

**Chapter 03777 1913**

**JIM BACKUS 1913-1989 (76)**

**and**

**HENRIETTA "HENNY" KAYE 1911-2004 (93)**

Cleveland, Ohio and  
Santa Monica, California.

**Charlotte Pearce branch #4, generation #6.**

Jim is the step great grandson of great granddaughter  
of Henry Pearce #1

Jim is the same generation as cousin Albin Pierce.



9/25/2024

**Charlotte Williams PERSONETTE** 1817—1905 was a great granddaughter of Henry Pearce #1. She is a 4th generation. Her first husband John Townley LOCKWARD of Caldwell NJ died 1843 at age 34.

Ten years later, Charlotte married Calvin G. BACKUS, who was a great grandfather to Jim Backus the actor. Charlotte died Oct/03/1905 or 8 years before Jim Backus was born on 1913. So she never met Jim.

**Charlotte would be a step great grandmother to Jim.**


### Relationship: Henry PEARCE to James Gilmore 'Jim' BACKUS

James Gilmore 'Jim' BACKUS is the step great grandson of great granddaughter of Henry PEARCE


Self

 <p><b>Henry PEARCE</b> b: Jul/25/1725 Scotland or St Just Parish, Cornwall, England d: Jul/08/1788 Fairfield, NJ</p> <p><b>1</b></p>	 <p><b>Elizabeth Lucinda SPEAR</b> b: May/06/1737 Paisley, Renfrewshire, England d: Oct/16/1814 Fairfield, NJ</p>
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Daughter

 <p><b>Charlotte PEARCE</b> b: Nov/03/1776 Fairfield, NJ d: Apr/07/1863</p> <p><b>2</b></p>
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Husband of great granddaughter

 <p><b>Calvin G. BACKUS</b> b: Feb/12/1812 Fairfield, NJ d: Aug/08/1864</p> <p><b>5</b></p>
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Granddaughter

 <p><b>Joanna Joan WILLIAMS</b> b: Sep/13/1795 Fairfield, NJ d: Apr/02/1863</p> <p><b>3</b></p>
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Stepson of great granddaughter

 <p><b>James Augustus BACKUS</b> b: Mar/15/1847 NJ d: Jul/30/1934</p> <p><b>6</b></p>
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Great granddaughter

 <p><b>Charlotte Williams PERSONETTE</b> b: Jan/15/1817 NJ d: Oct/03/1905</p> <p><b>4</b></p>
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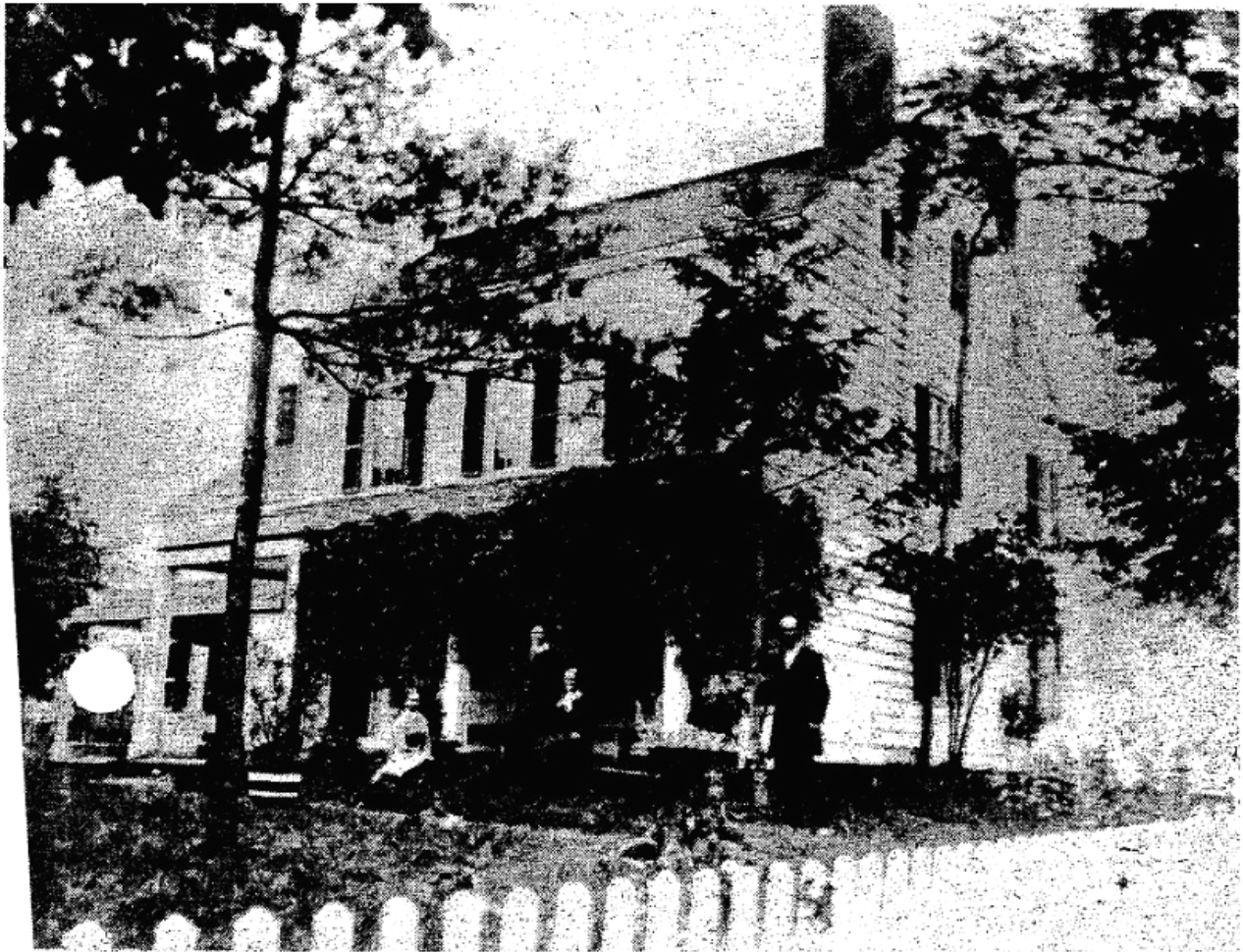
Step grandson of great granddaughter

