

Chapter 1 : Westerns on television - Wikipedia

*HOLLYWOOD--Television Western Players of the Fifties: A Biographical Encyclopedia of All Regular Cast Members in Western Series from The author Everett Aaker, who lives in the U.K. did an amazing job compiling a full accounting of American Television western icons with such detail and description, that I, an historian of Television.*

Land of Television As the price of television sets dropped, the number of viewers grew. Perhaps no phenomenon shaped American life in the s more than television. Just 10 years later, nearly two-thirds of American households had a television. The biggest-selling periodical of the decade was TV Guide. In a nation once marked by strong regional differences, network television programming blurred these distinctions and helped forge a national popular culture. Television forever changed politics. The first president to be televised was Harry Truman. When Estes Kefauver prosecuted mob boss Frank Costello on television, the Tennessee senator became a national hero and a vice presidential candidate. It did not take long for political advertisers to understand the power of the new medium. TV Guide soon became the most popular periodical in the country. Americans loved situation comedies – sitcoms. In the s, I Love Lucy topped the ratings charts. Forty-four million Americans tuned in to welcome her newborn son to the show. Through shows such as Leave It to Beaver, The Donna Reed Show, and Father Knows Best, television created an idyllic view of what the perfect family life should look like, though few actual families could live up to the ideal. With rare exceptions such as Desi Arnaz members of minorities rarely appeared on television in the s. The Lone Ranger and other Westerns geared toward children aired on Saturday mornings. Adult Westerns, such as Gunsmoke and Wyatt Earp aired during prime-time. Long running horse operas, such as Bonanza and Rawhide, attracted viewers week after week. One Western, Gunsmoke, ran for 20 years – longer than any other prime-time drama in television history. Like The Lone Ranger or Zorro, most programs of the early s drew a clear line between the good guys and the bad guys. There was very little danger of injury or death, and good always triumphed in the end. His televised Checkers Speech Checkers was his dog successfully appealed to the public for support when financial scandals threatened to boot him from the Republican ticket. But in the televised presidential debates against John F. Kennedy, Nixon came off as sweaty and somewhat sinister. Because most early television was live, the producers of major networks found their talent among people already had experience with live performance: Television and vaudeville combined to created the form of entertainment known as the variety show. Variety shows were made up of short acts – musical numbers, comedy sketches, animal tricks, etc. The influence of vaudeville on television was so strong that television critics called the shows "Vaudeo. Nat "King" Cole became the first African American host of a television series when his variety show appeared in Although Elvis Presley had appeared on other shows in the past, it was his performance on The Ed Sullivan Show that grabbed the headlines. By securing rock-and-roll acts, Sullivan won the adolescent market, truly making the variety show a whole-family event. Selling through the Screen In , the adorable cartoon characters Snap, Crackle, and Pop leapt around and sang about the joys of eating Rice Krispies. Advertisements were an integral part of television viewing then just as they are today. With more and more American families owning televisions, manufacturers now had a new way to sell their products, and the television commercial was born. By late , over companies had bought television broadcast time for advertising. By , sponsors were leaving radio for television at an unstoppable rate. Television sponsors ranged from greeting cards to automobiles, but perhaps the most advertised product was tobacco. In , Coca-Cola launched its first television ad campaign using a combination of animation and celebrity endorsement. By , television commercials were the leading advertising medium in America. The life of the American consumer would never be the same. Most Americans still got their news from newspapers in the s, but the foundations for the modern television newscast were established as early as with Edward R. Two major developments in the s that set up television as the news medium of the future were the establishment of coaxial cable linking the East and West coasts, which enabled footage to be moved electronically instead of physically, and the invention of videotape, which allowed the use of prerecorded footage such as studio interviews. But when television is bad, nothing is worse. I invite you to sit down in front of your television set when your station

goes on the air and stay there without a book, magazine, newspaper, profit-and-loss sheet or rating book to distract you — and keep your eyes glued to that set until the station signs off. I can assure you that you will observe a vast wasteland. You will see a procession of game shows, violence, audience participation shows, formula comedies about totally unbelievable families, blood and thunder, mayhem, violence, sadism, murder, western bad men, western good men, private eyes, gangsters, more violence and cartoons. And, endlessly, commercials — many screaming, cajoling and offending. And most of all, boredom. During the s, few households owned more than one television, so viewing became a shared family event. Even the American diet was transformed with the advent of the TV dinner, first introduced in The producers of the program had been providing the star contestant, Charles Van Doren, with the answers prior to the show. The fix is the subject of an acclaimed film and this PBS website. Learn about the key players and key events in the scandal, read a contemporary newspaper account about it, or play Twenty-One. This site is a nice place to visit for anyone who wants a look at the type of programming people watched at mid-century.

