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Georgia Ellis - Georgia Hawkins

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Author

Message

Rupert

Joined: 17 Aug 2006
Posts: 17
Location: Charlotte, North Carolina

Posted: Tue Feb 20, 2007 3:52 am Post subject: [quote](#)
Georgia Ellis - Georgia Hawkins

It appears that with the episode: Gunsmoke 59/11/01 395 Westbound Miss Kitty is sometimes credited as being played by "Georgia Hawkins". This seems to be a pattern through Gunsmoke 60-01-10 Luke's Law, then with Gunsmoke 60-01-17 Fiery Arrest credit is once again given as "Georgia Ellis".

Does anyone know why this "Georgia Hawkins" credit began and perhaps why it ended?

According to "Gunsmoke, A Complete History," Georgia Ellis retired to Woodland Hills, California and died in March 1988 as Georgia Puttfarquin. Interestingly, the Internet Movie Data Base states that Georgia Ellis played in "Leap of Faith" in 1992, which would not be possible if she died in 1988.

Last edited by Rupert on Tue Feb 20, 2007 1:03 pm; edited 1 time in total

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Executive

Joined: 09 May 2006
Posts: 52

Posted: Tue Feb 20, 2007 4:19 am Post subject: [quote](#)

According to the Internet Movie Database, Georgia Ellis did make a comeback in 1992. That year she played one of Steve Martin's many Angels of Mercy in his church in the movie "Leap of Faith".

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Stewart

Joined: 16 Dec 2005
Posts: 326
Location: 39.8 Degrees
North 105.1 Degrees West

So unless somebody messed up, she didn't die in 1988.

Amanda Blake died in 1989 though, from AIDS that she contracted from her last husband.

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Posted: Tue Feb 20, 2007 1:19 pm Post subject: Georgia Elliis

[quote](#)

Year of Death

Georgia Ellis did die in 1988.

Several years ago I was talking with some of her fellow actors about ***Gunsmoke*** and they verified her death in 1988. A couple of them attended her funeral. They also mentioned that she had been retired from acting for many years before her death.

Georgia Hawkins

During that same conversation, I gained some insight into her use of the name "Georgia Hawkins." At the time Georgia used the "Hawkins" name was going through a divorce with her husband: actor - writer - director Antony Ellis. (A couple of people told me that Hawkins was her maiden name.) For professional reasons, she decided to keep the use of the Ellis name.

Internet Movie Data Base

The Internet Movie Data Base is not without its inaccuracies. I would not give much credence those post 1988 credits for Georgia Ellis of the radio series ***Gunsmoke***. It is quite possible that another actress might have been using the Georgia Ellis name in the 1990's.

Signing off for now,

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Stewart

Joined: 16 Dec 2005
Posts: 326
Location: 39.8 Degrees
North 105.1 Degrees West

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Posted: Wed Mar 14, 2007 2:10 am Post subject: Georgia Hawkins - Ellis - Puttfarken

[quote](#)

Did some additional checking.

I found that Georgia Hawkins/Ellis/Puttfarken died on March 30, 1988 at the Motion Picture & Television Country House & Hospital, Woodland Hills, CA

Signing off for now,

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GetCalhoun

Joined: 21 Nov 2007
Posts: 1

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Posted: Mon Mar 17, 2008 6:38 pm Post subject: Miss Kitty

 [quote](#)

I'm a new member here. I figgered I must have been the only person in the whole world who has listened to every Gunsmoke radio show. Looks like I was in error. I have been listening to the now for a few months, almost exclusively when I'm in my truck, going places. I'm coming down to the last few episodes now and I pretty much hate it! Dang!

I never cared much for the TV show. I am old enough to have caught Marshall Dillon when it aired the first time and when Chester wandered off, so did I.

But then I discovered the radio show on YUSA back in the latter 80's when I was working weekends in a TV station. Yep, I'd tune in YUSA on an unused sat dish. Much later, when the series became available on MP3, I got shows as I could, finally finding the whole run on the Internet Archive. I've been in hog heaven.

One question I did have was the Georgia Hawkins thing that I ran across a month or two ago. It only lasted for 3 or 4 episodes. Now, thanks to the great brain trust here, I know the answer.

I almost got to hear Parley Baer live on YUSA, but just before he was to air, he had his stroke.

My first association with most of the side characters was watching the Andy Griffith Show...but I didn't know them at the time. Well, here I am way down the line with a bunch of questions and most are gone.

So, I'll continue my education with reading these excellent posts. Thanks for being here!