 <p><b>Russell Gould BACKUS</b> b: Apr/21/1880 Newark, NJ d: May/03/1954 Saint Petersburg, FL</p> <p><b>7</b></p>
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Step great grandson of great granddaughter

 <p><b>James Gilmore 'Jim' BACKUS</b> b: Feb/25/1913 Ohio d: Jul/03/1989 Santa Monica, CA</p> <p><b>8</b></p>
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Amos Gould House, Caldwell, NJ

GOULD HOUSE, Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell, NJ, opposite Park Ave.

**LONG FORGOTTEN LANDMARK** - This residence on Bloomfield avenue, Caldwell, was once upon a time known as the Gould House. In this old photograph is shown its owner, Amos C. Gould, with three of his daughters, Charlotte Canfield, Jennifer Backus (grandmother of TV personality Jim Backus) and Elizabeth Harrison. The Gould property extended from opposite what is now Park avenue west to Prospect street. Named for members of the Gould family were Gould place, Elizabeth street and Thomas street. Other children were Thomas Gould and Harriet Budd, mother of von Budd of Forest avenue, Caldwell. It was built about 1805 and was dismantled about 1924. This is the 142nd in a series of old West Essex scenes and was lent by r. Budd who was born in the house.

James Gilmore Backus' paternal grandfather **James Augustus Backus (JAB)** earned a **98 grade** in his Freshman year at Trenton State. The article is the same day that President Lincoln dies.

JAB's was 11 days old when his mother Mrs. Elizabeth Post Backus died 3/26/1847 in Caldwell, NJ. When age 5, JAB's father **Calvin Backus** remarried around 1853 to our **Charlotte Williams PERSONETTE**. This is how the Backus line enters the PEARCE tree. Charlotte was the great granddaughter (maternal side) of Henry Pearce #1.

Charlotte became the step mom to Mary, Harry and James Backus. Charlotte would have 3 children with Calvin: Frances, Clara and Edmond Backus. That's 6 kids.

On top of this, Charlotte brought her 3 children into the Backus family, from her previous marriage to John Townley LOCKWARD, Those older children were Melancthon, Lewis and Harriet Lockward. zzzzzz



James Gilmore Backus' paternal grandfather **James Augustus Backus** earned a **98 grade** in his Freshman year at Trenton State. The article is the same day that President Lincoln dies.

**1865 - James Augustus Backus - age 18 - 98 average**

**THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.**—We learn from Prof Hart, Principal of the Normal School, that the following pupils of that institution have received distinguished averages during the THIRD just closed:

**Backus**, Caldwell, Essex, 98; **James A.** Frederick Cornwall, Millford Connecticut, 93; Sallie J. Ely, Lambertville, Hunterdon,

**Saturday, April 15, 1865 College**

**Paper: Camden Democrat (Camden, NJ) Page: 2**

**(Pres. Lincoln was shot the previous night.)**



**State Normal School, Trenton NJ**  
**Later named Trenton State College**

6/30/1865

**State Normal School.** (Trenton State College)

The graduating exercises of the State Normal School took place at Trenton yesterday, and were largely attended. The essays and sub-lectures, delivered by Misses Sallie M. Powell, Fannie F. Hutchings, (of this city,) Mary F. Maxon, Maggie R. Foster and Fannie M. Kline, were all favorably received. The address before the graduates was delivered by Rev. Dr. Campbell, President of Rutgers College, and related to the qualifications and duties of a teacher. The following pupils graduated having completed the full course of study:

Emma D. Adams, Daretown; Abbie A. Baldwin, New Brunswick; Emily Cline, Millville; Jane E. Courter, South Orange; Mattie Day, Princeton; Maggie B. Foster, Bridgeton; Fannie H. Hutchings, Newark; Gertrude Heulings, Trenton; Emma T. Howell, Mauricetown; Sara Johnson, New Brunswick; Fannie M. Kline, Clarksville; Louise Lupardus, New Brunswick; Kate S. McIntosh, Wellsville, Ohio; Mary F. Maxon, Plainfield; Annie E. Megrunglo, Trenton; Louisa B. Poik, Trenton; Sallie M. Powell, Cedarville; Emma L. Taylor, Trenton; Mary E. Stelle, New Brunswick; Annie R. Whitaker, Camden; **James A. Backus**, Caldwell; Frederick Cornwall, Milford, Connecticut.

