

SUBURBAN LIFE

C

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1994



SCOTT AND BRAD SEEGER

Stay at home dad finds humor in baby's life

When our son, Brad, was born, my wife and I made the decision that one of us would stay home to raise him.

Now don't get me wrong. There's nothing wrong with both parents continuing their careers after a child is born (except in the case where the baby is left unattended, of course).

In fact, there are babies running around out there who would cause me to volunteer for a two-year shift on an Antarctic oil drilling platform just to avoid raising them. I know these babies are out there. I've seen them in K-Mart.

This isn't to say that all working parents are merely using their careers as an excuse to stay as far away from their children as possible, but in some cases I would highly recommend it.

So the bottom line here is that I'm not trying to be judgmental. It's just that in our situation, one of us staying home seemed to make sense.

When it came to deciding which of us that would be, two important factors needed to be considered.

First, my wife, Margie, was doing very well in a career and also enjoyed and, secondly, co-workers often found me at my desk attempting to job pointy objects into my eyes. (NOTE: This is not an endorsement of such activities.)

After carefully weighing the data, we concluded that I would stay home and raise our son, at least until he pooped in his pants or spit up or something disgusting like that.

The biggest challenge thus far has been adjusting to the dramatic changes in lifestyle since quitting my job. Things that I used to say or do on an almost daily basis ("Sorry I'm late, Mr. Schmelling") are but distant memories.

I have found that when I'm out among other actual adults in the actual adult world, I often forget how to communicate properly. I tend to speak in that same high pitched melodic tone typically used on babies, house plants, dogs and other forms of unintelligent life. (I believe the psychiatrist term for this is *Melanie Griffith syndrome*. And when I have Brad with me, entire conversations occur in which the parties involved speak only through him.)

Me (to Brad): "Can you tell the nice man that our vroom vroom car doesn't work right anymore?"

Burly auto mechanic (also to Brad): "Well! It sounds like the vroomvroom will do witto engine is dat mean old miter sparkpwug. Yeecees it is! Boo boo boo boo!"

Brad: "Pfhhhhtttttt!"

Yes, I've had to adapt to a number of changes since my active days in the workforce, including: Common phrase:

Before: "I'll get back to you Wednesday morning with exact cost and timing figures concerning this proposed change."

Now: "000000! Bradley make a BIG poo-poo!"

Clothing:

Before: suit and tie, of style and color to convey extreme confidence while also maintaining an air of approachability and openness.

Now: anything that looks good with creamed peas and spittle.

Daily agenda controlled by:

Before: short, stocky, crabby gentleman with extremely thin hair who had trouble getting his intended point across.

Now: OK, so there's no actual change here.

Receive invaluable instruction on how to communicate and work effectively with others:

Before: through company sponsored classes and workshops teaching state of the art interactive techniques.

Now: Buy brightly colored puppets like (Elmo) who have metal rods protruding from their wires.

Please note that I am not complaining here. Raising my son has been an extremely rewarding endeavor so far.

Far more rewarding than my career to this point, to be sure. If there is one thing I hope to instill in Brad down the road (besides "tax murderers-bad"), it's that he should do something he truly enjoys with his life.

Based on his early behavioral patterns, I would say possible options would include, but not be limited to:

Rock removal technician

Pet tormentor

Object tester-biter

Person who rolls off edge of cliff with absolutely no fear whatsoever.

As for now, however, I'm afraid he'll have to be content serving as an interpreter between my mechanic and me.

Scott Seeger is a stay at home dad,

Farmington resident and ex-aerospace and automotive engineer.

See SEAGER, 2C

Nothing routine: Virginia Dickerman and the Satin Dolls perform for a taping of Dance with Virginia on cable television.

ANN HILLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students floored

Dance teacher steps into happy lifestyle

By DIANE GALE

STAFF WRITER

Virginia Dickerman has been dancing for 70 years and teaching for 80 years. Her commitment to the art form and bright outlook on life is an inspiration to many.

teaching for 60 years and in the Farmington area for 35 of those years. "I forget I'm not 18 years old," Dickerman said.

Energy and enthusiasm flow from the professional dancer, performer, choreographer, producer, cable master of ceremonies, mother to Marcia and grandmother to Heidi, 18, and Erik, 16.

