

Attempting to describe Geoffrey Barnes is like trying to catch lightning in a bottle. It's hard to know where to even begin. A child prodigy in multiple disciplines, young Master Barnes was publishing his own poetry by the age of 8. He'd become an expert on both the pistol range and the skeet range by the age of 10. Many felt he might very well become the youngest member of the U.S. Olympic Pentathlon team by the time he was 16. By the age of 14, young Barnes had already amassed an impressive collection of the early works of contemporary American artists of the day--all with a distinctly macabre uniting theme.

But it was during his adolescent years that Geoffrey Barnes took an avid interest in Crime--all forms of crime. He devoured crime novels at the rate of four to five a week. He acquired subscriptions to every available crime magazine. Indeed, by the age of 13, Geoffrey Barnes was submitting his own crime stories to many of the popular crime pulps of the day. He was first published in 1925 at the age of 15. In the ten years that followed, Geoffrey Barnes was publishing as many as twenty to thirty crime stories a year under a dizzying array of pseudonyms.

He spent the proceeds from his published stories and poetry to fund his own extensive crime laboratory. But this was a crime laboratory worthy of any forensic lab in the U.S. for its time. Indeed, *FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover* visited with Barnes whenever he was in New York to assess Barnes' latest additions to his laboratory.

A noted Voice Coach, Geoffrey Barnes is reputed to have coached many of Radio's most successful crime genre voices. At Barnes' request the names of these performers have remained a secret for over 50 years.

Also notable--but not the least surprising-- Barnes frequently consulted with Senate members, Congressmen, and as many as six Presidents before Barnes' passing in 1997. Indeed, Barnes was reportedly penning the last chapters of a tell-all memoir the night before he passed (of surprisingly natural causes).

One of the most gifted criminologists of the 20th Century, Barnes' reputation seems to have drifted into anonymity of late, but for tens of thousands of Golden Age Radio crime genre fans, Geoffrey Barnes remains one of the great Radio crime annotators of history.

Geoffrey Barnes bio courtesy of [Digitaldelitwo.com](http://Digitaldelitwo.com)

For the Old Time Radio Researchers, I'm \_\_\_\_\_, your announcer.