The following named graduates received Diplomas, having taught successfully not less than one term, besides having completed the course of study:

Emily M. Morgan, Harrison; Mary E. Thorn, Trenton; Mary R. Jonston, Trenton; Imogene Peck, Newark; Kate L. Hutchinson, Trenton; Eliza Constantine, Mt. Ephraim; Eleanor Bayles, Trenton; Carrie Skillman, Rocky Hill; Isabel Thorn, Trenton; Annie E. Stelle, New Brunswick; Emma L. Taylor, Trenton; Mary F. Maxon, Plainfield; Sallie M. Powell, Cedarville; Emma T. Howell, Mauricetown; Kate S. McIntosh, Wellsville, Ohio; **James A. Backus**, Caldwell.

Friday, 6/30/1865 Newark Daily Advertiser  
(Newark, NJ) Page: 2

Jim Gilmore Backus TRIVIA:

Attended and graduated from Shaw High School in East Cleveland, Ohio

One of his teachers in grade school was **Margaret Hamilton**, who would later play the Wicked Witch of the West in The Wizard of Oz (1939).

He was awarded a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 1735 Vine Street in Hollywood, California on February 8, 1960.

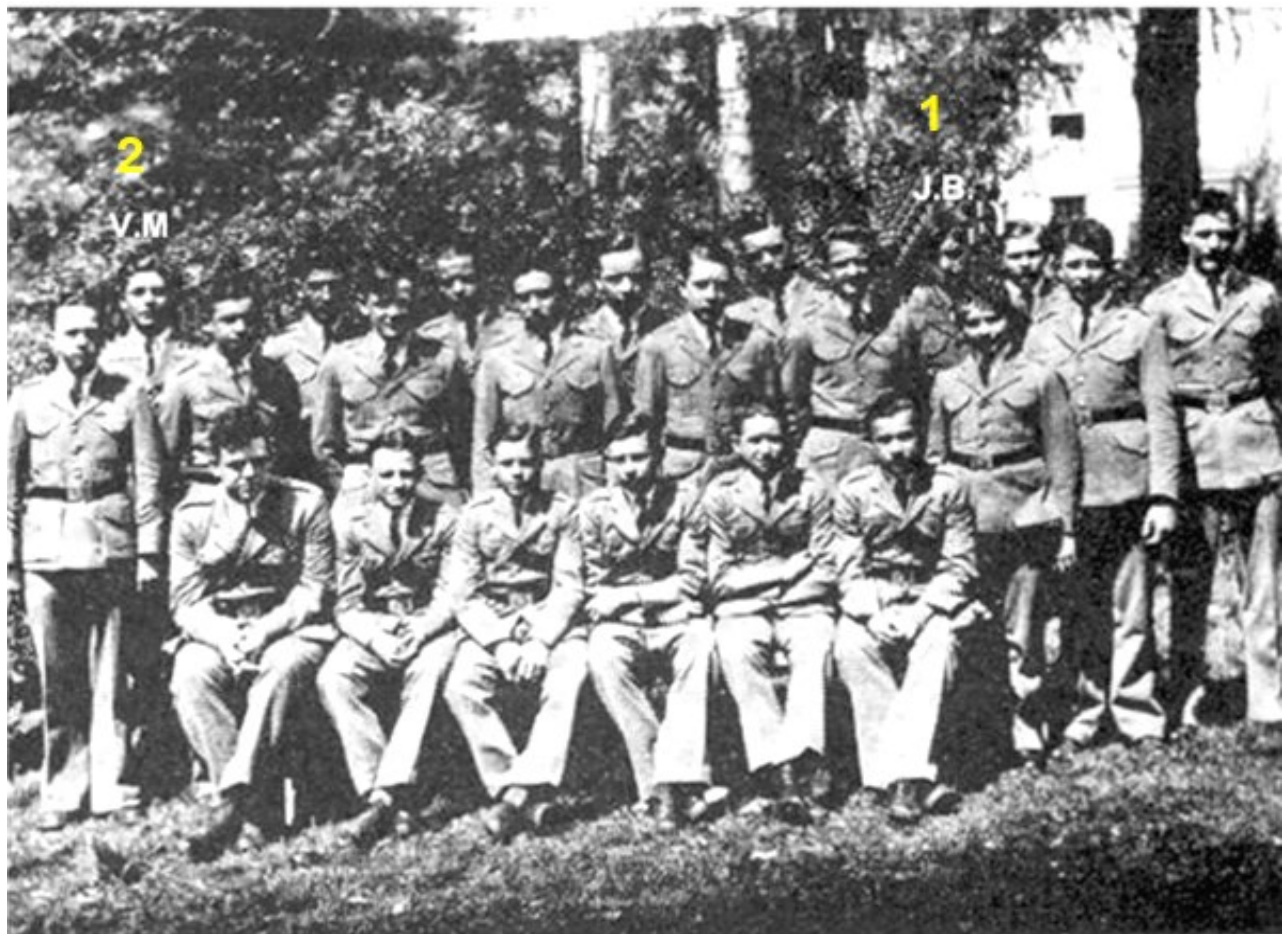
Appeared with **Natalie Wood** in four films: Father Was a Fullback (1949), The Rose Bowl Story (1952), Rebel Without a Cause (1955) and The Girl He Left Behind (1956).



