

Weather Carrier

By B.D. Tharp

When she was a little girl, Cathy Carrier, would sneak into the room her father used as a recording studio and pretend that she was talking on the microphone. “I do the same thing now, only the mike is on,” she said. The youngest child of Cecil Carrier, an icon in Kansas’s weather broadcasting, Cathy eased into a career in broadcasting on KFH Friday afternoons. “I’d start two hours before the show and write out everything I wanted to say. Dad warned me I’d get tired of doing that,” she said. “His advice was to just talk, just be yourself.”

It took a little while, but the more Cathy was on the air the more relaxed she became and the easier it was to “just be herself.” As a child she enjoyed watching her dad at the state fair when he was with channel 3. He always had a sense of humor and made himself accessible. “He taught me the weather and how to have confidence and trust myself,” she said. “I remember we’d go on television once a year as a family to say Merry Christmas. I wouldn’t sleep for days and would shake from head-to-toe. But I loved meeting all the people.”

This single mom encourages her daughters to find a career and be strong, focused individuals. “I really never expected that radio weather reporting would be a full time career. I feel very fortunate, because I absolutely love what I do,” Cathy said. Her career has given her the flexibility to raise her children and still do something that involves meeting the public. “One thing that has meant so much to me is to have listeners come up and talk about their children and the fact that something I’ve said is exactly what they’re going through.”

With twin daughters still at home, Cathy thinks she has more material than she can ever use. Her sons are in college, but they stay very close. “Our family has always tried to find the good in every situation. Things usually happen for a reason,” she said. “My parents were always positive and supportive. A very giving family.” To her mother, the glass was always more than half full.

A short time ago KZSN decided they needed to make some changes. After nineteen years at the station Cathy was let go. “I was shocked, but it was a wake up call. I’d let myself get too comfortable,” she said. So she sat down and asked herself what direction she wanted to go now.

The listeners had other ideas, however, and expressed them to the radio station. “I was only off for a couple of weeks, then they called and asked me to come back. I’m humbled by the efforts of the listeners, and that management listened,” she said. “The kids thought they were finally off the hook, but they know that if they do something goofy it’s going to be on the air.”

Cathy's been on the radio for twenty-three years and hopes to rebuild the Carrier Weather Network. She loves to write ads and also do production so this time around she plans to do things a little differently. "I don't ever want to let the listeners down," Cathy said. "I always wanted to be a back up dancer for the Carol Burnett Show, but I can't dance." No matter what turns life takes for this weather woman, she knows she'll find the strength and support she needs and will continue to learn good lessons and stay positive.