

JULY 2024 | ISSUE 14

THE RED-EYED RAVEN GAZETTE

The Official Newsletter of the Author Tim Ritter



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Exclusive Article: What Happened to the Twins?

Other News

Presentation Update

WELCOME!



Welcome to the July issue of the Red-Eyed Raven Gazette!

Sarah & Orville is out and available, so if you haven't ordered your copy yet, please send me an email to order a signed copy! The reviews have been good and readers report that they love getting to know Sarah and Orville better. So don't delay; order your copy now!

As always, thanks for your encouraging messages sent when these newsletters are released. Your support is very much appreciated.



[Author Tim Ritter](#)

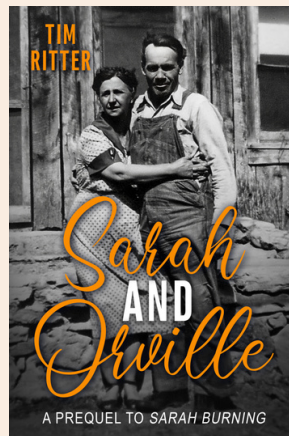


[authortimritter](#)



[@TimothyLRitter](#)

www.timritter.net





WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TWINS?

As noted in ***Sarah and Orville***, the twins, Delmas and Delbert, lived in Springfield with radio host and producer Loyd Evans, and were trying to get their big break in country music. So what happened to them, and did they ever become famous?

To answer the second question first: No, they never got their “big break” and never went beyond local radio.

To address the first question, what happened to them: A rift or argument developed between them, although no one alive knows exactly who or what started it. But I will do my best to share what is known.

Delmas married Mary Moore on February 19, 1960, in Sarah’s hospital room at St. John’s as depicted in ***Sarah Burning***. Delbert then married Dorothy Moody on July 29, 1960. Mary and Dorothy were friends, having worked together at a truck stop café in Springfield.



Mary (left) and Dorothy in the studio at the radio station. They yelled and applauded to sound like a live audience. This photo was taken either late 1959 or early 1960.



*Delmas (left) and Delbert singing in the radio station studio.
This photo is believed to have been taken the same day as the previous photo.*

By January 1961, Delmas and Mary had their first child, Debbie. Less than three months later, Delbert and Dorothy had their only child, Matt. It is known that Mary babysat for Dorothy, so at least in the first part of 1961 the couples were still on pleasant terms with one another.

At some point, something happened. No one knows whether the wives or the brothers had an argument, or if something else caused the rift. I have spoken at length with Matt, but he does not recall ever hearing a reason for the trouble. All that is known is that sometime after early 1961, the twins no longer performed together, and even worse, rarely spoke for many years.

One theory is that Delbert, looking at his young family and the necessity to provide for them, decided he wanted something more secure than the life of a musician. However, to put it delicately, he did not end up being the key breadwinner. Dorothy came from a wealthy family, and she financed a small gas station in Springfield that Delbert owned and operated for many years.

A theory with much more traction is the idea that the twins simply grew apart. Based on a conversation with Delbert shortly before he died in 2007, he longed to be his own person and didn't want to be just a twin anymore.

"It may sound silly, but I did all I could to not be like him," Delbert said during the discussion in August 2006. "I made sure I walked different, dressed different, even combed my hair different."

Delmas no doubt resented Delbert's departure. He was known to be egotistical, and took such splits personally.

Without Delbert, Delmas continued to work with Loyd Evans and pursue his dream of stardom in country music. Discovering the fact that his wife Mary had a beautiful singing voice, he had her join with him as the two embarked on decades of singing together in local music shows and nightclubs and bars.

In a strange twist of fate, both brothers married women who suffered from some form of clinical depression. Mary and Dorothy fought numerous bouts with depression, and unfortunately, Dorothy succumbed to her demons, taking her own life in November of 1975. Delbert remarried 13 months later, and within that timeframe, he and Delmas began to speak more often, though the relationship was tense. It is unknown if they informally sang together during this time.

Delbert and his new family moved to Utah in the late 1970s and remained there for several years, then returned to Missouri sometime in the 1980s. The twins began to visit more often, and during these visits began singing together again. They never attempted to sing for an audience, other than the family members gathered. Youngest brother Neil was almost always present for such gatherings, and held several at his house.



From around 1990, Delmas (left) and Delbert



Neil (left) poses for a quick photo with Delbert (center) and Delmas. From early 1990s.

Mary died suddenly in December 1994, and Delmas remarried in November the next year. The twins continued to visit one another regularly, always getting out their guitars to sing a few of the old tunes they sang together in the 1950s. They also celebrated several of their mutual birthdays together.



Neil (left) hands the twins their birthday cake. From the early 1990s

In the early 2000s, Delbert was diagnosed with cancer, and was discovered to have a tumor on his brain. He endured surgery to remove the tumor, and for a time appeared to be doing well, but then took a turn for the worse. It was clear, to him and to everyone else, that the end was in sight. As he continued to weaken, he asked for another family gathering, so that he and Delmas could play and sing together one last time.

