

# MY SON-DAVID

by EVELYN WARD

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When Jack drove David back to the house *after* the weekend, David seemed pleased but rather quiet. And I noticed that Jack had what looked like a handkerchief around his hand. He dropped David off and waved goodbye. I asked David, "Well—how was it?"

David mumbled something and finally looked at me, and grinning sheepishly, said, "It was all right, except Dad was supposed to be the cook and—well, he isn't very experienced at cooking, is he?"

I smiled and said, "No, not very."

David frowned for a moment and then said, "I thought not, because—well, the day he cooked, he went to stir the fire and burned his hand, and then he knocked over the kettle of soup and—"

I smiled and chuckled knowingly. "It's all right, David," I said. "You don't have to explain."

## SCHOOL DAYS

After finishing the sixth grade at Fairburn Grammar School, David was enrolled in Emerson Junior High. Generally speaking, David was super-happy there. He was an ace basketball player (one of you 16-ers won his favorite Westwood-Emerson Junior High basketball shirt recently!), had gotten a drum set—a gift from Sal Mineo, whom he much admired—was collecting records and practicing singing rock 'n' roll. Also, David and I had seen and fallen in love with an incredibly beautiful Spanish *hacienda*-type



● Soon, David and his mom found their "dream home" — a Spanish *hacienda* in Cheviot Hills. David's bedroom window is obscured by the tree at left. He used to take sun-baths on the roof!

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● On their first trip back to West Orange, David and his mom pose for a "family album" photo in the dining room of their New Jersey home.