

Virginia Gregg Biography

1916 - 1986

Virginia Gregg played Claire 'Brooksie' Brooks, George's assistant, replacing Frances Robinson, from 1949 until the show ended in 1954.

She was born in Harrisburg, Illinois, Virginia Gregg Burket on March 6, 1916 to William, a businessman, and Dewey Alphaleta, a musician. She moved west with her parents at an early age and enrolled in the Fremont grammar school in Long Beach, CA. She played sports in school and excelled as a pitcher on the school's baseball team with her specialty pitch being the 'fast-curve.'



Trained as a musician herself, Virginia first appeared professionally as a member of the Pasadena Symphony Orchestra. And then in 1937 when she joined 'The Singing Strings' musical group on KHJ, playing the double bass.

She transitioned into radio in the 1940s and her extensive radio career included roles in *Guns smoke*; *Suspense*; *Dragnet*; *The Lone Ranger* and *Yours Truly Johnny Dollar*; as well as *Let George Do It*. She was much in demand, as she had the ability to play almost any role. As was the case with many of her contemporaries, she transitioned into movies and then television as the opportunities arose. Her first movie role was uncredited, in the 1946 Hitchcock thriller *Notorious*. Her many subsequent appearances included *Dragnet*(1954); *The Fastest Gun Alive*(1956); *Operation Petticoat*(1959); and *Spencer's Mountain*(1963). She played the voice of Norma Bates, Norman's mother, in the classic *Psycho*(1960), as well as the sequels *Psycho II*(1983) and *Psycho III*(1986).

Virginia had a long and distinguished TV career, commencing in 1953 with *The Public Defender* and ending with *Dynasty* in 1983. In between she performed in one or more episodes of most of the major hit series of the 50s, 60s and 70s, including *77 Sunset Strip*; *Perry Mason*; *Ben Casey*; *Guns smoke*; *The Virginian*; *Dragnet*; *Adam 12*; *Emergency*; *Streets of San Francisco*; *The Walton's*; and *Charlie's Angels* to name but a few

In 1947 she married Hollywood Air Force Major and radio producer-director Jaime Del Valle. Virginia was of average height and build (5'7" and 129 pounds in 1949) with light brown hair and blue eyes. Favorite sports were tennis and swimming and she enjoyed gardening and the symphony as hobbies.

Virginia and Jamie had three sons, Gregg, Jaime and Ricardo. She died of lung cancer in Encino, California on September 15, 1986 at the age of 70.