**Chapter 2 : Television Western Players of the Fifties – McFarland**

*Everett Aaker has written reference books on television western actors and actresses of the fifties and early television crime fighters. He was a finalist in the BBC quiz shows Film Buff of the Year and Screen Test in which his subject was George Raft.*

Listen to western TV theme songs while you read! There were handsome leading men for the ladies and lots of roundups and gunplay for the gents. Westerns provided all round entertainment, with guessable plots, last-minute problem resolutions, and fast-paced action. The cowboy was the heart and soul of our nation; the epitome of the last man standing with honor, courage, and rugged good looks to spare. Cowboy shows were so popular that they flourished like flies at a picnic. To compare the amount of westerns produced for television as opposed to war dramas, or love stories, would make a very lengthy list. Cardsharp extraordinaire, with that wry James Garner sense of humor, Maverick was one of the reasons we had a television set. I remember the show in syndication only, but it was watched in our house with regularity. I have always been a huge fan of Clint Walker and "Cheyenne" was one of my favorites. Walker, like James Arness, was quite a mountain of a man giving him that extraumph to his tough guy persona. But like Cheyenne, Clint was good-guy humble, and a very likeable character in western work. One of my Clint Walker favorites: More of my favorites were Wanted: The best part was that it was in color. My dad was a devout western lover, so on our block, we probably watched the most of them. Marshall Matt Dillon was a great character; 12 feet tall, pounds, and a wicked fast draw made him a formidable lawman. Great characters such as Doc, Miss Kitty, and the loveably haggard Festus, were unforgettable. I watched gunsmoke through the "Chester" years, and admired the characters played by Buck Taylor, Burt Reynolds and Dennis Weaver, but there was no character as wonderful as Festus Hagen. Gunsmoke also had the tension of an unresolved romance between Marshall Dillon and Miss Kitty. Every Sunday night at 9: Widower father Ben and his three sons-all as different as night and day-share the work and responsibilities of The Ponderosa spread. It has been reported that this program was one of the pioneers of color television programming simply to promote the idea of buying color television sets. When actor David Canary came on the show as "Candy", he became my second favorite. Oh yes, and that theme song is unforgettable! This was what westerns were all about! The program was a real breakthrough for television as it filled a 90 minute time slot. With The Virginian, there were some interesting story lines, with an emphasis on characters one episode even featured a cowhand with schizophrenia that murdered by night! The extra minutes permitted the writers to flesh out a better story each week. Premiering in , The Virginian ran for nine consecutive seasons, not as long as Gunsmoke or Bonanza, but long enough to secure strong ratings and a stronger following. He gave no quarter, and never missed an opportunity to push when it was necessary. He threw whiskey bottles at bad guys to get their attention; he yelled at judges in the courtroom and braced bullies in the streets or saloons with the ferocity of a half-starved Rotweiler. The Virginian was the toughest, strongest, most fair, and most noble TV cowboy I can remember ever. To this day I collect the DVD sets! If you tried pushing The Virginian, or tried out-stubborning Steve Hill, or tried playing poker with Trampas, or defied Judge Garth, or did not fall in love with Betsy, then you were just plain foolish. The 90 minute time slot permitted this program to serve as basically a western movie every week. In its ninth and final season, "The Virginian" switched its title to "Men from Shiloh" and lost its magnificent theme song "Lonesome Tree" by Percy Faith. The new theme song was by the now-renowned Ennio Morricone, but was wrong, and very awkward for the show. Characters came and went, but thank goodness we never lost Trampas or our title character. For me, Chuck was the western; he was tough, deliberate, unyielding, and usually a good guy. I loved every episode I could digest of "The Rifleman". Most notable is the fact that it was the first western to feature a widowed father raising a son. Chuck portrayed Jason McCord in the popular TV western "Branded" about an army officer unjustly drummed out of the army as he was falsely accused of desertion in battle. This show was another favorite, and Chuck Connors earned himself a place on the bench with my ultimate TV western heroes: The ladies were as bountiful as the gents on these shows, and often provided the flip side to the attraction of the program for male viewers. The High Chapparral was also a great show, with wonderful

characters. Victoria, the daughter of Don Sebastian Montoya, a fellow big-time cattleman, brought her brother Manolito with her to the ranch. The ranch was run by John Cannon and his brother Buck, who, was barely one step ahead of the law, in his ways of getting things done. Buck was played by the great Cameron Mitchell who brought a new kind of badness to the big screen. The Big Valley was a show that I did not miss-ever. I always loved the way he got things done. I really watched the show only for Nick and Heath. Heath being the underdog gave him some decent story action, and it was the stories that were really well-told and held my attention. These were the ones that either took place somewhere back east with fancy dudes and almost zero action, or the endlessly tiresome "cave-in" stories. Each western had to have a cave-in where the main characters were trapped inside a mine, a canyon pass, or a cave. Of course it took the entire show for the others to figure out where they were; Of course there were only few precious moments of air; Of course they were barely alive when discovered.

