

## Oldies But Goodies

*By Diane Parker*

A television set did not replace our family's radio until the early 1960's. By the time I married and had my own young family, the 1960's weekly TV shows were cemented into our living room.

There are so many of them I remember, loved, enjoyed and looked forward to, sitting down and having that hour or two to forget I was a wife and mother.

There was *I Love Lucy*, *The Addams Family*, *The Avengers*, *Bewitched*, *The Fugitive*, *The FBI Story*, and so many, many more.

It was hard to pick, but I chose a few of my favorites to share with you. How about *Gunsmoke*, which today still my all-time favorite? *Gunsmoke* ran on television from 1955 to 1975. The Dodge City, Kansas's sheriff was Matt Dillon, played by handsome James Arness. His deep, melodious voice and his good looks, I admit, was what drew me to the show each week ... not to mention his he-man heroics and fast gun draws against the bad guy. I like my men to always win.

I loved Kitty played by Amanda Blake ... I related with her because I always thought if I had lived in that time I would have been "Kitty." I would have gotten Matt to the altar somehow.

How I looked forward every week to watching handsome Raymond Burr win his court trials portraying Perry Mason ... another hero of justice with his gravelly, baritone voice. Barbara Hale, via Della Street, was his ever faithful secretary and helped solve many of the mysteries of this weekly series.

*Perry Mason* ran on television from 1957 to 1966. Some of the stars that were guests on this show were Robert Redford, Steve McQueen, Barbara Eden, Lee Meriwether and Burt Reynolds.

What can I say about *The Andy Griffith Show*? Is there anyone out there in the audience that doesn't know who Barney Fife was? Don Knotts should have won an Emmy for every single episode. Andy played Mayberry's sheriff Andy Taylor who started every weekly show towing his fishing pole down a country back road with his son Opie, played by Ron Howard. Howard grew up to become one of Hollywood's most respected movie directors.

But back to Barney ... if television is ever dumb enough to try to remake this most wholesome, family show, who in the world could ever play Barney?

It's now March, 2020, and I am still lucky enough to get these original black and white shows on my big screen TV. Here it is some sixty years later and I still get to watch these oldies but goodies.

Through the decades the television industry has tried to do remakes or create upgrades of these great old weekly's ... but they aren't close to that kind of entertainment that first appeared on my old black and white TV set that had no remote control!