



RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION
COLORADO

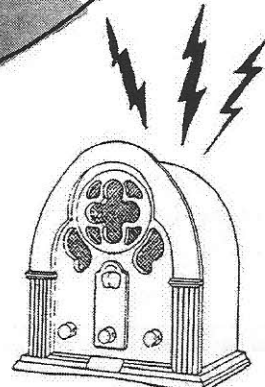


Volume 30, Number 4

RHAC 30th Anniversary Year!

April, 2005

PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS
ROSS DOLAN
MELROSE BUILDING #404
555-4321
"I DEAL IN CRIME"



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

PO BOX 1908, Englewood CO 80150 (303) 761-4139 -

Dedicated to the preservation of old-time radio programs, and to making those programs available to our members

Old-Time Radio is Alive and Well in Colorado!

KEZW 1430 AM	"When Radio Was", with Stan Frieberg	Weekdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM
Pirate Radio 104.7 FM	"Radio Memories" (Greeley)	Sunday, 6:30 - 12:00 PM
	and, Pirate Radio internet streaming at http://www.pirate1047.com	Sunday, 6:30 - 12:00 PM
KNUS 710 AM	"Radio Revisited"	Weekdays, 10:00 - 11:00 PM
KRMA TV Channel 6	Secondary Audio Program (SAP), "Tribute to OTR"	Sunday, 2:00 PM

RHAC WEB SITE <http://www.rhac.org>

RHAC *OTR* WEB PAGE <http://www.old-time.com/rhac.html>

RETURN WITH US NOW... is the official publication of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc., a nonprofit organization. Cost of membership is \$25.00 for the 1st year with \$15.00 for renewal. Each member in good standing has full use of the club resources. For further information contact anyone listed below. Any mention of a product in **RETURN WITH US NOW...** does not constitute an endorsement by RHAC.

President:	Larry Weide	5270 E. Nassau Cir. Englewood, CO 80113	(303) 758-8382	lweide@attglobal.net
Vice-President:	<i>Open Position</i>			
Secretary:	<i>Open Position</i>			
Treasurer:	Maletha King	900 W. Quincy Ave. Englewood, CO 80110	(303) 761-4139	dickking@earthlink.net
Newsletter:	Carol Tiffany	1394 Golf Vista Court N. E., Palm Bay, FL 32905	(321) 723-7803	ctiffany@worldnet.att.net
Talking Newsletter	B.J. George	Email - bj39@tds.net		Talking Newsletter egroup - http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rwun
Membership:	Maletha King	PO BOX 1908 Englewood, CO 80150	(303) 761-4139	dickking@earthlink.net
Tape Donations:	Bill McCracken	7101 W. Yale Ave. #503 Denver, CO 80227	(303) 986-9863	
	Herb Duniven	4184 S. Syracuse St. Denver, CO 80237		
Directors at Large:	David L. Michael, Herb Duniven			

LIBRARIES

Reference Material:	Bill McCracken	7101 W. Yale Ave. #503	Denver, CO 80227	(303) 986-9863
Logs & Scripts:	Fred Hinz	c/o RHAC PO Box 1908	Englewood, CO 80150	
Open Reel Tape:	Maletha King	900 W. Quincy Ave.	Englewood, CO 80110	
Cassette Tape:				
#1 (1-499)	David Gatch	PO Box 70	Glen Haven, CO 80532	(970) 577-0805
#2 (500-999)	David Gatch	PO Box 70	Glen Haven, CO 80532	(970) 577-0805
#3 (1000-2000)	Dave Logan	5557 S. Sherman Cir.	Littleton, CO 80121	(303) 730-1430
#4 (5001-up)	Mika Rhoden	3950 W. Dartmouth Ave.	Denver, CO 80236	(303) 937-9476
CD Library:	Thomas Woessner	3240 S. Lowell Bld.	Denver, CO 80236	(303) 936-4643