Jim told his dad Russell that he wanted to be an actor. Dad did not like the idea.

“Off Jim Backus went to the Kentucky Military Institute, where they were supposed to make a man out of him. His roommate was Victor Mature, who later became an actor starring most notably in several movies during the 1950s. Unfortunately, Backus and Victor did not fit in with the structure of a military school. Backus managed to get expelled for riding a horse through the mess hall.”

(2019 Bratenahl Historical Society Ohio)



**Jim Backus back right and Victor Mature back left.**  
**attended Kentucky Military Institute as teens.**

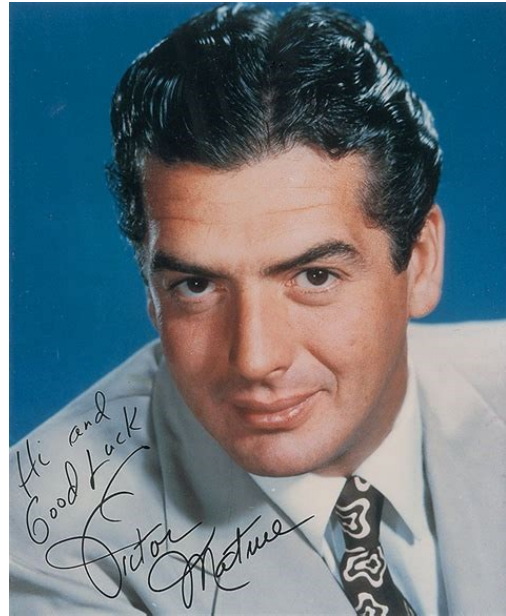
**1 - Jim Backus 2 - Victor Mature**



4/21/1880 —5/3/1954

**RUSSELL G. BACKUS**  
ST. PETERSBURG, May 3—(AP) Russell G. Backus, 74, Cleveland, Ohio, engineer, died at a St. Petersburg hospital today. Backus was co-owner of Backus and Spencer, a Cleveland pump manufacturing company. He was the father of Jim Backus, co-star with Joan Davis on the television show, I Married Joan. Other survivors include his widow, Mrs. Daisy Backus; a daughter, Mrs. Katherine B. Spencer, Redington Beach; and a sister, Mrs. Albert Hoffman, Caldwell, N. J.

The Tampa Tribune, Tue, 5/4/1954 ·Page 2



Victor Mature 1913—1999 (86)

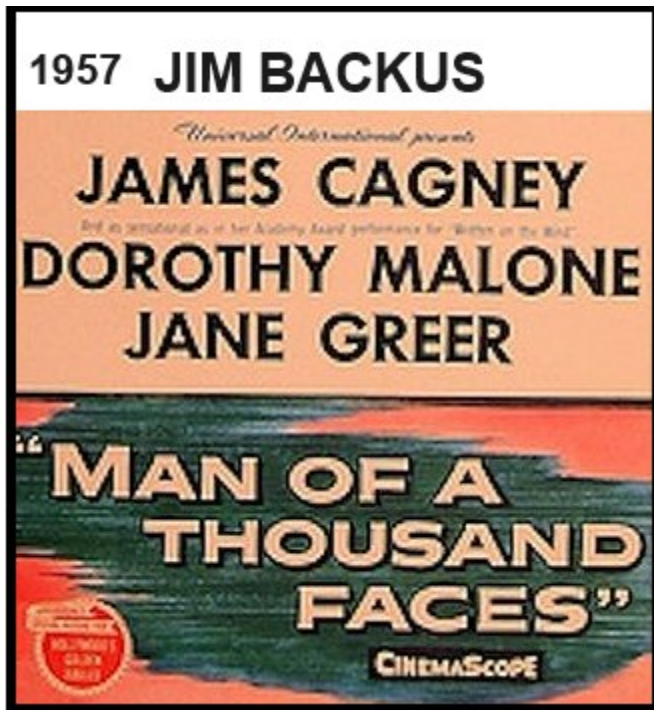
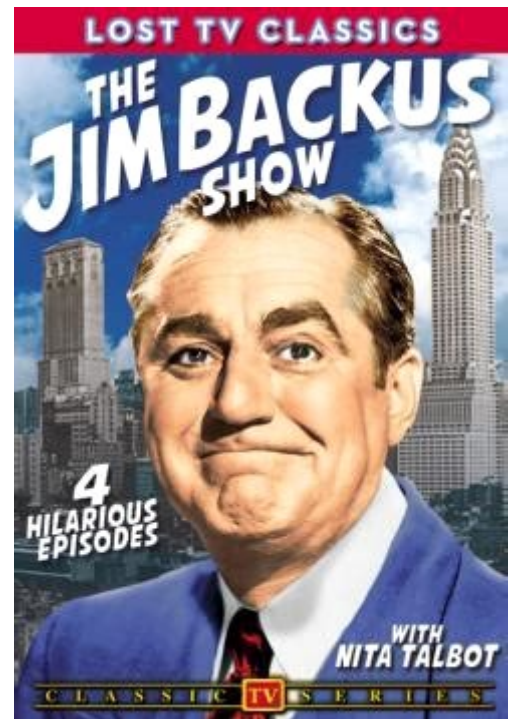


