

DAVID CASSIDY

All You Ever Wanted To Know!

At 10 a.m. on April 12, 1950, a blue-eyed, red-haired boy was born to Jack and Evelyn Cassidy at Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital, New York City, weighing in at 7lb 15 ozs. His name was David Bruce Cassidy. David was a happy child who smiled so much he was given the nickname of Smilin' Sam — later changed to Laughin' Sam when he started laughing at everything.

When David was three

his mother was very concerned about his eyes, which appeared to be irritating him, so he went to a specialist, and he told her that David had to wear glasses.

He'd been wearing the glasses for several months when another specialist told her that they were unnecessary. All he needed was eye exercises but

an operation would be necessary when he was older if everything else had failed.

When David was five, his parents divorced — something terrible for him at the time and which still remains as one of the worst things that ever happened to him.

"At first I couldn't believe it," he says. "For weeks I cried myself to

sleep because I thought my father didn't love me. I was too young to understand the real reasons for my parents' break-up."

It took him less time than expected to settle down, and soon he was happy with his grandparents in New Jersey.

Then, just as everything was going very well for everyone, Evelyn had to break the news that they were moving to California.

David didn't want to move. He was happy in

West Orange and all his friends lived there. He gave Evelyn a really hard time, constantly pleading that they stay, but she believed the move was for the best. David's father and his new wife, Shirley Jones, were living out West and their first child, Shaun, had been born. Evelyn wanted David to have the opportunity of seeing his father more often.

Fortunately, David liked Los Angeles. They moved into a lovely house, close to the beach, and David started at Fairburn Grammar School in Westwood.

David's eye trouble showed no sign of improving — this was after consultations with several eye specialists — and finally Evelyn took him to see Dr. Cogan, one of the best in the world. After more tests and examinations, Dr. Cogan told Evelyn that it was necessary to operate on David's eyes.

David took the news very courageously, and within the next 24 hours, he was settled in Beverly Hill Hospital. For five hours he lay on the operating table.

The operation was very successful, although, afterwards, there were months of exercises and a lot of suffering for David. But it was worth it. When he was finally released from Dr. Cogan's care, both his eyes were perfect.

Having been brought up in show business, David had always wanted to be an actor or a musician.

He made his first public appearance when he was six, and some years later, he got his first big chance

