

= Garry Moore =

Garry Moore (January 31 , 1915 ? November 28 , 1993) was an American entertainer , game show host , and comedian best known for his work in television . He began his career as a radio personality in the 1940s and was a television host on several game and variety shows from the 1950s , 1960s , and 1970s .

After dropping out of high school , Moore found success as a radio host and then moved on to the television industry . He hosted The Garry Moore Show , and the game shows I 've Got a Secret and To Tell the Truth . He became known for his bow ties and his crew cut , though he refrained from both fashions later in his career .

After being diagnosed with throat cancer in 1976 , Moore retired from the television industry , making a few rare television appearances . He spent the last years of his life in Hilton Head , South Carolina and at his summer home in Maine . He died on November 28 , 1993 .

= = Early life and radio career = =

Moore was born Thomas Garrison Morfit , III on January 31 , 1915 , in Baltimore , Maryland , the son of Mason P. Morfit and Mary L. (née Harris) Morfit . He attended Baltimore City College (actually a high school) , but dropped out to pursue a career in radio and writing . Starting in 1937 , he worked for Baltimore radio station WBAL as an announcer , writer , and actor / comedian . He used his birth name until 1940 , when , while on the air announcing Club Matinee hosted by Ransom Sherman at NBC , Chicago , Sherman held a radio contest to find a more easily pronounceable one . " Garry Moore " was the winning entry , which was submitted by a woman from Pittsburgh who received a prize of \$ 100 . It was on Club Matinee where he met his long @-@ time friend and broadcasting partner Durward Kirby .

Moore headed Talent , Ltd . , a variety program on Sunday afternoons in 1941 . In the years that followed , Moore appeared on numerous network radio shows . He started out as an announcer and then as support for broadcast personalities , one of whom was Jimmy Durante . From 1943 ? 1947 , Durante and Moore had a joint show , with Moore as the straight man . Impressed with his ability to interact with audiences , CBS offered him his own show . Starting in 1949 , the one @-@ hour daytime variety show The Garry Moore Show aired on CBS . Moore briefly returned to radio as host of NBC 's Monitor in 1969 .

= = Television career = =

Between 1947 and 1950 , Moore began to make tentative steps into the new medium as a panelist and guest host on quiz and musical shows . On June 26 , 1950 , he was rewarded with his own 30 @-@ minute CBS early @-@ evening talk @-@ variety TV program , The Garry Moore Show , which was a shorter version of his radio show . Until September 1950 , it was also simulcast on radio . During 1950 and 1951 , he hosted prime @-@ time variety hour summer replacements for Arthur Godfrey and his Friends . He appeared as a guest star on other programs , too , including CBS 's Faye Emerson 's Wonderful Town .

During his run as a variety @-@ show host , Moore was tapped to host CBS ' weekly prime @-@ time TV panel show I 've Got a Secret . It premiered on June 19 , 1952 . On this show , Moore began his friendships with comedian Henry Morgan and game show host and panelist Bill Cullen , with whom he also had a long working relationship . Morgan later stated that Moore had helped him to keep his job as a celebrity panelist on the show . Moore became known for his involvement in the variety of stunts and demonstrations of the show 's contestants . The popularity of I 've Got a Secret led to a cameo in the 1959 film It Happened to Jane . In the film , Doris Day 's character was a contestant on the show , with Moore , as well as the panel playing themselves .

Moore 's variety program was moved to the daytime slot , where it ran until June 27 , 1958 . Within three months of the end of the daytime show , his longtime colleague Durward Kirby and he moved the revived The Garry Moore Show into prime time as a Tuesday night comedy and variety hour that

ran from September 30 , 1958 , to June 14 , 1964 .