Dickerman looks, talks, walks and acts more than 20 years younger and most people don't believe her when she tells them her age. She says positive thinking dominates her life. In fact, she believes her attitude and drive were key to bringing her beyond breast cancer last year.

"If I ever retire I will teach positive thinking," Dickerman said.

Viewers can catch a glimpse of Dickerman on cable Channel 12 during showings of "Dance with Virginia," "Dickerman Showcase" and "Seniors on Parade." Her cable

work is volunteer.

While she teaches all types of dance, Dickerman says tap is her favorite. She draws from greats like Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. Her students range in age from 6 to 85 and from novice to teacher.

"I'm able to transcribe any dance, so my students are getting things that come right off television. It's all in your attitude. It's not that you go through life, you grow through life."

Watching a tape of herself and

her daughter, Dickerman keeps time with her fashionable sandals and painted toes. Her Farmington Hills home is airy, fresh and the rooms seem to flow into one another like a well-planned dance routine. The back door leads to a brick walk that encompasses a lavish pool. Her three cats, all graceful of course, complete the picture.

Standing tall and thin, the red headed Dickerman said keeping trim isn't an accident. She watches her calories and exercises vigorously, which includes dancing at home sometimes until 2 a.m.

"Your body does not come with a lifetime guarantee," she said.

Her advice for getting through life healthy and dynamic is: "Life changes with the choices that you make. Whether they're good or bad depends on you." Some of her choices were certainly life-changing.

As a young girl Dickerman's mother asked if she wanted piano or dance lessons. Dickerman, who was known to do cartwheels from school to their Detroit home, chose dance. In high school she joined the drama

See DICKERMAN, 5C

Nothing routine: Virginia Dickerman and the Satin Dolls perform for a taping of Dance with Virginia on cable television.

ANN HILLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students floored

Dance teacher steps into happy lifestyle

By DIANE GALE

STAFF WRITER

Virginia Dickerman has been dancing for 70 years and teaching for 80 years. Her commitment to the art form and bright outlook on life is an inspiration to many.

teaching for 60 years and in the Farmington area for 35 of those years. "I forget I'm not 18 years old," Dickerman said.

Energy and enthusiasm flow from the professional dancer, performer, choreographer, producer, cable master of ceremonies, mother to Marcia and grandmother to Heidi, 18, and Erik, 16.

Dickerman looks, talks, walks and acts more than 20 years younger and most people don't believe her when she tells them her age. She says positive thinking dominates her life. In fact, she believes her attitude and drive were key to bringing her beyond breast cancer last year.

"If I ever retire I will teach positive thinking," Dickerman said.

Viewers can catch a glimpse of Dickerman on cable Channel 12 during showings of "Dance with Virginia," "Dickerman Showcase" and "Seniors on Parade." Her cable

work is volunteer.

While she teaches all types of dance, Dickerman says tap is her favorite. She draws from greats like Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. Her students range in age from 6 to 85 and from novice to teacher.

"I'm able to transcribe any dance, so my students are getting things that come right off television. It's all in your attitude. It's not that you go through life, you grow through life."

Watching a tape of herself and

her daughter, Dickerman keeps time with her fashionable sandals and painted toes. Her Farmington Hills home is airy, fresh and the rooms seem to flow into one another like a well-planned dance routine. The back door leads to a brick walk that encompasses a lavish pool. Her three cats, all graceful of course, complete the picture.

Standing tall and thin, the red headed Dickerman said keeping trim isn't an accident. She watches her calories and exercises vigorously, which includes dancing at home sometimes until 2 a.m.

"Your body does not come with a lifetime guarantee," she said.

Her advice for getting through life healthy and dynamic is: "Life changes with the choices that you make. Whether they're good or bad depends on you." Some of her choices were certainly life-changing.

As a young girl Dickerman's mother asked if she wanted piano or dance lessons. Dickerman, who was known to do cartwheels from school to their Detroit home, chose dance. In high school she joined the drama

See DICKERMAN, 5C

Nothing routine: Virginia Dickerman and the Satin Dolls perform for a taping of Dance with Virginia on cable television.

ANN HILLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students floored

Dance teacher steps into happy lifestyle

By DIANE GALE

STAFF WRITER

Virginia Dickerman has been dancing for 70 years and teaching for 80 years. Her commitment to the art form and bright outlook on life is an inspiration to many.

teaching for 60 years and in the Farmington area for 35 of those years. "I forget I'm not 18 years old," Dickerman said.