1953 movie, *The Robe*: L-R  
Jim Backus. Jean Simmons, Victor Mature.

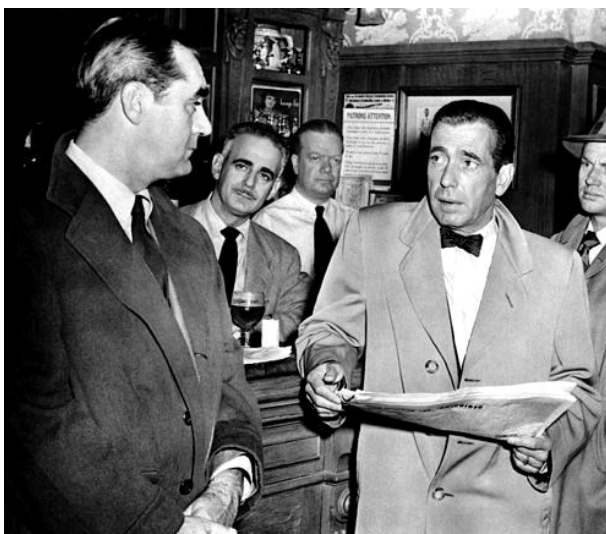


**1952 Angel Face movie, Jim Backus and Robert Mitchum.**





**Jim Backus and Bob Hope**



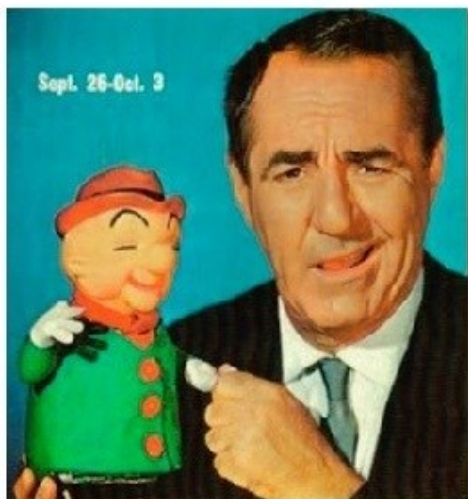
Jim Backus and Humphrey Bogart  
1952 scene.



1952-55



Jim Backus, left in 1955 "Rebel Without a Cause" starring James Dean.



Mr. Magoo and Jim

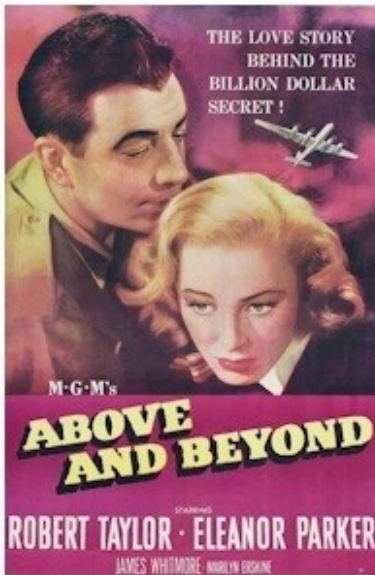
Jim was the voice of Quincy Magoo.

"OH Magoo,  
you've  
done it again!"



Jim modeled Mr. Magoo after his father **Russell Gould Backus** 1893-1954 who rests at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Caldwell NJ.





