



MOM RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COLORADO

Volume 28, Number 5

May, 2004

Harry Bartell

An Appreciation - by Stewart Wright

I did not know Harry for a long time; but I treasure his friendship. Harry was a fine actor, a true gentleman, and a wonderful human being. We are extremely lucky in that so many of his performances have been preserved.

I cannot bring myself to write an obituary for Harry Bartell, but I can celebrate his life and career by sharing some of my knowledge of this remarkable gentleman with the subscribers of the Digest.

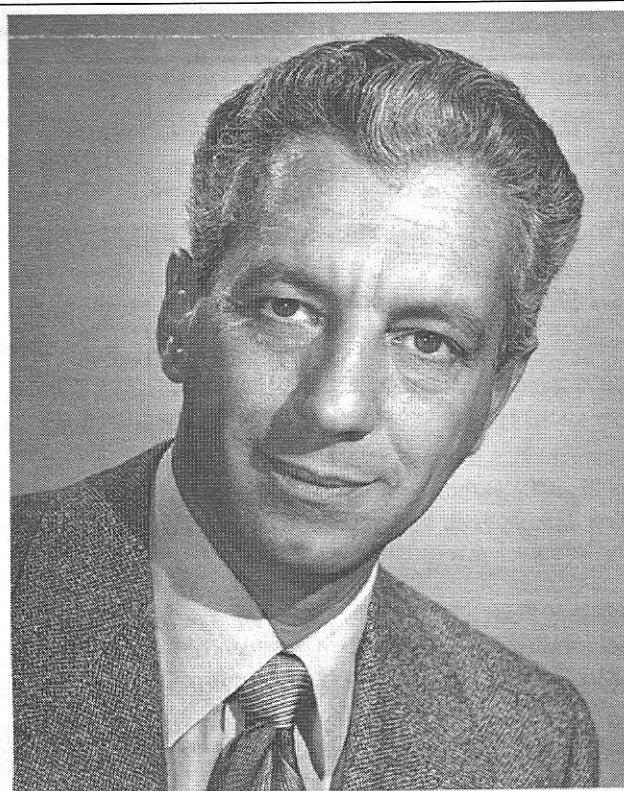
There was a voice on the radio, a voice that I noticed on an episode of Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar many years ago. Then I then began to notice that voice in many episodes of that series and many other radio series. The actor behind the voice played good guys, bad guys and everything in between. Sometimes he played the lead, other times a supporting role. The actor also did lots of dialects

and accents. No matter what role he was playing there was always a common quality in his performances; his characters were always believable. Finally, I connected a name with that voice: Harry Bartell. He seems to be everywhere during the Golden Age of Radio.

When I joined the Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound, I received the flyer for their annual Convention, the REPS Showcase. There, listed among the guests, was Harry Bartell. I immediately decided to go to Seattle for the REPS Showcase. Not only did I meet Harry and get a chance to see him perform; I got the opportunity to interview him. At that Showcase Harry took time out from his busy schedule to introduce me to many of the guest performers.

I would see Harry whenever he was at the Showcase and corresponded with him many times. Occasionally, I would identify a new radio series on which he had performed and he would pass on the information to his daughter,

Judie. A couple of years ago, Lois Culver and I had a wonderful lunch with Harry in Ashland, OR. I
(Continued on Page 3)



Harry Bartell

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
KFKA 1310 AM	"Radio Memories" (Greeley)	Sunday, 6:00 - 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
KUVO 89.3 FM	"Destination Freedom"	9:00 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 80110	(303) 758-8382	lweide@attglobal.net
Vice-President:	Dick King	900 W. Quincy Ave. Englewood, CO 80110	(303) 761-4139	dickking@earthlink.net
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
RHAC Players:	<i>Open Position</i>			
Membership:	Dick 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 and Dick King			

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)	Ron Gallagher	888 S. Dexter #607	Denver, CO 80246	(303) 692-0531
#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:	Ron Gallagher	888 S. Dexter #607	Denver, CO 80246	(303) 692-0531

Convention Schedules

REPS Radio Showcase XII, June 24 - 27, 2004 at the Seattle Center, Seattle Washington. Contact Mike Sprague, Box 723, Bothell, WA 98041 (425) 488-9518 hrrmikes@aol.com, also check web site: <http://www.repsonline.org>

28th Old-time Country Music Contest and Festival, Aug 30 - Sep 5, 2004 at Harrison County Fairgrounds in Missouri Valley, Iowa. For information contact Bob Everhart at Box 492, Walnut, IA 51577 (712) 762-4363, bobeverhart@yahoo.com

29th Friends of Old-time Radio Convention, Oct 21 - 24, 2004 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>

enjoyed being the fly-on-the-wall while these two friends of over 50 years talked about their lives and times.

