

Seasonal Seasonings

Steven M. Nesbit
Staff Reporter/Dillsburg Banner



Sunday, June 17, is Father's Day. I guess if Mom deserves a special day, so does Dad. As a society, yes, it's all about equality, but to a kid, not necessarily both Mom and Dad deserve a day of recognition. If you are lucky enough to have a super mom and a terrific dad, count your blessings, because one day you will realize just how lucky you are. I know there are a ton of great parents in the United States, but I've learned by listening to kids in my classes that by the time they are high school students they know which was better at parenting. If you're in that category of having two good parents, consider yourself blessed. You are very fortunate.

What about kids who have one excellent and one lousy parent? (I'll let you define excellent and lousy, of course. But most of you already know who in your family is the "good witch" and who is the "bad witch.") The worst category would be a child whose parents were absent or abusive. There are far too many kids without loving moms and dads in their lives. I hope you grew up in a household where you were nurtured and taught what unconditional love is. It didn't have to be your mother or father; it could've been one of your grandparents. I believe grandparents perfectly fill that void when parents are somewhere else. As an educator, I remember a guest speaker telling us that so long as children have at least one adult role model to mentor them, they have a great chance to grow into excellent parents and productive citizens – but there needs to be at least one. These are my thoughts as we travel from Mother's Day to Father's Day.

I thought it might be fun to take a look at the media, specifically television, and think about a few of the most popular fathers on TV. Did these famous TV characters exhibit good or poor parenting skills? A little of both? Listed below are 10 popular fathers in television history. Feel free to accept or reject my reasoning here, but there is one thing we all should agree on: These 10 TV fathers influenced many, many people throughout the years. Enjoy!

Ten popular fathers in television history.



Cliff Huxtable
"The Cosby Show"



Archie Bunker
"All in the Family"



Ben Cartwright
"Bonanza"



Dan Conner
"Roseanne"



Ward Cleaver
"Leave it to Beaver"

10. Jim Anderson, "Father Knows Best" (1954-60), Robert Young – This beloved TV series actually began as a radio show that aired from 1949-54. Although recognized as one of the best shows from the "Golden Age" of TV, it was not as wholesome as TV land thought it was. Jim was a thoughtful father who provided adult wisdom to his children when situations called for a parental discussion. However, looking back, the show was deceitful and promoted "weak women" to attract a man, and most times Jim's wisdom often advocated not telling the truth to avoid personal embarrassment or hurting someone else. Because of this reason, in my mind, Father does not know best.

9. Al Bundy, "Married with Children" (1987-97), Ed O'Neill – This was one of the most outrageous comedies ever. As head of a stereotypical "white-trash" family, Al Bundy was a shoe salesman with a miserable life, and he was not a good dad. He made fun of his children. At times, he was just plain nasty. His motto was "Domestic bliss was never like this." I know it's a farce and I love great comedic scripts, so for that reason, Al Bundy makes my Top 10.

8. Tim "The Tool-Man" Taylor, "Home Improvement" (1991-99), Tim Allen – He took the phrase "a man and his tools" to a whole new level. It's great entertainment for the entire family. Tim was a loving husband and a great family man, but the only problem is he loved his "juiced-up" tools even more. "Arr, arr, arr!"

7. Howard Cunningham, "Happy Days" (1974-84), Tom Bosley – An iconic show about the fabulous 1950s with silly concepts and ideas. The Cunningham family gets through the decade with the help of a greaser named Fonzie. Come on, there's no way someone like Fonzie would ever befriend a family like Mr. C's. But Howard was a good dad and this dialogue says a lot about his parenting skills:

Richie: "All we had was beer in teeny-weeny little glasses."

Howard: "How many teeny-weeny little glasses did you have?"

Richie: "Seventy-two."

Howard: "I think it's time for some teeny-weeny cups of coffee."

6. Charles Ingalls, "Little House on the Prairie" (1974-83), Michael Landon – Following the life and adventures of the Ingalls family in the 19th century American West, the Little House series was based on childhood memories of author Laura Ingalls Wilder. Every episode was filled with family values, love, friendship and faith as patriarch Charles Ingalls tried to live a simple life. I wanted to rank Charles higher, but because of the soft-spoken, respectful "Do unto others" mentality, I believe the show ignored our not-so-honorable human emotions – namely anger and frustration.

5. Ward Cleaver, "Leave it to Beaver" (1957-63), Hugh Beaumont – Ward Cleaver was a stoic figure of quiet dignity

who administered parental justice with understanding and compassion. He sometimes found himself punishing his sons for deeds he admittedly committed as a child. He often found himself learning something from his sons. It's another classic show from the Golden Age of TV. Education, occupation, marriage, and family were the ideals promoted for a happy and productive life. Ward's most repeated line became, "Wally, believe it or not, I was your age once." I like the fact that Ward was open-minded enough to also learn life's lessons while talking with his boys.