**Backus, center right,  
Susan Hayward.  
Movie 'Top Secret  
Affair' 1957**



**1945 The Enola Gay  
Jim Backus as Major General  
Curtis E. LeMay**



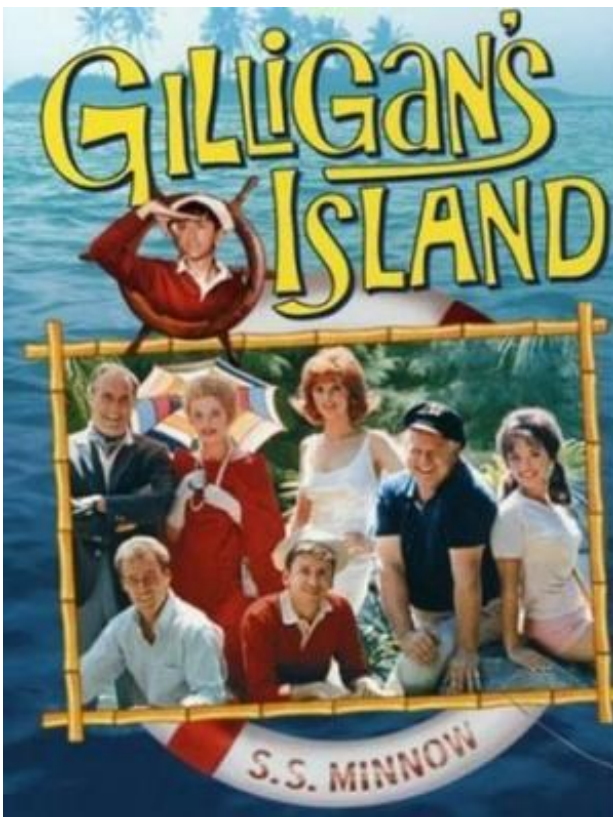
**Plot: "Col. Paul W. Tibbets, Jr. (Robert Taylor) is assigned to a dangerous mission in testing a new bomber, the Boeing B-29 Superfortress. The perilous assignment has caused his wife Lucy (Eleanor Parker) to worry for his life and whether their marriage can survive the constant separations." Wikipedia**