Norm

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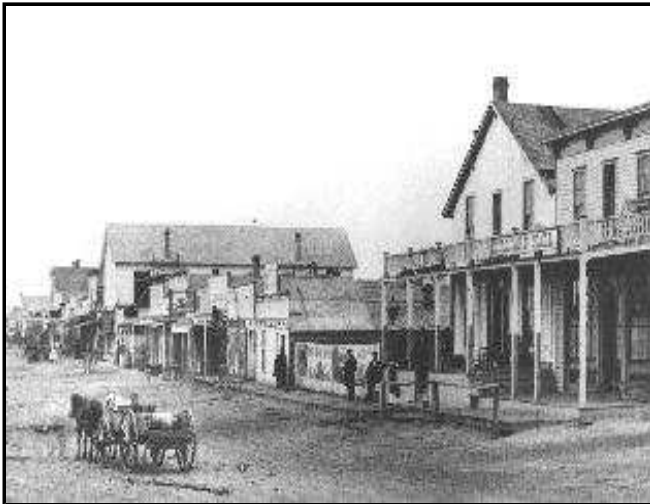
Gunsmoke: Radio's Last Great Dramatic Series (1952-1961)

[The Characters and Setting](#) | [The Radio Cast](#) | [After Gunsmoke](#) | [The Opening](#)

The Characters and Setting

Gunsmoke's four continuing characters on both radio and television were

Matt Dillon, United States Marshall,
Chester Wesley Proudfoot, his middle aged "helper,"
Charles "Doc" Adams, the town physician, and
Kitty Russell, a "saloon girl" at the Texas Trails.



Front Street, Dodge City, KS 1876

Gunsmoke was set in [Dodge City, Kansas](#) between 1872, when the Santa Fe Railroad reached town, and 1885, when local farmers forced the end of the Texas cattle drives along the Western Trail. Dodge City, known as the "Queen of the Cow Towns," the "Wicked Little City," the "Gomorrah of the Plains," had a reputation as a hostile, lawless town where the "fastest gun" ruled. As the opening of the show proclaimed: "Around Dodge City and in the territory on west, there's just one way to handle the killers and the spoilers and that's with a U.S. Marshal and the smell of gunsmoke." That marshal, Matt Dillon, was modeled after the real lawmen who "tamed" (or at least kept a lid on) Dodge City: US Deputy Marshall Wyatt Earp (1848-1929), Sheriff Bat Masterson (1856-1921), Sheriff Bill Tilghman (1854-1924), and Sheriff Charlie Bassett.

The Radio Cast



A CBS publicity photo of the radio cast in western costumes
Howard McNear (Doc), **William Conrad** (Marshall Dillon), **Parley Baer** (Chester)
Georgia Ellis (Kitty)

On television these four characters were played by [James Arness](#) (Matt Dillon), [Dennis Weaver](#) (Chester),
[Amanda Blake](#) (Kitty), and [Milburn Stone](#) (Doc).

After *Gunsmoke*...

During *Gunsmoke*'s nine years on the radio, CBS presented 480 performances of 413 scripts. Many of these radio plays were adapted to television. One, [The Ride Back](#) by Anthony Ellis, became a full length movie starring William Conrad and Anthony Quinn. When the series went off the air in 1961, the four actors who played the continuing characters moved on to other things.

William Conrad



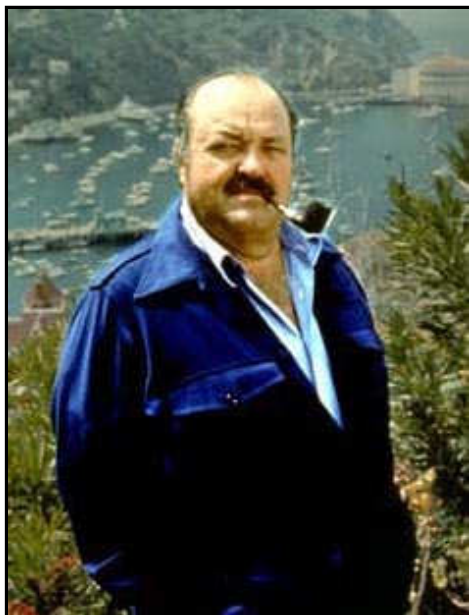
William Conrad
on the cover of *TVGuide*



[William Conrad](#) (1920-1994), who was the original Marshall Dillon and one of radio's most prolific actors (he claimed he performed in 7500 radio programs) became a television producer and director. According to a "TV Episode List" published on *Gunsmoke: The Great American Western*, he directed two television episodes of *Gunsmoke*: "Panacea Sikes" (April 13, 1963) and "Captain Sligo" (January 4, 1971), and narrated a third-- "Women for Sale" (September 10 & 17, 1973).



William Conrad as Frank Cannon
Cannon



William Conrad
A publicity photo
from the *Jake & the Fatman* era.