Energy and enthusiasm flow from the professional dancer, performer, choreographer, producer, cable master of ceremonies, mother to Marcia and grandmother to Heidi, 18, and Erik, 16.

Dickerman looks, talks, walks and acts more than 20 years younger and most people don't believe her when she tells them her age. She says positive thinking dominates her life. In fact, she believes her attitude and drive were key to bringing her beyond breast cancer last year.

"If I ever retire I will teach positive thinking," Dickerman said.

Viewers can catch a glimpse of Dickerman on cable Channel 12 during showings of "Dance with Virginia," "Dickerman Showcase" and "Seniors on Parade." Her cable

work is volunteer.

While she teaches all types of dance, Dickerman says tap is her favorite. She draws from greats like Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. Her students range in age from 6 to 85 and from novice to teacher.

"I'm able to transcribe any dance, so my students are getting things that come right off television. It's all in your attitude. It's not that you go through life, you grow through life."

Watching a tape of herself and

her daughter, Dickerman keeps time with her fashionable sandals and painted toes. Her Farmington Hills home is airy, fresh and the rooms seem to flow into one another like a well-planned dance routine. The back door leads to a brick walk that encompasses a lavish pool. Her three cats, all graceful of course, complete the picture.

Standing tall and thin, the red headed Dickerman said keeping trim isn't an accident. She watches her calories and exercises vigorously, which includes dancing at home sometimes until 2 a.m.

"Your body does not come with a lifetime guarantee," she said.

Her advice for getting through life healthy and dynamic is: "Life changes with the choices that you make. Whether they're good or bad depends on you." Some of her choices were certainly life-changing.

As a young girl Dickerman's mother asked if she wanted piano or dance lessons. Dickerman, who was known to do cartwheels from school to their Detroit home, chose dance. In high school she joined the drama

See DICKERMAN, 5C

Nothing routine: Virginia Dickerman and the Satin Dolls perform for a taping of Dance with Virginia on cable television.

ANN HILLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students floored

Dance teacher steps into happy lifestyle

By DIANE GALE

STAFF WRITER

Virginia Dickerman has been dancing for 70 years and teaching for 80 years. Her commitment to the art form and bright outlook on life is an inspiration to many.

teaching for 60 years and in the Farmington area for 35 of those years. "I forget I'm not 18 years old," Dickerman said.

Energy and enthusiasm flow from the professional dancer, performer, choreographer, producer, cable master of ceremonies, mother to Marcia and grandmother to Heidi, 18, and Erik, 16.

Dickerman looks, talks, walks and acts more than 20 years younger and most people don't believe her when she tells them her age. She says positive thinking dominates her life. In fact, she believes her attitude and drive were key to bringing her beyond breast cancer last year.

"If I ever retire I will teach positive thinking," Dickerman said.

Viewers can catch a glimpse of Dickerman on cable Channel 12 during showings of "Dance with Virginia," "Dickerman Showcase" and "Seniors on Parade." Her cable

work is volunteer.

While she teaches all types of dance, Dickerman says tap is her favorite. She draws from greats like Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. Her students range in age from 6 to 85 and from novice to teacher.

"I'm able to transcribe any dance, so my students are getting things that come right off television. It's all in your attitude. It's not that you go through life, you grow through life."

Watching a tape of herself and

her daughter, Dickerman keeps time with her fashionable sandals and painted toes. Her Farmington Hills home is airy, fresh and the rooms seem to flow into one another like a well-planned dance routine. The back door leads to a brick walk that encompasses a lavish pool. Her three cats, all graceful of course, complete the picture.

Standing tall and thin, the red headed Dickerman said keeping trim isn't an accident. She watches her calories and exercises vigorously, which includes dancing at home sometimes until 2 a.m.

"Your body does not come with a lifetime guarantee," she said.

Her advice for getting through life healthy and dynamic is: "Life changes with the choices that you make. Whether they're good or bad depends on you." Some of her choices were certainly life-changing.

As a young girl Dickerman's mother asked if she wanted piano or dance lessons. Dickerman, who was known to do cartwheels from school to their Detroit home, chose dance. In high school she joined the drama

See DICKERMAN, 5C

Nothing routine: Virginia Dickerman and the Satin Dolls perform for a taping of Dance with Virginia on cable television.

