

## WHAT A GULLI-BULL "the young giant's naive astonishment" [MISS]

*You'll recall in last our last Baker Street Elementary strip, we discussed the connection between H.G. Wells and Sherlock Holmes, made through Manly Wade Wellman's work **Sherlock Holmes's the War of the Worlds**.*

*The original **The War of the Worlds** was developed into a radio drama in 1938 by The Mercury Theater on the Air (more on that shortly) famously directed and narrated by Orson Welles (no relation to H.G.) on October 30, 1938.*

*The production was so convincingly done*

*some listeners mistook it for a program of real news bulletins and some broadcasters called for better regulation of the new-ish audio medium.*

*The Mercury Theater on the Air was created by Orson Welles and first aired on July 11, 1938 on CBS Radio.*

*Welles' idea was to adapt classic literary works to an hour-long radio drama and use his Mercury Theater repertory company (established in 1937).*

## WHAT A GULLI-BULL "the young giant's naive astonishment" [MISS] (continued)

*The first episode was Dracula, followed by Treasure Island.*

*Interestingly, both Bram Stoker and Robert Louis Stevenson were contemporaries and associates of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.*

*But just one month prior to the now-infamous **The War of the Worlds** episode - on September 25, 1938 -the Mercury Theater performed an adaptation of William Gillette's play Sherlock Holmes.*

*Welles took the title role, with Ray Collins as Dr. Watson (Collins later went on to*

*portray Lt. Traggin Perry Mason on television.*

*Interested followers can listen to the episode on YouTube.*

*One other connection of interest: Orson Welles later went on to play Professor Moriarty in the John Gielgud / Ralph Richardson radio adaptations **The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** from 1955.*

*And now off to see how many we can fool at Baker Street Elementary...*

**GOOD DAY BERTIE... I  
ENJOYED YOUR IDEA LAST  
WEEK OF TIME TRAVELING**



**THANKS... I HAD ANOTHER  
INTERESTING DREAM LAST  
NIGHT THAT COULD ALSO  
TURN INTO A GREAT YARN.**



I DREAMED CREATURES  
FROM ANOTHER WORLD, SAY  
MARS, CAME TO EARTH IN  
SOME SORT OF SHIP...



**DID THEY LOOK LIKE US?**

**NO, THEY WERE  
MONSTROUS LOOKING...  
SIMPLY HIDEOUS...**



**I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK  
THE PUBLIC WOULD BELIEVE  
THIS TYPE OF FICTION...**



**OH, I DON'T KNOW... YOU GET THE RIGHT AUDIENCE, WITH THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONVINC THEM IT WAS ACTUALLY OCCURRING... PEOPLE CAN BE VERY GULLIBLE...**

