

Make Room for Daddy

(later: "The Danny Thomas Show")

US TV sitcom : 1953-55, 1957-63 : dir.

: ABC / T & L

: 199 x 26 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Rusty Hamer; Sherry Jackson; Angela Cartwright

Danny Thomas; Jean Hagan; Marjorie Lord; Jesse White

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Kbytes	Ω	□	≠	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
2879a	3½	4	4		-	-	3	-	-	No	<i>unseen</i>



Happy families mk.1 – Jean Hagen, Rusty Hamer, Sherry Jackson, Jesse White,
Danny Thomas

Source: *How Sweet it Was*



Happy families mk.II – Rusty Hamer, Angela Cartwright, Sherry Jackson, Danny Thomas, Marjorie Lord
Source: *How Sweet it Was*

Halliwell's *Television Companion* review:

"A Copa Club entertainer has family trouble. Efficient long-running star comedy, later known as **"The Danny Thomas Show"**. It was followed in 1970 by 26 hours of **"Make Room for Granddaddy"**, in colour, but this was not a success. Won Emmies in 1953 for Best New Series and 1954 for Best Situation Comedy * "

Incidental note from *History of Television*:

"The image of the American father has been much written about, especially by those anthropologists whose views of societies are seen through glasses coloured Matriarchal or Patriarchal. Indeed many of the standard TV sitcoms have prospered on the **"BLONDIE"** formula of the American Husband and Father as Jerk - the mother may be dippy or

scatterbrained, the father is a jerk (indeed two separate **"BLONDIE"** TV adaptations were mounted in the 1950s). Ozzie Nelson certainly played this role, and others - like Danny Thomas in **"Make Room For Daddy"** and **"The Danny Thomas Show"** (he was a showbiz star but not immune to problems of his own making) - followed suit to greater or lesser degrees..."

How Sweet It Was review:

" **"Make Room For Daddy"** appeared on television in 1953 with Danny Thomas starring as Danny Williams, a night-club entertainer who often had to spend long periods of time away from home. Thomas played the leading role with warmth and understanding, since the show's basic premise paralleled his own life. Jean Hagen left the cast in 1957 and was replaced by Marjorie Lord. The show's title

was also changed, to "**The Danny Thomas Show**".

Caption to still on first page:

"The first Danny Williams family: Jean Hagen as his wife, Rusty Hamer and Sherry Jackson as his children, Jesse White as his friend and agent, and Danny Thomas as Danny Williams."

Reply to an incidental posting on an internet newsgroup:

"...The "**Make Room For Daddy**" episode in question was titled "Linda's Giant". The plot is that Linda (Angela Cartwright) has made friends with a very tall man, who she describes as ten feet tall, with a magic red coat. Linda keeps insisting that this guy is real. Danny gets more and more angry that Linda is confusing imagination with reality, and accuses her of lying. Finally, after refusing to admit that she's lying, Danny says he's going to spank her. Linda actually brings him a hairbrush, and bends over his knee, but the spanking never happens, as Kathy (Marjorie Lord) keeps breaking out in tears as Danny is about to hit Linda. At the end of the episode, this "Mr Jumbo" actually shows up. Danny hands him the hairbrush, goes over his lap, and yells: "Fire one!! " "

[no listing in "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]



Above: Danny Thomas and wife Jean Hagen in an early episode of the show

Source: *How Sweet it Was*

Below: Hamer, Thomas, Lord, Cartwright

Source: *History of Television*



No further information currently available. In the showbiz dad line, Dick van Dyke played a comedy writer in his own long-running sitcom "**The Dick Van Dyke Show**", but his success was subsequently eclipsed by that of his wife in the series, Mary Tyler Moore, whose company produced some of the best American series of the seventies and eighties ("**Phyllis**", "**Rhoda**", "**Hill Street Blues**", "**St Elsewhere**", "**L.A. Law**"). Rusty Hamer is unlisted in *The Moving Picture Boy*, so presumably did no film work. Nothing else is known of Sherry Jackson or Angela Cartwright.

The "Linda's Giant" episode described recalls a comic children's short from German television with the lucid title "**DER ELEFANT AUF PAPAS AUTO**", and many other incidental episodes in archive entries, such as the little girl in "**SUPERMAN**" who rushes indoors to tell her mother about the flying man who rescued her kitten from a tree. "What have I told you about telling lies?" <smack!> comes the exasperated reply. The subject index category **EYEWITNESSES TO MURDER / BOY WHO CRIED WOLF** is replete with disbelieved children.

See the abortive follow-up series "**Make Room For Granddaddy**", and subject index under **GIANTS & LITTLE PEOPLE**, [OSCAR WINNERS / AWARD WINNERS](#) and **SITCOMS & SOAPS**.