

Archie's Mother Offers Glimpse of Son's Life

Forest Hills, N.Y. (RNS) — Being "Archie Bunker's" mother hasn't changed the retired Queens public school teacher who still helps run a travel agency and writes a column for the Irish Advocate.

Mrs. Elise O'Connor still lives in the "unpretentious little home" which she and her family moved into 40 years ago and still likes its "cozy comfort just the way it is."

Of course, Mrs. O'Connor — the mother of actor Carroll O'Connor — cannot escape entirely the shadow of her son's renown as America's favorite Saturday night bigot.

In an interview with Richard Ryan of the Brooklyn diocesan newspaper, The Tablet, she pointed to the piano and the white Mustang automobile as gifts from her son, adding he's always been very thoughtful but sometimes I think he worries about me too much.

She volunteered that Carroll usually calls her every Sunday



afternoon from California just before he and his wife Nancy and their 12-year-old son, Hugh, go to 5 p.m. Mass.

"There's one church that he especially likes," she said. "It has the Mass in Latin."

Asked about "Archie's" true life liberal image, she said "you can't believe everything you read." Yet, she said, Carroll was against the Vietnam war and voted for George McGovern.

Indicating that while his conservatism runs more to Church matters, Mrs. O'Connor pointed out that there are Sundays when he and his family attend a folk Mass.

The eldest of three boys — Robert is a New York psychiatrist

and Hugh, also a doctor, was killed in a motorcycle accident — Carroll had thoughts of becoming a lawyer and taught school a while, Mrs. O'Connor explained. But she indicated he always had a love for the theater.

Mrs. O'Connor still enjoys writing a regular column for the paper her father founded, the Irish Advocate, and uses the by-line Elise O. She watches All in the Family without fail and says she hopes it will run at least another year.

A retired Queens school teacher who worked in the public school system 35 years, she usually likes to attend the Saturday evening Mass at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Forest Hills.

Mrs. O'Connor once entertained the pastor, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Denning of Brooklyn, who came to the house "just to meet Carroll" after the Bishop heard the improbable, preposterous notion that Archie Bunker was one of his parishioners.

Mrs. O'Connor's two sisters and two brothers still live in Queens and she sees all of them regularly, The Tablet reported.

At Home with the Movies

JOY IN THE MORNING
Thursday, May 23 [CBS]

Here's the kind of film people say they don't make anymore — and when you see it, you'll know exactly why. If the sud don't get you, the molasses will. Story is about a ha-penny-poor but bright-penny young married couple trying to get him (Richard Chamberlain) through law school. When he's not hitting the books, he's on duty at one of the several part-time jobs he has to pay the book bills. When she (Yvette Mimieux) isn't brushing her golden tresses, she's garnering tips for better living from the friendly florist next door, or auditing English Lit by literally kneeling with ear to the classroom door keyhole. When both have a spare moment or two, it's into the sack. This sort of thing results in a movie both childish and "mature." A-III

IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT
[1967]

Saturday, May 25 [NBC]

A recently arrived industrialist is murdered in Sparta, Miss., and the local police chief (Rod Steiger) has to rely on the scientific experience of a black homicide expert (Sidney Poitier) who is passing through town. The superior acting of the two principals and the sure photography of Haskell Wexler carry the detective plot to a balanced and significant expression of the complex racial, legal and intellectual prejudice permeating many areas of American life. A-III

Strassenburgh Features Heavy Water Show

Heavy Water, San Francisco's famous lightshow, will flood the Star Theatre of the Strassenburgh Planetarium with their unique visual experience May 30, 31 and June 1, at 9:15 p.m.

Since 1969, The Heavy Water Lightshow has provided back up visuals for such rock groups as Jefferson Airplane, Santana and the Grateful Dead.

Now the Heavy Water artists, Joan Chase and John Hardham, have adapted their visuals to the environment of the Planetarium dome, creating a vast universe of

kaleidoscopic slide, film and liquid projections.

David Proctor, a critic for the Salt Lake City Tribune, said, "Heavy Water... proved that the light show medium is an art form that will have to be dealt with seriously from here on."

Heavy Water also creates a total environment by utilizing the Strassenburgh's stereophonic sound system for a specially prepared soundtrack including, among others, the tunes from rock groups Santana, Alice Coultrane, Pink Floyd, Hot Tuna, and the Grateful Dead.

AS I SEE IT

Pat O'Connell

Some TV notes from the mental scratch pad

If you have been meaning to stay up and take a look at ABC's "Wide Wide World of Entertainment" to see what you've been missing, don't bother.

I did the other night. The mystery feature and pilot for still another cops and robbers series starred Ed Nelson in what has to be the greatest number of commercials crammed into 90 minutes.

It is time I think that the FCC step in and investigate when the pattern is three minutes of story sandwiched between 8 to 10 commercials and promos for the entire hour and a half.

Speaking of commercials, if you're worried about the impression they make on your receptive youngsters you might try educating them into a little cynicism. It's not hard and the ad agencies actually help you.

The blonde who comes on for Ceritol and asks you to guess her age then introduces her grandson "Chuckie" while revealing she is an ancient 50 years old had already been drawing Bronx cheers from our group. But when

they discovered the same lady in a magazine ad touting a face cream as her secret for youthful looks, their lesson in cynicism was complete.

Vote for the worst audience participant game show in TV history — ABC's "Treasure Hunt."

My favorite commercial is back on the tube obviously signifying the start of Summer. It's the Faygo cruise ship with its melodious tune led by The Great Gildersleeve.

One of three comedy pilots shown by NBC recently featured Bette Davis as a pain-in-the-neck mother. The part is probably the best she's had in years and she makes the most of it. The rest of the writing wasn't too great but a little work could bring her to her screens weekly in a new role as a comedienne.



Guess Who?

Well, if you're watching television on Saturday night, add about four decades and a snarl and you might come up with a correct identity. For this cherubic face belongs to Carroll O'Connor, TV's Archie Bunker, the archetype bigot on All in the Family. The picture was taken when the youngster, at age 6, had received his First Holy Communion at St. Bartholomew's Church in the Elmhurst section of New York City and hangs on the wall in the home of Mrs. Elsie O'Connor, the actor's mother. [RNS]

SCOUT DINNER
Palmyra — Troop 96, of the Boy Scouts, held an award dinner at St. Anne's on May 10. The dinner honored Richard Larsson and Jim Showman, who advanced to the rank of Eagle Scout.

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Wednesday, June 5, 8:00 pm

Gershwin Piano Concerto in F Jeffrey Siegel, piano
Cole Porter Medley/Works by Rossini & Gounod

Saturday, June 8, 8:30 pm

Frankie Laine

Wednesday, June 12, 8:00 pm

Mendelssohn Violin Concerto Kishiko Suzumi, violin
Richard Rodgers Medley/Works by Bizet & Rimsky-Korsakov

Saturday, June 15, 8:30 pm &

Sunday, June 16, 8:30 pm

Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto #2 Daniel Epstein, piano
Alec Wilder Medley/Prokofiev Classical Symphony

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