Between 1963 and the series finale in 1967 his deep, resonant voice was heard under the opening credits of *The Fugitive*. He was also the voice of the unseen narrator on *The Bullwinkle Show* (1961-1962), *The Invaders* (1967-1968), *The Wild, Wild World of Animals* (1973-1978), *Tales of the Unexpected* (1977) and *How the West Was One* (1978-1979). His first major on camera, television role was Frank Cannon in *Cannon* (1971-1976). This was followed by *Nero Wolf* (1981) and J.L. McCabe, the Fatman, in *Jake and the Fatman* (1987-1992). In addition to radio and television, Conrad appeared in at least 25 films between 1946 and 1960. His first on screen appearance was as Max, one of the killers in [The Killers](#) (1946). In most of these films he was cast as the villain or heavy. In his last movie [Hudson Hawk](#) (1991) he was once again the narrator.



Between 1957 and 1968 he directed four and produced ten feature length films. The first film he produced was [The Ride Back](#) (1957), a western based on a 1952 *Gunsmoke* radio script. According to Leonard Maltin's *Movie and Video Guide* it is a "Well-handled account of a sheriff (William Conrad) and prisoner (Anthony Quinn) who find they need each other's help to survive the elements and Indian attacks." He died of cardiac arrest in February 1994 and was inducted into the [Radio Hall of Fame](#) in 1997.

Howard McNear



Howard McNear (1905-1969), *Gunsmoke*'s Doc Adams, was in 19 films. His first was [Drums Across the River](#) (1954); his last was [The Fortune Cookie](#) (1966). On television he made a number of guest appearances on *Gunsmoke*, but he is probably best remembered as Floyd Lawson, the barber of Mayberry USA, on *The Andy Griffith Show* (1960-1968). He died in January 1969.



Howard McNear cutting Andy Griffith's hair
The Andy Griffith Show

Parley Baer



Parley Baer (1914-2002), Marshall Dillon's "helper:" Chester Proudfoot, followed Howard McNear to Andy



Parley Baer as Miles Dugan,
The Young & the Restless

Griffith's Mayberry where he played Mayor Stoner. Between 1955 and 1961, in addition to being Marshall Dillon's "deputy," he was also Darby, Ozzie Nelson's next door neighbor, in *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet* (1952-1966). In 1993 and '96, he was cast as Miles Dugan, one of the senior citizens Cricket helped on CBS's *The Young & the Restless*. Parley Baer was cast in 56 films between [Union Station](#) in 1950 and [The Last of the Dogman](#) in 1995. He died November 22, 2002.

Georgia Ellis



Georgia Ellis (1917-1988), *Gunsmoke's* Miss Kitty, appeared in numerous radio dramas, but did not develop a major film or television acting career. She is listed in only three movie in the Internet Movie DataBase-- As Georgia Hawkins she appeared in [Penny Serenade](#) (1941) and [Doomed Caravan](#), a 1941 B-Western starring William Boyd as Hopalong Cassidy. She was credited as Georgia Ellis in [Dragnet](#) (1954). After the close of *Gunsmoke*, she retired to Woodland Hills, California where she lived in peaceful anonymity as Georgia Ellis Puttfarken until her death in March of 1988.



Georgia Ellis

A publicity photo from the 1950s.

The four individual character head shots were cropped from the CBS publicity [photo](#) of the radio cast in western costumes.

The Opening

The opening sequence of a radio drama introduces the audience to the location and major characters of the program. This introduction is normally made by the announcer with assistance from the *Sound Effects* and *Music Departments*. Below is *Gunsmoke's* opening.

SOUND APPROACHING HOOFBEATS, A SINGLE SHOT, RICHOCHET

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

ANNOUNCER Around Dodge City and in the territory on west, there's just one way to handle the killers and the spoilers, and that's with a U.S. Marshall and the smell of Gunsmoke.

MUSIC THEME UP AND UNDER

ANNOUNCER Gunsmoke starring William Conrad -- the story of the violence that moved west with young Americaand the story of a man who moved with it.

MATT DILLON I'm that man. Matt Dillon, United States Marshall. The first man

they look for and the last they want to meet. It's a chancy job,
and it makes a man watchful.....and a little lonely.

MUSIC _____ THEME UP...

[Listen](#) to the 1 minute, 10 second, opening to *Gunsmoke* (gunsmokeopening.mp3)

For more information go to

- Robert J. Marks II's [Gunsmoke: The Great American Western](#)
- Tamara's [Gunsmoke](#) Web Pages
- SuzAnne Barabas and Gabor Barabas. *Gunsmoke : A Complete History and Analysis of the Legendary Broadcast Series With a Comprehensive Episode-By-Episode Guide to Both the Radio and Television*. McFarland & Company. 1990.

[Television Page](#) | [Radio Page](#)

E-mail questions and comments to Larry Wild at wildl@northern.edu.

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