

Gale Gordon

Edited by Patrick Andre and Brian Kavanaugh

Born February 20, 1906, as Charles T. Aldrich, Jr., in New York City, Gale Gordon was the son of British actress Gloria Gordon and her vaudevillian husband Charles Aldrich. Gordon's first big radio break came in the recurring role of Mayor La Trivia on *Fibber McGee and Molly*, before playing Rumson Bullard on the show's successful spinoff, *The Great Gildersleeve*. Gordon and his character of Mayor La Trivia briefly left the show in December of 1942; both had enlisted in World War II.

Gordon was the first actor to play the role of Flash Gordon, in the 1935 radio serial *The Amazing Interplanetary Adventures of Flash Gordon*. Gordon defined the role of pompous principal Osgood Conkin in the 1948 radio series, *Our Miss Brooks*, starting with the second episode of the radio series and carrying the role to television when the show moved there in 1952. In 1950, Gordon played John Granby in the radio series *Granby's Green Acres*. This show would become the basis for the 1960s television series, *Green Acres*.

In the interim, Gordon turned up as Rudolph Atterbury on *My Favorite Husband*, which starred Lucille Ball in a precursor to *I Love Lucy*. Gordon and Ball previously worked together on *The Wonder Show*, starring Jack Haley, from 1938 to 1939. The two had a long-term friendship as well as recurring professional partnership. Gordon also had a recurring role as fictitious Rexall Drugs sponsor representative Mr. Scott on yet another radio hit, *The Phil Harris-Alice Faye Show*, staying with the role while Rexall sponsored the show. He also played the lead in the 1946 summer replacement series, *The Casebook of Gregory Hood*, until the series' run was extended and he returned to *The Great Gildersleeve*.

With his first film credit in the 1926 movie *The Temptress*, Gordon would continue acting until 1991 with two appearances on the sitcom *Hi Honey, I'm Home* and one on the show *The New Lassie*.

Apart from acting, Gordon was the author of two children's books and wrote two one-act plays, he was an artist, and had a 150-acre ranch in Borrego Springs, California. He did much of his own construction on the ranch house and built most of his own furniture.

Gordon married Virginia Curley in 1937, and the two remained together nearly 60 years until her passing in May 1995. They had no children. One month later, Gordon passed away from lung cancer on June 30, 1995, in Escondido, California. He was 89.