

May 19, 2008

People

MUSIC MOMS



At the country singer's childhood home in Paradise Valley, Arizona.

DIERKS BENTLEY & CATHY BENTLEY

What was Dierks like as a kid?

Cathy, 65: Well, he wasn't easy.

Dierks, 33: I was a little rambunctious, but I was a nice boy, right?

Cathy: You were a great boy.

Dierks: I was always into music. I spiked my hair like Billy Idol for three years—sixth, seventh and eighth grade.

Wait, I thought Mom was strict?

Cathy: We were pretty strict. No gum, no soft drinks.

Dierks: No TV. No cereal other than Shredded Wheat. I'd go to friends' houses [for] Froot Loops.

Cathy: [surprised] You did?

So Dierks, did you still get in trouble?

Dierks: I had a lemonade stand when I was 18.

Cathy: A vodka and lemonade stand!

Dierks: The cops told us we had to leave and were cool about it, but they came by again and we were plastered. We all went down to the little jail. But it was pretty harmless fun.

Cathy, what's your favorite Mother's Day gift?

Cathy: I got to go in the recording studio and sing my guts out!

Dierks: I surprised her. We had her sing "Blue Bayou" in Nashville.

Cathy: I had to do it over and over

again. I was dripping, I was so nervous!

Dierks: It was really cool. She freaked out the same way she did when I got her a digital camera and a computer.

Cathy: I cried.

Dierks: But she's e-mailing me now, which is a first!

What have you learned from your mom?

Dierks: Not putting off till tomorrow what can get done today. She's an accomplisher. And having a mom and dad who have been married over 30 years. It's a big deal.

Cathy: That's so sweet.

HAIR: MAKEUP & GROOMER: DEBORAH WILLIAMS

Photograph by MICHAEL EDWARDS