RADIO WORK:

Harry's radio credentials are impressive to say the least. He has more than 10,000 appearances on radio, including 182 series. But Harry describes his, "first real running part as 12 years" with DEAR ABBY on CBS, long after "radio had died a horrible death." During the early 1930's Harry got his start in radio in Houston and appeared in local radio show condensations of motion pictures. His pay for these condensations: two 25-cent movie tickets. In 1937, Harry moved to the West Coast working as a DJ, doing commercials, and performing at the Pasadena Playhouse. In his first role on network radio, in RAFFLES, Harry was cast as a Hindu. He had never played a Hindu, but managed to do it. It was the first of many dialect and accent roles he did, including many Spanish roles on Romance of the Rancho, Dragnet, Have Gun Will Travel, and Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar.

Pick a drama or light comedy series and there's a good chance that Harry was on it. All of the following series and over a hundred more had appearances by Harry Bartell: A Date with Judy, Adventures by Morse, Alan Young Show, Amos and Andy, Broadway Is My Beat, Cavalcade of America, CBS Radio Workshop, Columbia Presents Corwin, Crime Classics, Defense Attorney, DR. Christian, Eddie Cantor Show, Frontier Gentleman, Green Lama, I Love A Mystery, Let George Do It, Lux Radio Theater, My Favorite Husband, Nightbeat, on Stage, Red Ryder, the Saint, Suspense, Tales of the Texas Rangers, and This Is Your FBI.

His acting abilities made Harry a favorite with many of the best directors in Hollywood including Jack Webb (Dragnet, Pete Kelly's Blues, Johnny Modero - Pier 23), Norman Macdonnell (Romance, The New Adventures of Philip Marlowe, Escape, Have Gun Will Travel), and Jack Johnstone (Yours Truly Johnny Dollar, the Man Called X, The Six Shooter, Hollywood Star Playhouse). He was a member of both Macdonnell's and Webb's stock companies. Harry appeared in both the first and last episodes of Gunsmoke and 180 more. Two of Harry's finest performance can be heard in the episodes of this series, "Cain" and Blood Money." Although Harry played villains on Gunsmoke, he was never cast by Jack Webb as a Bad Guy on Dragnet. There were advantages to having a regular

ensemble of actors on a series. Harry told me, "One of the major benefits was that you had great trust in the other actor. You knew if for some reason if you got off-track or you made a mistake, they were going to cover for you. And you would cover for them. As a result, there was an ensemble feeling that was very different than if you had a different cast on the show every day."

With thousands of supporting appearances on radio, Harry also had many starring and featured roles. Along with John Anderson, Harry co-starred in Horizons West, a very fine radio documentary drama series on the Lewis and Clark Expedition that was produced for Armed Forces Radio in the early 1960's. Harry played Cpt. Meriwether Lewis, Anderson played Cpt. William Clark. He also had starring or features roles in Adventures of Nero Wolfe as Archie Goodwin, Fort Laramie as Lt. Siberts, the Charlotte Greenwood Show as Tommy Brooks, and Rogers of the Gazette as Officer Ed Miller.

One of Harry's favorite series was Escape; 56 appearances on that series. Harry originated the role of Auguste in the Escape classic - "Three Skeleton Key." He also had leading roles in several other episodes including "An Occurrence At Owl Creek Bridge" (his personal favorite performance), "A Shipment of Mute Fate," and an episode written by actor John Dehner - "The Man With The Steel Teeth." In the 1998 interview Harry shared his feelings with me about Escape, "The scripts were wonderful, many of them were based on Classics that stood the test of time. They offered me, as an actor, parts that I never would have gotten on any other program. They were exciting, fun to do and very rewarding from a performance standpoint."