ANN HILLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students floored

Dance teacher steps into happy lifestyle

By DIANE GALE

STAFF WRITER

Virginia Dickerman has been dancing for 70 years and teaching for 80 years. Her commitment to the art form and bright outlook on life is an inspiration to many.

teaching for 60 years and in the Farmington area for 35 of those years. "I forget I'm not 18 years old," Dickerman said.

Energy and enthusiasm flow from the professional dancer, performer, choreographer, producer, cable master of ceremonies, mother to Marcia and grandmother to Heidi, 18, and Erik, 16.

Dickerman looks, talks, walks and acts more than 20 years younger and most people don't believe her when she tells them her age. She says positive thinking dominates her life. In fact, she believes her attitude and drive were key to bringing her beyond breast cancer last year.

"If I ever retire I will teach positive thinking," Dickerman said.

Viewers can catch a glimpse of Dickerman on cable Channel 12 during showings of "Dance with Virginia," "Dickerman Showcase" and "Seniors on Parade." Her cable

work is volunteer.

While she teaches all types of dance, Dickerman says tap is her favorite. She draws from greats like Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. Her students range in age from 6 to 85 and from novice to teacher.

"I'm able to transcribe any dance, so my students are getting things that come right off television. It's all in your attitude. It's not that you go through life, you grow through life."

Watching a tape of herself and

her daughter, Dickerman keeps time with her fashionable sandals and painted toes. Her Farmington Hills home is airy, fresh and the rooms seem to flow into one another like a well-planned dance routine. The back door leads to a brick walk that encompasses a lavish pool. Her three cats, all graceful of course, complete the picture.

Standing tall and thin, the red headed Dickerman said keeping trim isn't an accident. She watches her calories and exercises vigorously, which includes dancing at home sometimes until 2 a.m.

"Your body does not come with a lifetime guarantee," she said.

Her advice for getting through life healthy and dynamic is: "Life changes with the choices that you make. Whether they're good or bad depends on you." Some of her choices were certainly life-changing.

As a young girl Dickerman's mother asked if she wanted piano or dance lessons. Dickerman, who was known to do cartwheels from school to their Detroit home, chose dance. In high school she joined the drama

See DICKERMAN, 5C

Nothing routine: Virginia Dickerman and the Satin Dolls perform for a taping of Dance with Virginia on cable television.

ANN HILLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students floored

Dance teacher steps into happy lifestyle

By DIANE GALE

STAFF WRITER

Virginia Dickerman has been dancing for 70 years and teaching for 80 years. Her commitment to the art form and bright outlook on life is an inspiration to many.

teaching for 60 years and in the Farmington area for 35 of those years. "I forget I'm not 18 years old," Dickerman said.

Energy and enthusiasm flow from the professional dancer, performer, choreographer, producer, cable master of ceremonies, mother to Marcia and grandmother to Heidi, 18, and Erik, 16.

Dickerman looks, talks, walks and acts more than 20 years younger and most people don't believe her when she tells them her age. She says positive thinking dominates her life. In fact, she believes her attitude and drive were key to bringing her beyond breast cancer last year.

"If I ever retire I will teach positive thinking," Dickerman said.

Viewers can catch a glimpse of Dickerman on cable Channel 12 during showings of "Dance with Virginia," "Dickerman Showcase" and "Seniors on Parade." Her cable

work is volunteer.

While she teaches all types of dance, Dickerman says tap is her favorite. She draws from greats like Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. Her students range in age from 6 to 85 and from novice to teacher.

"I'm able to transcribe any dance, so my students are getting things that come right off television. It's all in your attitude. It's not that you go through life, you grow through life."

Watching a tape of herself and

her daughter, Dickerman keeps time with her fashionable sandals and painted toes. Her Farmington Hills home is airy, fresh and the rooms seem to flow into one another like a well-planned dance routine. The back door leads to a brick walk that encompasses a lavish pool. Her three cats, all graceful of course, complete the picture.

Standing tall and thin, the red headed Dickerman said keeping trim isn't an accident. She watches her calories and exercises vigorously, which includes dancing at home sometimes until 2 a.m.

"Your body does not come with a lifetime guarantee," she said.

Her advice for getting through life healthy and dynamic is: "Life changes with the choices that you make. Whether they're good or bad depends on you." Some of her choices were certainly life-changing.