**Chapter 3 : 's TV Shows - Best of 50's TV - Popular Series - Classic TV Database**

*Modeled after the Mack V. Wright film version, the western television series The Lone Ranger made Clayton Moore's masked character one of the most recognized in American popular culture.*

History[ edit ] Radio and film antecedents[ edit ] The Saturday Afternoon Matinee on the radio were a pre-television phenomenon in the US which often featured western series. Herbert Jeffreys , as Bob Blake with his horse Stardust, appeared in a number of movies made for African American audiences in the days of segregated movie theaters. The first, on June 24, , was the Hopalong Cassidy show, at first edited from the 66 films made by William Boyd. By , four years after the boom in TV westerns began, thirty such shows were on television during prime time; none had been canceled that season, while 14 new ones had appeared. Why do people want to spend so much time staring at the wrong end of a horse? Trendle and developed by writer Fran Striker. The titular character is a masked Texas Ranger in the American Old West, who gallops about righting injustices, usually with the aid of a clever and laconic Native American companion named Tonto , and his horse Silver. The show started airing in France on March 5, It starred Eric Fleming and launched the career of Clint Eastwood. Its premiere episode reached the top 20 in the Nielsen ratings. The typical Rawhide story involved drovers who would meet people on the trail and get drawn into solving whatever problem they presented or were confronting. Late s through s[ edit ] Traditional Westerns began to disappear from television in the late s and early s as color television became ubiquitous. Bonanza ended its run in While the traditional Westerns mostly died out in the late s, more modernized Westerns, incorporating story concepts from outside the traditional genre, began appearing on television shortly thereafter. The Wild Wild West , which ran from to , combined Westerns with science fiction what later would be termed steampunk and an espionage-thriller format in the spirit of the recently popularized James Bond franchise. F Troop was a satirical sitcom that made fun of the genre. The limited-run McCloud , which premiered in , was essentially a fusion of the sheriff-oriented western with the modern big-city crime drama. Its companion series Hec Ramsey was a lighthearted who-dunnit mystery series set in the late Western era, starring Richard Boone previously of the traditional Western Have Gun, Will Travel; Boone described the characters in each series as very similar [8] as a retired gunfighter turned detective. Cimarron Strip , a lavish minute series starring Stuart Whitman as a U. Marshal , was canceled after a single season primarily because of its unprecedented expense. Nichols featured former Maverick star James Garner as a motorcycle-riding, unarmed peacemaker in a late-era Western setting. Little House on the Prairie was set on the frontier in the time period of the western, but was essentially a family drama. Kung Fu was in the tradition of the itinerant gunfighter westerns, but the main character was a Shaolin monk , the son of an American father and a Chinese mother, who fought only with his formidable martial art skill. The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams was a family adventure show about a gentle mountain man with an uncanny connection to wildlife who helps others who visit his wilderness refuge. Dallas took the soap opera genre and put it into a Western setting. The main characters are two wanted bank robbers on the run under false identities, who now wish to reform, and have been secretly promised a pardon by the governor on the condition that they stay out of trouble until some unspecified future time. They must deal with people and situations they encounter while on the run, without giving away their true identities or committing any further criminal acts. Like Butch Cassidy, the series is a Western with buddy film and comedy-drama elements. Little House on the Prairie retitled Little House: The long-running series told the story of a farm family settling on the frontier in Minnesota during the s and s. The Young Riders premiered in the fall of and ran for 3 seasons. The show followed a group of riders for the fabled Pony Express which operated " For most of their time on air, Dr. Quinn and Walker aired on the same Saturday night lineup. In the fall of , the UPN network aired its own science fiction western, Legend , which ended after 12 episodes. With the growth of cable television and direct broadcast satellites , reruns of Westerns have become more common. Upon its launch in , TV Land carried a block of Westerns on Sundays; the network still airs Bonanza and the color episodes of Gunsmoke to the present day, which make up several hours of their daytime schedule. Encore Westerns , part of the Encore slate of premium channels, airs blocks of Western series in the morning and in

the afternoon, while the channel airs Western films the rest of the day.

### Chapter 4 : Land of Television [blog.quintoapp.com]

*Television Western Players of the Fifties A Biographical Encyclopedia of All Regular Cast Members in Western Series, by Everett Aaker. Published May 7, by McFarland & Company.*

### Chapter 5 : TV Westerns - Shadows of the Past

*Television Western Players of The Fifties - A Biographical Encyclopedia of All Regular Cast Members In Western Series, - by Everett Aaker - Paperback Book () for \$ from blog.quintoapp.com Movies & TV McFarland & Company Series - Order by Phone*

### Chapter 6 : Character actors | 50 Westerns From The 50s.

*READ PDF Television Western Players of the Fifties: A Biographical Encyclopedia of All Regular Cast Members in Western Series, PREMIUM BOOK.*

### Chapter 7 : Television Western Players of the Fifties : Everett Aaker :

*Television western players of the fifties: a biographical encyclopedia of all regular cast members in western series, / by Everett Aaker.*

### Chapter 8 : Television Western Players of the Fifties (May 7, edition) | Open Library

*Continuing his previous book Television Western Players of the Fifties, Aaker, an author, offers a biographical encyclopedia of actors and actresses who had regular or semi-regular roles in Western series on American television from through , organized in alphabetical order and providing information on their birth and death dates and.*

### Chapter 9 : Republic bad guys and action heavies

*The Fifties Website saddles up to visit those TV Westerns. On this page you will find Westerns from*