Convention Schedules

19th Annual OTR and Nostalgia Convention, April 15 - 16, 2005, Best Western Hotel - Cincinnati Ohio. Guest stars; Bob Hasitngs, Rosemary Rice, Hal Stone and Esther Geddes. Activities; Seminars, recreations and awards dinner. Contact Bob Burchett, 10280 Gunpowder Rd., Florence, KY 41042. (859) 282-0333 or haradio@hotmail.com

REPS Showcase, June 24 - 26, Theme: "The Good Old Days" (reflecting both the love of OTR and the desire of the REPS board to hearken back to warm and fuzzy showcases of the past. Location: Northwest rooms at Seattle Center, Hotel: The Inn at Queen Anne (right across the street from the meeting rooms), Contact Mike Sprague at (480) 474-4480 or E-Mail at hrrmikes@aol.com, or Showcase Registrar Mary Fichtenberg at fichtenberg2319@msn.com, Details available on REPS website at www.repsonline.org.

30th Friends of Old-time Radio Convention, Oct 20 - 23, 2005 at the Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ; For information contact Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887 JayHick@aol.com, or check our web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

CREDIT: This publication may, under license, use objects and/or images from one or more of the following: Lotus Wordpro97 and Corel Gallery. These software packages are protected by the copyright laws of the United States, Canada and elsewhere. This publication is copyrighted 2005, with all rights reserved.

RETURN WITH US NOW...

-2-

April, 2005

Willam Gargan by Paul Barringer

As I have stated before in other articles that I have submitted to the RHAC newsletter, Return With Us Now, I started to listen to radio at a young age (approximately 8 or 9 years old) and continued to listen daily until I was 17 years old and entered the U.S. Navy. When I was about 14 years old I started to listen to a show called "I Deal In Crime". I was attracted to the show when I heard the voice of the actor playing the lead role, William Gargan. I recognized his voice from a couple of movies I had seen him in and immediately liked the show. Apparently not too many other people felt as I did about the show because the program was only on the air for a couple of years (January 1946 thru October 1947).

Unlike many other detective/crime radio programs around that time, the main character's name was not in the show's title. Although not that unusual, it just seemed like more of the genre, police/crime/detective programs did include the character's name in the title, such as Boston Blackie, Charlie Chan, Ellery Queen, Sherlock Holmes, Sam Spade, Johnny Dollar etc. Gargan eventually did appear in a couple of programs with the character's name included in the title, Martin Kane, Private Detective, and Barry Craig, Confidential Investigator. Martin Kane eventually went to TV with Gargan in the title role, where he was also the executive producer on the series. Gargan appeared in over 90 films spanning five decades.

Gargan said he began acting professionally in 1925 at the age of nineteen. Gargan appeared with Bing Crosby and Ingrid Bergman in the movie "The Bells of Saint Mary's" and was cast as Ellery Queen in three movies in 1942 for Columbia. He also appeared in the movie "The Canterville Ghost". These are the movies from which I recognized his voice. Gargan was the younger brother of character actor Edward Gargan, who incidentally appeared in over 280 films. I have a very vague remembrance of

Edward Gargan in a couple of films, "Bedtime for Bonzo", "Buck Benny Rides Again", "Abbott and Costello Meet the Invisible Man" and a few others. The brothers appeared together in two film.

Although there are a number of copies of Martin Kane and Barry Craig in existence, very few episodes of I Deal in Crime exist. I have three episodes including the first episode "Laura Shield's Body Guard" (1-21-46), where the synopsis and plot for following programs is detailed as follows. It began with the sound of drum beats, followed by music, Gargan's voice saying "I Deal In Crime", (once again music), the announcer saying "The American Broadcasting Company presents I Deal In Crime starring William Gargan as Ross Dolan. Music again followed by the voice of Gargan saying "My name is Ross Dolan and in case you're inclined to say, "so what?", pull up a chair and listen to this. I've been a private investigator for ten years, except for a short hitch in Uncle Sugar's Navy. I've been a seaman on an L.S.T., a gunner on a P.T. boat, and