In addition to acting, Harry also worked as an announcer. "I announced Silver Theatre, Sherlock Holmes, and The Casebook of Gregory Hood. I never considered myself an announcer; I sort of played an announcer as an actor." Harry told me how he literally walked into the announcer's role on Sherlock Holmes. "That was the reason I got that job, a fluke. They had a huge audition and every name announcer in town was over at CBS. I walked into the foyer and I couldn't understand what was going on. I asked the secretary. She said, 'Edna Best was conducting an audition for the announcer for Sherlock Holmes.' I said, 'May I go in and say hello?' I had worked with her as an actor. I said, 'Hi, Edna' and started to leave. She said, 'Aren't you going to

read? As long as you're here, pick up the script and read.' That's how I got the job."

A CAREER THAT CONTINUED INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM:

Coming to the REPS Showcase not only gave Harry the opportunity to perform in recreations, but also in the contemporary dramas of Jim French. Just last year Harry guest starred in *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* episode "The Adventure Of The Great American."

TELEVISION WORK:

According to Harry's show logs, he performed on at least 77 television series. These included performances on series such as *Branded*, *Dragnet*, *Dragnet 1967*, *Get Smart*, *Gunsmoke*, *I Love Lucy*, *Laramie*, *Perry Mason*, *Peter Gunn*, *Police Woman*, *The Rebel*, *Richard Diamond Private Detective*, *The Twilight Zone*, *The Untouchables*, *The Veil*, *The Walter Winchell File*, and *The Wild, Wild West*.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Harry co-wrote two *Gunsmoke* scripts with fellow actor and close friend, Vic Perrin: "Chester's Inheritance" and "Father and Son."

During times when acting roles were scarce Harry worked as a professional photographer. OTR fans have also benefited from his photographic endeavors. He took photographs during show rehearsals and many of these photos have appeared in Old-Time Radio books.

RADIO AS AN ENTERTAINMENT MEDIUM

Harry is justly proud of his work as a radio actor. He told John Dunning that, "Radio was a dream medium, every day or twice a day was like a first night. There was always a freshness, a challenge. Radio offered an actor or actress opportunities to play roles they couldn't obtain anywhere else."

To me Harry really isn't gone, he has just moved on to another stage. He has been reunited with his fellow performers and his lovely wife Beverly. Harry lives on in my mind and in those many fine performances that have been preserved for us to enjoy.

Tonight I will listen to one Harry's favorite performances: the previously mentioned *ESCAPE* episode: "An Occurrence At Owl Creek Bridge." And, I will drink a toast to Harry Bartell.

RETURN WITH US NOW...

Rest In Peace My Friend,

Stewart Wright

This article first appeared in The Old-Time Radio Digest (<http://lists.olderadio.net>). It is reprinted here with the author's permission.

From the Desk of
the Editor
by Carol Tiffany



The Mystery is solved! We have received quite a few replies to our request for the identities of the two gentlemen in the "now" picture with Himan Brown that appeared in our April issue of RWUN. The following letter from Dick DeFore provides the most comprehensive information:

"Carol, In reading the article about *Inner Sanctum*, I believe I can identify the gentlemen in the picture with Brown:

On the left is film actor, Ralph Bellamy, who was popular in the 40s-70s, with roles in such films as *Dive Bomber*, *Ghost of Frankenstein*, *Guest in the House*, *His Girl Friday*, *Lady on a Train*, *Rosemary's Baby*, *The Wolf Man*, and *Sunrise at Campobello*, in which he played Franklin D. Roosevelt. He could have easily starred in some radio or TV episodes of '*Sanctum*.'

The fellow on the right, no doubt, is musician Frank DeVol. Frank led a studio orchestra which backed many of the vocalists heard on Capitol Records in the 1940s and 50s. He also was musical director/arranger for Capitol Transcriptions, the radio music library arm of Capitol which leased its service to stations on 16-inch discs in the late 40s/early 50s. Frank also was orchestra director for a number of 40s radio series, including *The Sealtest Variety Theatre* (c.1945-47), *Tommy Riggs and Betty Lou* (summer of 1946), *The Jack Smith Show* (1945-52), and *The Ginny Simms Show* (1945-47).

In the 70s, we all enjoyed another side of the talented DeVol when he turned to comedy acting. I remember him in *Boys' Night Out* (1962), which starred Kim Novak, James Garner, Tony Randall, Howard Duff (of radio's *Sam Spade* fame), Janet Blair, and Patti Page. We also saw him on television in the late 70s. It was on the sequel or spin-off to *ABC's Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman* --- but, since

I'm not a great collector of TV trivia, I can't think of its name. It was a 30-minute comedy talk show in which Frank DeVol led a little music ensemble. I hope this agrees with some of the other responses you might have received.

