



David with his mom Evelyn Ward today.



David at two and one half years with his dad, Jack Cassidy.

At four, David liked to sing his mom "to sleep."



nine years old, was his panda. he was very much interested in *people*—although he was very much interested in *people*—although he did not care very much for boys.

"He always noticed girls," Evelyn remembers. "I think he first started noticing them when he was about three years old—and David was very popular with girls. When he was about four, there was a little girl named Judy he liked a lot. That was quite awhile ago, of course, and though they are not close friends, they still get in touch with each other occasionally."

David's mom recalls that when David wasn't out playing with girls, they would come to his house and ask for him. They would come to the front door, come to the back door—and some of them even crawled through the windows!

David attended the Eagle Rock School until the last half of the fifth grade—then Jack and Evelyn moved to California. In Los Angeles, David was registered at the Fairburn School. It was a marvelous school taught by student teachers from the University of California in Los Angeles. Classes were quite different at Fairburn and, for the first time, David began to groove on going to school. In fact, he *loved* it! Fairburn was the first progressive school in Los Angeles—and to David, "serious" subjects actually became a pleasure.

LOVED MATHEMATICS

When David was in the third grade, he was actually doing sixth grade math—and at Fairburn, he was allowed to let his logical mind move along at a very fast clip. He excelled in mathematics and loved science, and he always was far ahead in both of these subjects. He had excellent reasoning powers and most of his teachers were intrigued by his mind.

However, one of David's teachers didn't believe he was that good. In fact, after David rated an "A" on one particular test, the teacher decided that David had cheated. She telephoned Evelyn and said, "I think your son cheated on his test and I want you to come with him tomorrow and we'll have this out."

Evelyn hung up the phone, filled with dismay. She called David and they had a long talk.

"David assured me over and over that he did not cheat," she recalls, "and, in my heart, I knew he was telling the truth. But I could see that he was frightened by the accusation and I was worried about how he would react to the pressure he was going to have put on him the next day."