even made a parachute jump—that last, I don't care to discuss, and just yesterday they decided to get along without me, so I found myself on my way back to my old hangout, my office in the Melrose Building", (the sound of footsteps). Dolan continues "It was raining cats and dogs and several other forms of livestock, I shrugged my way through the main door, nothing had changed, the foyer still had those silly gilt figurines chasing each other around the molding, the tile floor hadn't split any wider and the paint was just as cracked as before, even the elevator man

hadn't changed, he just added another dozen wrinkles to that piece of leather he called a face. I called.. fourth floor," (elevator mans voice in background...OK). "His blue eyes lit up with a friendly gleam you find in a pair of two-cent marbles. The floors slid past as we went up, finally the rickety old contraption slid to a stop, (doors opening) I got out and walked down the hall, (footsteps) I stopped at 404, on the door I read 'Ross Dolan' printed in gilt letters and below it, 'Private Investigations'. I was home again, the cab driver tried to gyp me out of a buck, my shoes had sprung a

leak in a puddle and that granite puss of an elevator man didn't even say hello. Yeah, I was home again." Thus the shows history was set. The theme for the rest of the series would be similar to most of the other detective/crime shows at that time.

The show would end after Dolan, having solved the case, would say "Good night folks." The announcer would come on and say "Don't forget to listen again next week, same time, when you will hear William Gargan say (Gargan's voice) 'I Deal In Crime,'" (music) announcer's voice saying "I Deal In Crime is a special presentation of The American Broadcasting Company, written by Ted Hediger, directed by Leonard Reeg, with original music composed and conducted by Skitch Henderson (who later would be recognized from his TV fame), Dressar Dahlstead speaking I Deal In Crime came to you from Hollywood." Later the ending would include the usual disclaimer about all characters and incidents used on this program are fictitious, any resemblance to actual persons or incidents is purely coincidental. Also in later shows (the tapes I have) the director's and announcer's names were not mentioned. (I was unable to find a complete cast list while researching this article.) Gargan, at one time had actually been a private investigator, wherein he tracked down ruthless credit welshers and deadbeats. He also was a bootlegger for a spell.

In 1960, while playing golf one spring day, Gargan's wife Mary received a call from Randolph Hale, a west coast stage producer, owner of some theaters, and a friend of the Gargans. Hale asked Mary if she thought Bill would agree to have his hair dyed white, to appear in the stage production of Gore Vidal's "The Best Man", a political comedy. The part Hale wanted Gargan to play was the ex-President, who is dying of cancer. Although far from broke, Gargan knew he could use the \$1000 a week, so after pondering a while and upon hearing that Gene Raymond and Leon Errol, two of Gargan's oldest friends, were also cast in the play, he accepted the part.

The first week of July, rehearsals began in a little theater on La Cienga Blvd. in Los Angeles. A few weeks before rehearsals began, Gargan had a siege of laryngitis and had just got his voice back. Gargan did not know at this time that it would be the beginning of the end of his acting career.

After 3 days rest in San Francisco, Gargan returned to Los Angeles and was refreshed and raring to go, except that his throat was starting to

hurt again. Gargan's doctor, who he had been seeing, told him to stop talking for a week or two. Since this was impossible, Gargan whispered his way through rehearsals, took aspirins, gargled and also continued to smoke two and a half packs of cigarettes a day, a habit he had continued for most of his life. Gargan said the smoking soothed his throat.

"The Best Man" opened in early August in Santa Barbara, then went to Los Angeles and San Francisco. The reviews were great. Gargan's throat was dry and his voice was raspy, but there didn't seem to be an excessive amount of mucus or coughing, but it did hurt when he swallowed. I was just a sore throat and it didn't matter much in the play because he was playing the part of a man dying, a little hoarseness gave a better illusion to the part he was playing. All the time Gargan continued to smoke and smoke and the smoking kept on, as Gargan said, "mesmerizing the pain, like a good narcotic should".