'Always enjoy RHAC's *Return With Us Now*.
Dick DeFore, New Mexico,

Many thanks also to readers Arlene Osborne, Trisha Miller, Scott Jones, Ken Smith, and Meredith and Bob Loudon for their accurate identification of these "mystery men". It was very nice of all of you to take the time and trouble to help us out.

Good listening to all...



New in the Tape and CD Libraries

by Dick and Maetha King

Spring is here and Memorial Day is just around the corner. At this time we want to remind our members that there is no better time to sit down with your aging family members and record their background, history of why they moved to the area you know, what they did for a living, any notable accomplishments that grandchildren might be interested in, where and how they met their spouse and any other items of history that you would like to pass on to the next generation. You should think about it for a while and make out a list of leading questions for the interview.

This month we are entering another eight shows of the delightful comedy of "Father Knows Best" and then moving on to seven reels of "The Whistler" shows. The Whistler is not all mystery, but some very interesting stories of life. Our members will enjoy these stories of casual mishaps in the lives of the characters in the story. Dunning likens it to "The Mysterious Traveler" and "The Shadow".

We should all be aware that John Dunning's newest book, "The Bookman's Promise" made it to the New York Times' best seller list for at least one week in April. Dunning was one of the founders of RHAC and is the author of "Tune In Yesterday" which is acknowledged as one of the best reference books on OTR.

Rogue's Gallery Quiz

Match the actor on the next page with his OTR detective role.

1. First Lamont Cranston/*Shadow* as active participant rather than narrator.
2. He was *Jeff Regan, Investigator*.
3. Hard-bitten detective Phillip Marlowe.
4. Longest-running (and possibly best-known) Lamont Cranston/*Shadow*.
5. Johnny Madero of *Pier 23*.
6. Singing detective Richard Diamond, bane of Lt. Walt Levinson's life.
7. The man with the action-packed expense account, Johnny Dollar.
8. *Pat Novak, for Hire*.
9. He went for straight acting as *Rocky Fortune*.
10. He found adventure and murder in the world of music as Pete Kelly.
11. He reported many a caper to his secretary as *Sam Spade*, detective.
12. He skirted the edges of the law as Boston Blackie.
13. Detective Sgt. Joe Friday on *Dragnet*.
14. He was Dan Holiday on *Box 13*.
15. He played portly detective Brad Runyon on *The Fat Man*.
16. He was the first to play Michael Waring on *The Falcon*.
17. He played it tongue-in-cheek as Richard Rogue.



A. Bob Bailey



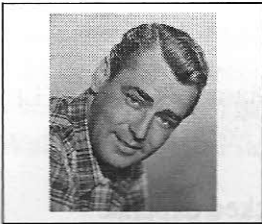
B. Howard Duff



C. Bill Johnstone



D. Berry Kroeger



E. Alan Ladd



F. Gerald Mohr



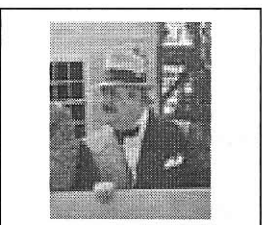
G. Chester Morris



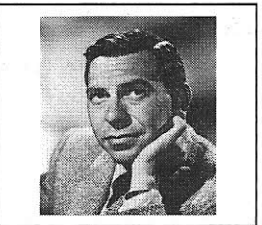
H. Dick Powell



I. Frank Sinatra



J. J. Scott Smart



K. Jack Webb



L. Orson Welles

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

To the mothers of all our members, friends and readers everywhere

From the staff of RWUN and the officers of RHAC

Answers to the Rouges Gallery Quiz

1. L - Orson Welles
2. K - Jack Webb
3. F - Gerald Mohr
4. C - Bill Johnstone
5. K - Jack Webb
6. H - Dick Powell
7. A - Bob Bailey
8. K - Jack Webb
9. I - Frank Sinatra
10. K - Jack Webb
11. B - Howard Duff
12. G - Chester Morris
13. K - Jack Webb
14. E - Alan Ladd
15. J - J. Scott Smart
16. D - Berry Kroeger
17. H - Dick Powell