As a young girl Dickerman's mother asked if she wanted piano or dance lessons. Dickerman, who was known to do cartwheels from school to their Detroit home, chose dance. In high school she joined the drama

See DICKERMAN, 5C

Nothing routine: Virginia Dickerman and the Satin Dolls perform for a taping of Dance with Virginia on cable television.

ANN HILLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students floored

Dance teacher steps into happy lifestyle

By DIANE GALE

STAFF WRITER

Virginia Dickerman has been dancing for 70 years and teaching for 80 years. Her commitment to the art form and bright outlook on life is an inspiration to many.

teaching for 60 years and in the Farmington area for 35 of those years. "I forget I'm not 18 years old," Dickerman said.

Energy and enthusiasm flow from the professional dancer, performer, choreographer, producer, cable master of ceremonies, mother to Marcia and grandmother to Heidi, 18, and Erik, 16.

Dickerman looks, talks, walks and acts more than 20 years younger and most people don't believe her when she tells them her age. She says positive thinking dominates her life. In fact, she believes her attitude and drive were key to bringing her beyond breast cancer last year.

"If I ever retire I will teach positive thinking," Dickerman said.

Viewers can catch a glimpse of Dickerman on cable Channel 12 during showings of "Dance with Virginia," "Dickerman Showcase" and "Seniors on Parade." Her cable

work is volunteer.

While she teaches all types of dance, Dickerman says tap is her favorite. She draws from greats like Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. Her students range in age from 6 to 85 and from novice to teacher.

"I'm able to transcribe any dance, so my students are getting things that come right off television. It's all in your attitude. It's not that you go through life, you grow through life."

Watching a tape of herself and

her daughter, Dickerman keeps time with her fashionable sandals and painted toes. Her Farmington Hills home is airy, fresh and the rooms seem to flow into one another like a well-planned dance routine. The back door leads to a brick walk that encompasses a lavish pool. Her three cats, all graceful of course, complete the picture.

Standing tall and thin, the red headed Dickerman said keeping trim isn't an accident. She watches her calories and exercises vigorously, which includes dancing at home sometimes until 2 a.m.

"Your body does not come with a lifetime guarantee," she said.

Her advice for getting through life healthy and dynamic is: "Life changes with the choices that you make. Whether they're good or bad depends on you." Some of her choices were certainly life-changing.

As a young girl Dickerman's mother asked if she wanted piano or dance lessons. Dickerman, who was known to do cartwheels from school to their Detroit home, chose dance. In high school she joined the drama

See DICKERMAN, 5C

Nothing routine: Virginia Dickerman and the Satin Dolls perform for a taping of Dance with Virginia on cable television.

ANN HILLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students floored

Dance teacher steps into happy lifestyle

By DIANE GALE

STAFF WRITER

Virginia Dickerman has been dancing for 70 years and teaching for 80 years. Her commitment to the art form and bright outlook on life is an inspiration to many.

teaching for 60 years and in the Farmington area for 35 of those years. "I forget I'm not 18 years old," Dickerman said.

Energy and enthusiasm flow from the professional dancer, performer, choreographer, producer, cable master of ceremonies, mother to Marcia and grandmother to Heidi, 18, and Erik, 16.

Dickerman looks, talks, walks and acts more than 20 years younger and most people don't believe her when she tells them her age. She says positive thinking dominates her life. In fact, she believes her attitude and drive were key to bringing her beyond breast cancer last year.

"If I ever retire I will teach positive thinking," Dickerman said.

Viewers can catch a glimpse of Dickerman on cable Channel 12 during showings of "Dance with Virginia," "Dickerman Showcase" and "Seniors on Parade." Her cable

work is volunteer.

While she teaches all types of dance, Dickerman says tap is her favorite. She draws from greats like Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire. Her students range in age from 6 to 85 and from novice to teacher.

"I'm able to transcribe any dance, so my students are getting things that come right off television. It's all in your attitude. It's not that you go through life, you grow through life."

Watching a tape of herself and

her daughter, Dickerman keeps time with her fashionable sandals and painted toes. Her Farmington Hills home is airy, fresh and the rooms seem to flow into one another like a well-planned dance routine. The back door leads to a brick walk that encompasses a lavish pool. Her three cats, all graceful of course, complete the picture.

Standing tall and thin, the red headed