**Tibbets was the real flier who dropped the 1st atomic bomb in 1945.**

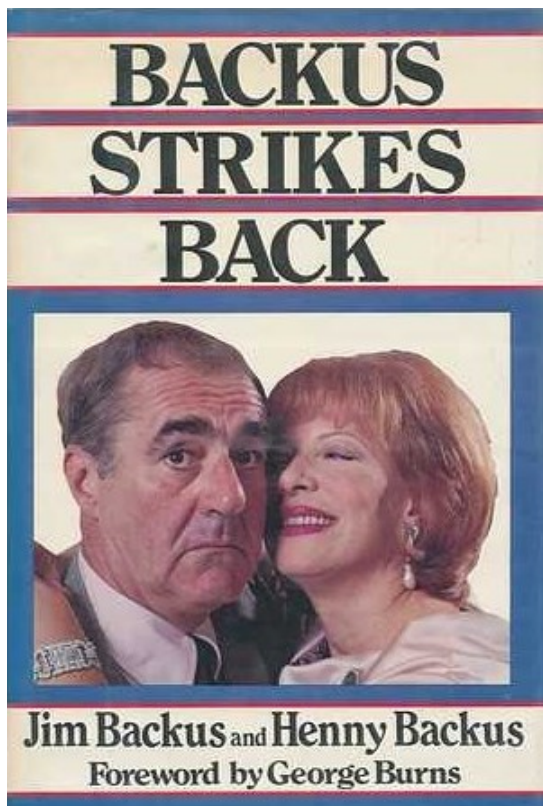




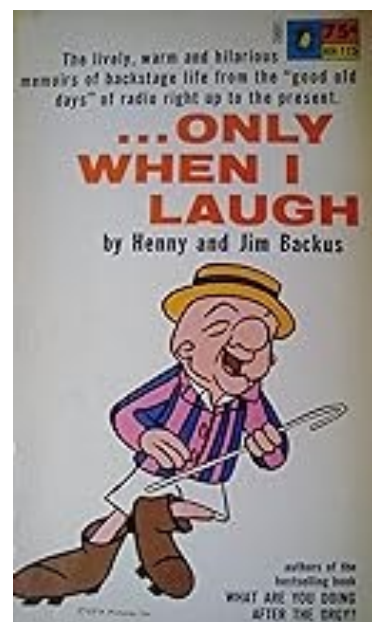
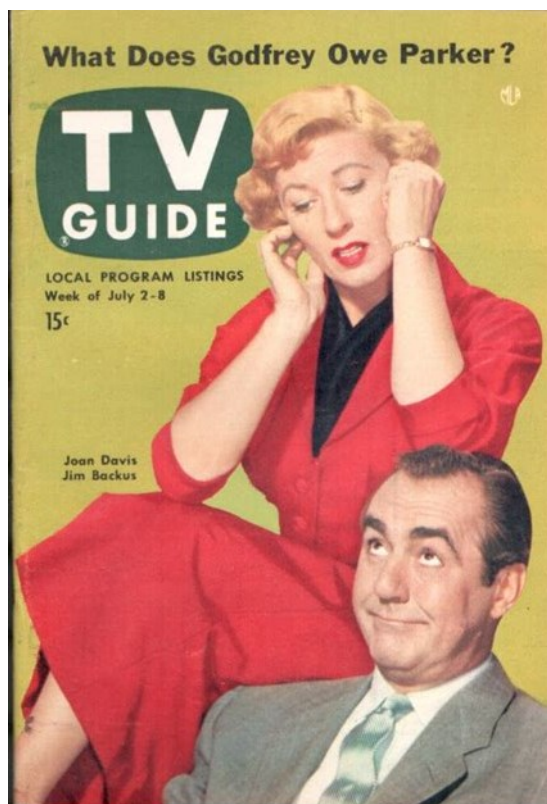
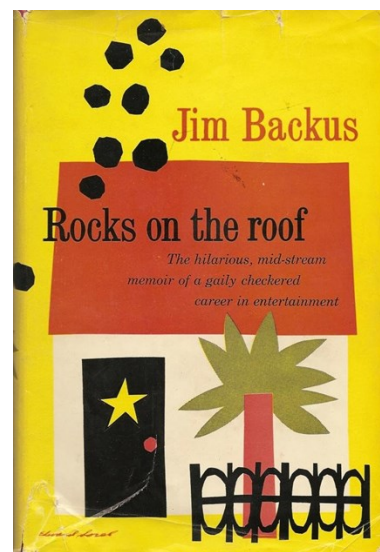
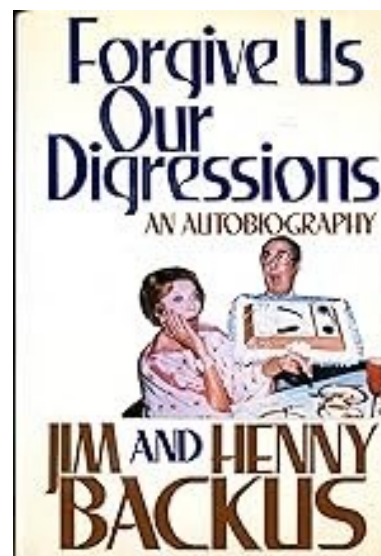
## Gilligan's Island 1964-67



Thurston Howell 3rd (**Jim Backus**) found that out the hard way. He played a rich man that realized that he couldn't use his money to get off the island.



1984





ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (UPI)  
—Mrs. Daisey Taylor Backus, 70,  
mother of television actor James  
B. (Jim) Backus, died at her  
Redington Beach home Thursday.  
She was born in Hazelton, Pa.

Her maiden name is Gilmore.

Mrs. Daisey Taylor **GILMORE** Backus

9/09/1887 - 3/05/1959

Jim's dad had died in 1954.



Daisey and Russell Backus tombstone.

Prospect Hill Cemetery, Caldwell, NJ



# Actor Jim Backus 1989 dies at age 76

LOS ANGELES (AP) — **Jim Backus**, throaty voice of the near-sighted “Mr. Magoo” and breezy spirit behind the shipwrecked millionaire of “Gilligan’s Island,” has died at age 76.

Backus, whose career in radio, film and television spanned more than half a century, died Monday from pneumonia. He had had Parkinson’s disease for many years.

The actor, who played the fabulously wealthy Thurston Howell III on television’s “Gilligan’s Island,” also was featured in dozens of motion pictures.

One of his most memorable roles was that of **James Dean’s** ineffectual father in “Rebel Without a Cause.” It took a character actor with presence to don an apron and wheedle Dean about his adolescent traumas.

Backus kept his sense of humor despite his ill health in recent years, according to **Alan Hale**, who played the burly skipper of the Minnow on "Gilligan's Island."

"He certainly still had that wonderful sense of humor," Hale said. "You could see it in his eyes."

Backus had been undergoing treatment for pneumonia since June 13 at St. John's Hospital and Health Center in Santa Monica.

"I used to do benefits and I'd come home with whatever symptoms went with the disease I was benefiting," Backus quipped in an interview five years ago.

"When they told me I had Parkinson's, I read a magazine article on it, and overnight I had every symptom known to man. I became an authority on it."

Backus' ability to find humor in almost any situation was one of his most outstanding qualities, according to members of the cast of the popular 1960s television series about seven stranded castaways shipwrecked with nothing to do but dream up zany rescue schemes.

"He was always up," said **Bob Denver**, who played Gilligan, the hapless mate.

"Everyday he must have told at least 10 to 15 jokes. ... Whenever he'd come on the set, all the crew would get happy."



Backus' baritone voice also was known to millions as that of the cartoon character Mr. Quincy Magoo on the program "Famous Adventures of Mr. Magoo."

"He was a unique talent," said **Sherwood Schwartz**, creator and producer of "Gilligan's Island."

"I created that (Thurston Howell) character with him in mind because I don't know anybody else who could play that character the way Jim did."

A native of Cleveland, Backus studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, graduating in 1933. Classmates included **Hume Cronyn**, **Garson Kanin** and **Tyrone Power**. Backus is survived by his wife, **Henriette**. They had no children. Burial services were to be private.

The Capital Times, Wed, 7/5/1989 ·Page 33

1989

JIM BACKUS, the American character actor who has died at Santa Monica, California, aged 76, was the voice — more a throaty gargle — behind the myopic and irascible Mr Magoo, the cartoon character inspired by W C Fields.

