' And I told him, 'It's a lot more lonely at the bottom.'"

Susan would like to make motion pictures in addition to her television work. But again she is frustrated.

"I've read a lot of scripts and talked to producers, but the roles they have for the 16-18-year-old girls are really raunchy," she said.