On August 13, 2006, Neil and Delmas brought their wives and others to a small apartment in Nixa, Missouri where Delbert's now ex-wife, Nancy, lived and took care of him. Music flowed around the apartment for two or three hours, although Delbert weakened and grew tired after just an hour or so.



Delmas (left) with Delbert, August 13, 2006.



Neil (right) watches as the twins play, August 13, 2006

At times everyone within the room joined in the singing. Neil sat behind the twins, grinning ear to ear as he watched his brothers enjoy their gift of music one last time.

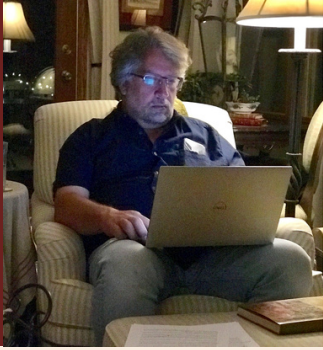
Delbert slipped away into a coma a few weeks later, and died peacefully on January 8, 2007, in his bed at the apartment in Nixa.

By the time of the gathering in August, Delmas was showing signs of dementia, which worsened dramatically after Delbert's death. He eventually moved into safer conditions within a senior living facility. He slipped away and died peacefully September 15, 2023, at Mercy Hospital in Springfield. This was the same hospital that cared for Sarah, Orville, Neil, and Virginia in 1959, and though the appearance of the facility changed dramatically over the years, he passed on the same floor.

Several minutes of video footage of them singing together in the 1990s exists. Additionally, it is known that in either late 1959 or early 1960, the twins went into a cheap recording studio and created an actual vinyl disc, which must be played at the 78 rpm setting. It is believed just two copies were made, however only one is known to exist within the family archives.

It's a shame so many years were lost over whatever rift existed between them, but they appear to have made up for it in the long run.





OTHER NEWS

ANOTHER STORY COMING TO SPOOKY PODCAST

As mentioned in a previous issue of the Gazette, I've been gradually working on a collection of spooky and macabre stories for a future book. I'm hoping to present this collection as a tribute to my literary hero, Edgar Allan Poe, as well as a writer inspired by Poe, Ambrose Bierce.

Two of my scary stories have been brought to life by audio artist J. Paul McSorley on his podcast ***Chilling Tales for Dark Nights***. My story "The KP Murderer" aired on February 24 of this year, while "Mind the Leg, Madeline" aired on April 3.

Now my favorite tale so far, entitled simply "Marked", will air on August 21 on the program's Youtube Page [here](#).

I'm absolutely thrilled to have another story read on this great program.



MORE EXCITING NEWS COMING!

PRESENTATION UPDATE

If anyone you know belongs to a group needing speakers, please give them my contact info!



Every month in this section I highlight one of my current presentations. I'm really excited about this newest one:

The Charge of the Light Brigade

In 1854, English poet Alfred Lord Tennyson penned a narrative about a cavalry charge that occurred during the Battle of Balaclava just weeks earlier. This was during the Crimean War between Russian troops and an alliance of several countries including England. Based on the newspaper reports, Tennyson wrote a sweeping tale of the heroics during the doomed charge of a cavalry unit known as the Light Brigade.

The Charge of the Light Brigade became an instant classic, and schoolchildren into the 1950s had to learn to recite it from memory. But what really happened to the fabled charge? Was it really a blunder to send the men forward? Did so many heroics occur?

This lively talk, complete with maps of troop movements, examines the fact and fiction surrounding the action that day.

SCHEDULE OF APPEARANCES

August 17, 2024 - Time TBD

**Douglas County Museum Open House
Ava, Missouri**

Presentation: *Researching for "Sarah and Orville"*

September 10, 2024 - 7:00p.m.

Monroe Coffee Co.

71 S. Main Street, Fair Grove, MO

Presentation: *The Coffeyville Bank Robbery*

October 5, 2024 - 9:00a.m.

Discover The Ozarks Festival

Ava, MO

Ava History Tour - Host

October 15, 2024 - 7:00p.m.

Monroe Coffee Co.

71 S. Main Street, Fair Grove, MO

Presentation: *The New Madrid Earthquakes*

August 19, 2024 - 10:00a.m.

Daughters of Union Veterans Meeting

Trinity Lutheran Church, Springfield, MO

Presentation: *Baldknobbers: Terror in the Hills*

November 16, 2024 - 10:00a.m.

Republic Library, Republic, Missouri

Presentation: *The Coffeyville Bank Robbery*

My regular speaking engagements, twice each month, continue at the three Elfindale senior living facilities in Springfield. Also, I present monthly at The Preston Senior Living Facility, as well as Elfindale Manor.