After the show's run in San Francisco, Gargan drove back to his seventeen-room house in Beverly Hills that had once belonged to Jean Harlow. Gargan told Mary his throat hurt. Mary set up another date to see the doctor. Doctor Bernard sent Gargan to see a laryngologist. The specialist, Allen Miller, found upon examination that Gargan had gray matter growing irregularly under the epiglottis (that piece of cartilage at the back of the throat that guards the trachea). The doctor scraped away a piece of the gray matter for a biopsy.

On Friday the doctor called and asked Bill and Mary to come to his office. When they were ushered in, Dr. Miller looked Gargan squarely in the eye and said, "You've got cancer of the larynx." The doctor said "We operate, you live. We don't operate, you die." After consulting with two other doctors, who confirmed Dr. Miller's findings, and waiting three or four days Gargan knew his options were running out. In Gargan's words "Like sand between the fingers, like water cupped in the hand, like life passing by." Dr. Miller, not wanting the cancer to spread, told Gargan he was worried about the delay.

After talking to a radiologist at Good Samaritan Hospital and, finding out that cobalt was not a good option, Gargan called Dr. Miller and said, "Let's cut." the doctor said "in a week or ten days we'll operate, you'll need time to put your affairs in order." "Doctor", Gargan said, "I need twenty-four hours to put my affairs in order." On Wednesday November 9th, Gargan and his wife Mary, after

having supper and cocktails with friends, drove to The Los Angeles Eye and Ear Hospital where they checked in shortly before 10:00 P.M.

At 8:00 A.M. the next day the operation was started. The normal laryngectomy takes about three or four hours, Gargan was quite a bleeder and the operation took six hours. The operation was successful, the larynx was removed as was the voice box, but so was the cancer, it had not spread. Gargan had lost that marvelous gift that separates men from animals - "The Power of Speech". On the tenth day after the operation, Gargan went home and started his convalescence. After a long period of self-pity, overwhelming despair, and of asking God "Why Me?", Gargan slowly and painfully mastered the art of speaking without his larynx

But the question remained and it remained unanswered, "Why Me?". One thing puzzled him. There was no plan or reason, at least none that Gargan could grasp. Why had this happened to him? Yes it was vanity. Why does anything happen to anybody? Why is the young man down the street killed in Vietnam defending his country, yet the boy across the way comes back alive and whole? Why him and not the other?

The question puzzled him and pursued him. It began to nag. It haunted his silent laughter and created his silent tears. "Why me, God? Why Me?" But God didn't answer....yet.

After his recovery and long hours of practice, Gargan threw away the notepads, slate-boards, and refused to use an artificial voice box (an artificial amplifier). Gargan traveled across the country giving, as he called it, his "Unaccustomed as I am to public speaking" talks for the American Cancer Society. He visited hospitals where others had or were going to have their larynx removed, giving them encouragement and showing them they could overcome the obstacles involved, just as he had. Gargan spoke to service clubs and various groups in New York, Omaha, Detroit, Seattle, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Kodiak, Juneau and many, many others.

In one such presentation, before a group of teenagers in Anchorage, Alaska, Gargan told them he had smoked two to three packs of coffin nails (a word for cigarettes used by many in the sixties and seventies) a day for thirty-five years. As he squirmed with guilt before the teenagers, one child said "My mother and father smoke, why can't I?" Gargan replied bluntly and to the point, "I'm sorry about your mother and father, but I'm not worried about

them, if they don't have the brains or the determination to stop, I feel sorry for them, but I can't help them. It's you I'm worried about. If you haven't started smoking, I beg of you, Don't, if you have started I beg you, Stop." The teens asked "But why? It's *in* to smoke, everyone does it, we don't want to look like fools, like oddballs". Gargan, producing the evidence of his years of smoking, gently said, "Would you rather look like me and sound like me?" So, that was how it went on the cancer circuit through the days and years, raising money for research and education.

Gargan received many awards from universities and medical associations. Gargan received an Oscar for Best Actor in a Supporting Role in the film, **They Knew What They Wanted**. He also was awarded the Screen Actors Guild's "Man of The Year" in 1967.

