

HOT-LINE FROM HOLLYWOOD!

SUSAN TALKING

SUSAN: Hi, Pat. It's me . . . Susan, calling to wish you a happy 19th January!

ME: *What's so special about the 19th January then?*

SUSAN: Oh, nothing special . . . But that's no reason why you shouldn't be happy on it, is it?

ME: *(Laughing) No, of course not — and thanks, Susan. I was just a bit worried that it might be something like the 4th July and I'd missed out on it. Anyway, it's great to hear you sounding so cheerful!*

SUSAN: Yes, I'm feeling really good at the moment. No special reason or anything, but it's nice all the same. I suppose the new house might have something to do with it, because I'm really delighted with it.

ME: *(All ears) New house? Have you moved again then?*

SUSAN: Sure . . . Quite a while ago, actually. Well, before Christmas. Somehow I always assume that you'll know these things by remote control, Pat. Sorry, I'd have told you before if I'd realised. Yes, I'm still in the Canyon in Woodland Hills, but I've moved into a really cute little cottage, which is just perfect for me.

It's got a living room and kitchen downstairs and just two bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, so it's exactly the right size. I never feel it's big and lonely when I go back nights on my own.

ME: *You still haven't changed your mind about living alone then, Susan?*

SUSAN: No. But, you see, I'm never lonely. I've gotten so many friends around in L.A. now that I never need to be on my own unless I choose to. I can always invite a few people round for a meal, or go call on a friend in the evening.

A couple of years back I'd have hated the thought of living alone. But then I never thought there'd be a Christmas when I wouldn't be home with my family. But this year I had so much work on schedule both before and after Christmas, that it just had to be that way.

ME: *Oh dear, I bet they missed you.*

SUSAN: I guess they did . . . Well, I sure missed them too. Of course, I 'phoned home to wish them a happy Christmas and give them all the news and just rap with them a while. But Christmas itself I spent with friends out here.

ME: *You mentioned work . . . Aren't you taking a break while the Partridge Family is off production?*

SUSAN: A break? You've got to be joking! I've never been so busy in my life. And I've never had such a spooky time either — but I'm loving it all.

ME: *Is your new house haunted or something?*

SUSAN: No, no . . . Nothing like that. That's something I certainly would *not* be loving, I can tell you! No . . . I've just quit work on a TV ghost story — and it all ended happily ever after anyhow, in spite of the spine-chilling moments en route!

ME: *How was your part?*

SUSAN: Well, I was playing the lucky girl who the spook tries to kill! You see, it's a story about this family who move into an old apartment house which is haunted by this woodchopper's ghost. So I don't fancy the end I'd have come to if things hadn't worked out all right!

ME: *How do you stop him, or it, or whatever you'd call a ghost?*

SUSAN: Oh, that part of it's rather comical. The kids *talk* him out of it! How about that?

ME: *Have you got anything else lined up right now, Susan?*

SUSAN: At the moment I'm reading movie scripts but I've not taken up anything definite yet. I hope to do a movie before we start back on the Partridges. But I promise I'll be sure and let you know the minute I fix on something, Pat.

ME: *There is something else I'd like you to be sure to do for me, Susan.*

SUSAN: Of course . . . What's that?

ME: *Will you give my love to David, Shirley, Danny, Dave, Brian and Suzanne whenever you see them next?*

SUSAN: I surely will. I guess I'll be seeing Shirley sometime quite soon 'cos she should be back from her vacation out East. I saw David only the other day, but I reckon I'll be bumping into him again before long, as he's right here in L.A.

ME: *Has he finally got over those colds and things he was down with last time I heard from him?*

SUSAN: Yes, he's okay now. But it took him quite a while to really get back on his feet. Seems like the colder weather just doesn't agree with him! It was the same last year. And, of course, with his singing, it's awfully frustrating for him.

ME: *Well, we'll have to try to make sure that it's not too chilly when he comes over here in March! So tell him that, and tell him how glad all his fans in Britain will be to know that he's feeling better again now.*

And keep in touch, won't you?

SUSAN: I sure will! It's been nice talking with you, Pat. Bye for now.