4. Archie Bunker, "All in the Family" (1971-79), Carroll O'Connor - Archie has been called "TV's greatest character of all time." Archie's character, who the show revolved around, changed TV forever. Topics never previously talked about on TV made him "America's most lovable bigot." Racism, homosexuality, women's liberation, breast cancer, the Vietnam War, menopause and impotence were talked about on TV for the first time, despite being sensitive subjects. Archie, a WWII vet, represented men who loved their country. He loved his wife and his daughter and even her hippie husband, "Meathead," but his vulgar and uncouth tantrums make it hard to call him a good father. Though Archie had many faults as a father, the superbly written scripts, excellent casting and a glimpse of the real world puts him in the Top 5. He was a saint compared to my dad.

3. Ben Cartwright, "Bonanza" (1959-1973), Lorne Greene – One of TV's longest running western series revolved around a single father who had three sons, each to a different wife. This classic program showed the 1960s generation the importance of family and what it meant to be a man. Bottom line: Ben Cartwright loved his boys, and together they were a family of integrity and high moral standards. Ben's philosophy for his boys went like this: "A man's never wrong doing what he thinks is right."

2. Dan Conner, "Roseanne" (1988-97), John Goodman – Dan was an all-American man; a beer-drinking, football-watching handyman trying to survive the recession of the 1980s. He was the real deal. He fought with his wife (who wouldn't?), and yelled at and disciplined his kids. He's probably the most realistic portrayal of a middle-America dad trying to provide for his family and live happily ever after.

1. Cliff Huxtable, "The Cosby Show" (1984-92), Bill Cosby – This show focused on the Huxtable family, an affluent black family living in Brooklyn. Every kid wanted a dad like Cliff. He was fun-loving and funny, but he was also firm and fair with his children. Dr. Huxtable's defining quote: "You're going to do it because I said so. I'm your father. I brought you into this world and I'll take you out!"

Happy Father's Day! Do something nice to surprise your dad on Sunday! But remember: No neck ties.

In Your Own Backyard



Peggie Williams
Staff Reporter/Dillsburg Banner

Appalachian Trail Museum

As the Appalachian Trail Museum starts its third season of operation, it can boast of more than 16,000 visitors, many of them hikers on the trail it commemorates.

Located at 1120 Pine Grove Road (Route 233), the museum is a part of the Pine Grove Furnace complex owned and maintained by Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) as a state park. The museum is housed in the old grist mill building, one of several buildings that remain from the village that surrounded the furnace, which was founded in 1764, as it operated for more than 100 years.

While the Appalachian Trail Museum Society (ATMS), which leases the building, has enough artifacts to fill several buildings, at the current time only the first floor is furnished with displays honoring the early years of the trail and some of its most colorful characters, including Earl Shaffer, the first thru-hiker (a person who hikes from one end to the other in a season), in 1948 and Emma "Grandma" Gatewood, who first thru-hiked the trail in 1955, at age 67, with what even at that time was considered extremely inadequate gear, including sneakers rather than boots and a blanket rather than a sleeping bag.

The museum sits near the halfway point of the nearly 2,200-mile trail that runs from Georgia to Maine. But museum manager Howard Davis said there is no set halfway point, because the trail itself is constantly changing. Even on a wilderness highway there are closures, detours and trail reconstruction projects that affect the flow of traffic and the actual distance of the trail.

At this time, the ATMS is an all volunteer group that has logged more than 5,000 hours during its first two years. There are plans to expand the displays as the money becomes available.

The museum is open on weekends from noon - 4 p.m. in the spring and fall and every-day from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Admission is free. For more information, call 717-482-1826 or visit www.atmuseum.org.

Haars Drive-In Continued from 1C

theater capacity has increased to more than 500 cars. For safety reasons, though, the theater must not exceed capacity. Hardy said they occasionally have to turn people away, which is disappointing to the owners and the would-be customers, but it's something that has to be done. The audience helps to make the viewing experience. The popular franchise films that the theater shows, such as "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Men in Black," are big draws for theater-goers who want to dress up as their favorite character. At a recent

showing of "The Three Stooges," the theater held a contest to see who most looked like Larry, Curly or Moe. Coming up with activities for the audience is a way for the owners to increase business. Hardy said coming up with the ideas is half the fun. In honor of their 60th anniversary, they held a mini-carnival in conjunction with showing the animated flick "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted," had T-shirt giveaways, 60-cent food specials and given special surprises to the first 60 cars to

arrive. Movies typically run one to two weeks, though they might run longer if they are popular enough. Although the owners no longer have the record indicating the very first movie shown at the theater, what will not be forgotten or lost in the Haar's Drive-in history is the commitment, hard work and dedication of the Haar family to providing quality, engaging, family-friendly entertainment and their ability to keep the past alive with the unique experience that is the drive-in movie.



Taking a ride through the drive-in.



Customers line up to purchase food and beverages at the snack bar.



Families line up their vans with the hatches open to watch the movie.



"Three Stooges" winners (from left to right): Mark Dennis, of Etters, Mitch Megonnell, of Gardners and Mark Boyer, of New York

Ferrante's Pizza and Restaurant

- 305 N. Baltimore Street, Dillsburg -

432-4380