Gargan had lost his voice and acting career, but in losing them, he found a life and career far more rewarding than anything he had ever done. William Gargan not only successfully helped himself, but also helped thousands of other cancer victims. The question had finally been answered, in Gargan's own words "Why Not Me?"

In February 1979, while flying between New York and San Diego, Gargan suffered a heart attack and died in flight, bringing to an end the strong and vibrant voice that I remembered in the radio shows I listened to and the movies I saw.

I remember seeing Gargan on TV in the sixties or early seventies, giving one of his speeches for the ACS, and upon hearing that raspy craggy voice in the announcement I was immediately taken back to the radio show "**I Deal In Crime**" and the other shows. It made me wonder, like Gargan, why him? But after reading William Gargan's autobiography I realized Gargan didn't lose his career, he just changed it.

If you get a chance to read the book "**Why Me?**", do so. As the dust jacket inside the back cover says "**Why Me?**" will bring tears to your eyes and fill you with admiration for a man of great faith and courage. It is truly an epic adventure depicting the triumph of the human spirit against overwhelming odds.

Author's note: Research for this article includes various web sites: oldtime.com, findagrave.com, thrillingdetective.com, with excerpts from William Gargan's autobiography "**Why Me?**"

WHO SAID THAT? by Dr. Charles Beckett

Below are some familiar (and not so familiar) introductions and sayings of Old Time Radio characters. Match each character with what he or she said. If you answer number 12 correctly, go to the head of the class.

THE CHARACTERS

1. Marshal Matt Dillon
2. Chester A. Riley
3. The Shadow
4. Jack Benny
5. Philip Marlow
6. Jeff Regan, Investigator
7. Bob Hope
8. Molly McGee
9. Rochester van Jones
10. Sherlock Holmes
11. Charlie McCarthy
12. Liz Cooper
13. Inner Sanctum
14. Detective Danny Clover

THE SAYINGS

- A. "This is your host, Raymond"
- B. "Oh, come now, boss!"
- C. "The first man they look for, and the last they want to meet"
- D. "What a revoltin' development this is"
- E. "Thanks for the memories"
- F. "I'll mow you down, so help me, I'll mow you down"
- G. "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men"
- H. "The game's afoot!"
- I. "Crime is a sucker's road..."
- J. "Jell-O everybody"
- K. "The gaudiest, the most violent, the loneliest mile in the world"
- L. "Ah, Heavenly Days"
- M. "Jell-O again!"
- N. "I'm the Lions Eye, his private eye"

From the Desk of the Editor by Carol Tiffany



I trust you all had a Happy Easter and a fun April Fools' Day. Your editor is also hoping that at least one "old wives' tale" proves to be very accurate and that we get plenty of April showers to bring lots of flowers to bloom in May.

This issue of RWUN features an article by one of our RHAC members (and contributors) Paul Barringer. Mr. Barringer's article is one of the best-researched pieces it has been my privilege to edit for RWUN. It also reflects his deep personal interest in his subject, actor William Gargan. I think this is one you will really enjoy!

You will remember Dr. Charles Beckett as the author of several interesting articles published in RWUN over the past several years. Now he has turned his hand to puzzles with excellent results. Check out his trivia piece "Who Said That?" in this issue (warning: this is NOT an easy puzzle).

Good Listening to All...



New in the Tape and CD Libraries

by Maletha King

This month we continue with the "Lone Ranger" for four reels, and then we have the pleasure of bringing you a new series of "Dragnet".

The new Dragnet shows start in June of 1949. The first episodes in this series feature Barton Yarborough as Friday's partner. The rest of the shows continue on after Barton's death, handling it as they did everything else - just as a matter of fact.

One of these shows may very well be the most remembered Dragnet presentation of them all; "A Gun for Christmas". It sure fits today's world.

Answers to the "Who Said That" quiz

1(C), 2(D), 3(G), 4(M), 5(I), 6(N), 7(E), 8(L),
9(B), 10(H), 11(F), 12(J), 13(A), 14(K)