

Jean Vander Pyl
Ryan Ellett

Jean Vander Pyl was born October 11, 1919, in Philadelphia. After moving several times growing up, the Vander Pyl's landed in Los Angeles in 1933 where Jean graduated from high school and took acting classes at UCLA. By 1939 at the age of 20 Vander Pyl was appearing in supporting roles on prime-time network radio. Her earliest known radio work was on the late 1930s police program *Calling All Cars*. Her earliest surviving broadcast is a 1939 episode of *Lux Radio Theatre*. In the early to mid-1940s she is known to have appeared on a number of *Cavalcade of America* shows.

Perhaps Vander Pyl's first regular program was *The Alan Young Show* that aired in 1947. Other late '40s programs on which she earned credit ranged from *Joan Davis Time* to *Lux Radio Theatre* to *Chandu the Magician*. Vander Pyl earned her first marquee role on *Father Knows Best* alongside lead Robert Young. She played Margaret, the Anderson family mother on the show that aired from 1949 to 1954. Vander Pyl regularly showed up on various other comedies in the early 1950s including *Amos 'n' Andy*, *Halls of Ivy*, and *Fibber McGee & Molly*.

Jean Vander Pyl stayed busy during the 1960s and 1970s providing voiceover for many Hanna-Barbera cartoons. But she is most remembered by modern audiences for voicing Wilma Flintstone on *The Flintstones* and Rosie the Robot on *The Jetsons*. Radio historian Jim Cox related in his book *The Great Radio Sitcoms* that Vander Pyl passed on a potential small fortune in accepting a one-time \$15,000 payment in lieu of residuals for her work on *The Flintstones*.

Vander Pyl worked into the 1990s, her last role coming just four years before her death in 1999. She was married twice and raised four children.