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SECTION F

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# F.A.T.H.E.R. knows best



JAMES EDWARD BATES/SUN HERALD

Arnie Gollott Sr., center, and his children and grandchildren at C.F. Gollott & Son Seafood in D'Iberville.

## Children share their father's most helpful advice

By KAT BERGERON

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A wise father knows his own child.  
Or, a wise child knows his — or her — own father.

The first form of this sage advice was penned by Shakespeare in "A Merchant of Venice." The second is often attributed to a 16th century European proverb, although the sentiment was not new then and survives dozens of modern rewritings.

**"Father!  
— to  
God  
himself  
we  
cannot  
give a  
holier  
name."**

William  
Wordsworth

As South Mississippians celebrate Father's Day, there is much to remember and acknowledge about fatherhood, both on the giving or receiving end. We all have stories of our fathers, be it the best advice they ever gave or a life-altering moment together.

Perhaps American poet Anne Sexton said it best: "It doesn't matter who my father was; it matters who I remember he was."

Today is a day of equally remembering fathers still present or those who have passed on to their rewards, as has C.F. Gollott. He was 2 when the first American Father's Day was observed. Now his son is retired and his son's sons run the D'Iberville seafood processing plant he started in 1932.

Just this offshoot of the Gollott clan, which traces ancestry to the early French on the Gulf Coast, has dozens from several generations of men and women, boys and girls who will acknowledge the influence of their fathers today.

The idea for a Father's Day is credited most often to Sonora Louis Dodd of Spokane, Wash., who in 1909 suggested the special day. Her own father, a Civil War veteran, had raised her and

### Father

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four others after their mother died in childbirth. Her suggestions for fathers came two years after Anna Jarvis had her Pennsylvania community observe the first Mother's Day.

But the special day for fathers did not catch on as quickly nationally, although others stepped in to create a Father's Day in their towns or states. Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Calvin Coolidge weighed in with their approval, but the country didn't make it official until 1966 when Father's Day was proclaimed by the president. A public law making it a national day of recognition passed in 1972.

By that year, C.F. Gollott was 61 and his son A.C. "Arnie" Gollott Sr. was running the family business.

"My father's best advice to

me was that people will treat you like you treat them. Respect old people, treat employees fairly and they will treat you fairly," says the retired 74-year-old Arnie.

The seafood plant is now run by Arnie's five sons.

So what did this generation of sons learn from their father?

"The best advice our dad gave all of us boys was that families work together," said Brian Gollott, one of the five. "Don't let squabbles get in the way. We're all individuals and have different opinions on how to do things but we don't let that disturb the business. Our dad gave control of the business to us and one day we hope to give control to our sons."

As fathers go, the Gollotts are just a drop in a sea of fathers being celebrated today for both sameness and diversity in the generations they influence. Today, we share their thoughts.

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