

TV Favorites in the 1960's
by Liz Gibbons

I married in 1956. I had just finished grad school at the University of Michigan. While my husband and I were born in the same year I was 5 months older. He had a December birthday, so he was a year behind me in school. That fall after we married he began grad school to get a masters in education while I taught high school biology in nearby Livonia, Michigan. During that year he decided to go on to law school for three years after he finished his masters.

Being newly-weds and having college expenses we watched our pennies. It was probably late 1957 before we bought a TV, a 19 inch model from Sears. After the down payment we paid \$7 a month to pay it off, which I recall we did in less than a year. One of the programs we loved to watch was Gunsmoke. My husband's former roommate had married at about the same time we did, and he and his wife had a TV, so we often went to their apartment on Saturday night to watch Gunsmoke. Now we could watch invite them to our apartment to watch Matt Dillon, Miss Kitty, Chester, and Doc Adams. Other series I liked were The Dick Van Dyke Show, I Love Lucy, and The Carol Burnett Show. I particularly liked the acting ability of Carol Burnett, how her facial expressions told so much and her perfect timing.

Since our sons were born in 1960 and 1963 I also saw lots of Captain Kangaroo. There were cartoons such as The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show, Yogi Bear, and Space Ghost which they sometimes watched. Early some mornings the first show on was replays of The Three Stooges which my older son liked to watch. He also liked Gilligan's Island.

I look back on those shows in the 60's and marvel at how entertaining the shows were week after week. I think most TV programming has deteriorated from those fabulous 60's.