Although the show was a bigger hit in prime time , Moore always preferred the daytime housewife audience . He thought that it gave the lonely housewives something to listen to and watch while they worked . The show provided a break into show business for many performers , including Alan King , Jonathan Winters , Carol Burnett , and Dorothy Loudon . The Garry Moore Show featured regular supporting cast members Durward Kirby , Marion Lorne , Denise Lor , and Ken Carson , as well as a mixture of song @-@ and @-@ dance routines and comedy skits , and introduced the public to comedian Carol Burnett . After the show ended , Burnett became a star in her own right , hosting The Carol Burnett Show for many years .

The Garry Moore Show was cancelled in 1964 , and in the summer of that year , after having been on radio and television for 27 uninterrupted years , Moore decided to retire , saying he had " said everything [he] ever wanted to say three times already . " He gave up hosting I 've Got A Secret and was replaced by comedian Steve Allen , who would host the show until the end of its run in 1967 (although Moore had ended his retirement before I 've Got A Secret left the air , he never returned to the series to host and Allen helmed a subsequent , one @-@ season syndicated revival in 1972) . Moore 's main activity during his hiatus was a trip around the world with his wife .

After two years , The Garry Moore Show returned to the CBS prime @-@ time lineup in the fall of 1966 . The week of the premiere , Moore appeared as the celebrity guest on I 've Got A Secret to promote it . The new show was canceled mid @-@ season because of low ratings against NBC 's highly rated western Bonanza . The successful Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour replaced The Garry Moore Show in the CBS time slot . Moore then made sporadic guest television appearances , appearing as a panelist on various game shows , before Mark Goodson asked him to host another show .

That show was a revival of To Tell the Truth , which had ended its run on CBS in 1968 . Moore was asked to host a revival of the series for syndication , which launched in September 1969 . When To Tell the Truth was planned to be revived for syndication , producers Mark Goodson and Bill Todman originally wanted Bud Collyer to once again host the show . However , when they called Collyer , he declined , citing his poor health . When Goodson and Todman called Moore about the job , he immediately contacted Collyer , who said to Moore that " I am just not up to it . " Moore often took part in the show 's silly and goofy stunts , as he had done on I 've Got a Secret , performing magic tricks and cooking . This led to this version of To Tell the Truth being labeled similar to I 've Got a Secret . Moore hosted the series from its premiere until the midway point of the 1976 ? 77 season , the revival 's eighth .

= = Recording = =

In 1956 , Moore recorded a Columbia LP record album for children . It featured tales by Rudyard Kipling , including " The Elephant 's Child " and " How the Camel Got His Hump . " Also in 1956 , Moore recorded a Columbia LP record album titled " Garry Moore Presents My Kind Of Music , " with contributions by jazz musicians George Barnes , Ernie Caceres , Wild Bill Davison , Randy Hall , Mel Henke , and Sonny Terry .

= = Retirement and death = =

Moore became ill in 1976 and was diagnosed with throat cancer . He left To Tell the Truth shortly before Christmas 1976 to undergo surgery , turning the show over to panelist Bill Cullen . Semiregular panelist Joe Garagiola also acted as the host for several weeks , claiming he was " pinch @-@ hitting " for Moore . Moore returned in September 1977 to begin To Tell the Truth 's ninth season , to explain his sudden absence and to announce his permanent retirement , explaining that while recovering from his surgery , he believed that his throat cancer was a sign that continuing beyond his 42 @-@ year career would be " just plain greed " . Joe Garagiola hosted the program for the rest of the season , which proved to be its last .

Moore retired to Hilton Head , South Carolina , where he spent his time sailing , and also at his

summer home in Northeast Harbor , Maine . He made two rare television appearances during his retirement , in a 1984 special on game @-@ show bloopers hosted by William Shatner and in a late 1980s television tribute to Carol Burnett . Moore recounted the time circumstances forced Burnett and him to share a dressing room for one show . After many years , Moore said he had a confession to make : " I peeked . " Burnett replied , " So did I. "

Moore died of emphysema at Hilton Head on November 28 , 1993 , at the age of 78 . He was buried at Forest Hill Cemetery in Northeast Harbor , Maine . He was named one of the 15 greatest game @-@ show hosts of all time by Time .