His other great successes were in the 1950s television series *I Married Joan* (a pioneer situation comedy), in which he played a long-suffering judge with a richly eccentric wife; and in the 1960s as Thurston Howell III, the world's richest man, in *Gilligan's Island*, an improbable comedy about castaways.

His last TV appearance was in *Rescue from Gilligan's Island* in 1978.

Backus also appeared in some 80 Hollywood films, notably as James Deans's hen-pecked father in *Rebel Without a Cause* (1955); but his roots were in the old tradition of vaudeville.

In conversation he was much given to stylised recital of the hoary "gags" of that tradition: "I see you're smoking Brand X — d'you collect the coupons?" "How else can I afford an iron lung?"

The son of a rich industrialist, James Backus was born at Cleveland, Ohio, on Feb 25, 1913.

He trained at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York and began his acting career in repertory and vaudeville, appearing in a number of Broadway flops.

Backus went on to become a radio announcer in Cleveland, Detroit and New York.

Backus made his film debut in 1949, in *Easy Living*, starring Victor Mature and Lucille Ball.

He often played the part of the hero's best friend, beaming or scowling as the plot demanded, and used to say that such roles "went on so long my dog ran away out of jealousy".

He was more memorable



playing manic roles — in *It's A Mad Mad Mad Mad World* (1963), for example, or *Myra Breckinridge* (1970).

In recent years he suffered from Parkinson's Disease and wrote two humorous books about his illness — *Backus Strikes Back* and *Forgive Us Our Digressions* — as well as *Rocks on the Roof*, *Back to Backus* and *What Are you Doing After the Orgy?*

Backus is survived by his wife and literary collaborator, Henriette.

The Daily Telegraph (London England),  
Wed, 7/5/1989 · Page 19

## **2004**

**Henny Backus, the actress-author who was the widow of "Gilligan's Island" actor Jim Backus, died Dec. 9 in Los Angeles after a series of strokes, according to Variety.**

**Ms. Backus was 93 and died at UCLA Medical Center.**

**Known as Henrietta Kaye before she was Henny Backus, she was born in Brooklyn and appeared as a showgirl in the Broadway revue, Earl Carroll's Vanities.**

**According to the trade paper, during the Depression, Ms. Backus belonged to an acting group formed by the WPA that included Orson Welles, John Houseman and Joseph Cotton. Internet Broadway Database reports that she was in the cast of Chrysalis, a 1932 Broadway play that featured Humphrey Bogart.**

**After marrying Backus, she lived in California with her husband and appeared in films and on TV. She was Cora Dithers in the TV series "Blondie," with her husband playing Dagwood Bumstead's boss, Mr. Dithers.**

**With her husband, she co-authored books about Hollywood, including "What Are You Doing After the Orgy?," "Only When I Laugh" and "Forgive Us Our Digressions."**

**According to The Los Angeles Times, after her husband died of pneumonia in 1989, she wrote "Care for the Caretaker," about taking care of seriously ill loved ones.**

**By Kenneth Jones 28 Dec 2004**



1969 photo

♡  
Henny Backus

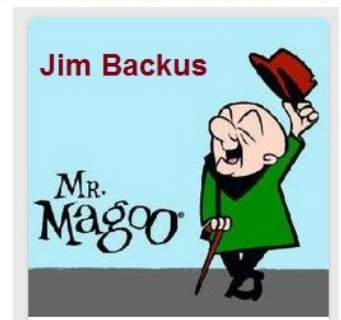
**"Mrs. Henny Kaye Backus (3/21/1911 – 12/9/2004 93) was a Broadway showgirl in the 1930s, where she performed with Earl Carroll's Vanities. Born Henrietta Kaye in Philadelphia, she was the wife of actor and comedian Jim Backus.**

**Henny co-starred with her husband in the 1960s television series, *Blondie*, and appeared alongside her husband in the TV sitcom, *Gilligan's Island*, in the episode entitled "Gilligan's Mother-In-Law", Season 2, Episode 1, 1965. She also acted alongside her husband in a fifth season episode of *The Love Boat*. She and her husband also co-wrote several humorous books, including *Only When I Laugh*. Henny wrote *Care for the Caretaker*, documenting her husband's battle with Parkinson's Disease and offering practical solutions for those facing such dilemmas.**

**In 1989, Jim Backus died from complications of pneumonia. Upon her own death following a series of strokes in 2004 at age 93, Henny was buried next to her husband in Westwood Village Memorial Park Cemetery in Los Angeles." by John Reid (2005) 20th Century-Fox. Lulu Press, Inc.**



James Gilmore BACKUS 2/25/1913 Caldwell NJ - 7/3/1989 (76)  
Santa Monica CA. and wife  
Henrietta "Henny" KAYE 3/21/1911 - 12/9/2004 (93).



Pierce Brothers  
Westwood Memorial Park  
in Los Angeles, California

