

# Randall Garrett Gazette

Volume IVX

Price: Priceless

January 2009

## *Happy New Year!*

*(Or, as said by some, 1.01.09, 12.01 am,  
"Happfy Neug Yur!!")*

*(sung softly)*

*"I've made a small fortune and you squandered it all  
You shamed me till I feel about one inch tall  
But I thought I loved you and I hoped you would change  
So I gritted my teeth and didn't complain*

*Now you come to me with a simple goodbye  
You tell me you're leaving but you won't tell me why  
Now we're here at the station and you're getting on  
And all I can think of.....*

*(crescendo)*

***Thank God and Greyhound you're gone!***

***Thank God and Greyhound you're gone!***

*I didn't know how much longer I could go on.*

*.....Roy Clark*

***2008? Get it out of here!  
Good riddance.***

### **My New Year's Resolutions.....Let's see.....**

- 1. I'm going to lose 25 pounds (if I accomplished this one every year, I would weigh a little less than zero).**
- 2. I'm going to make more money ("some" money might be more realistic after 2008).**
- 3. I'm not going to drink any more wine (and I'm not going to drink any less wine either).**

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4. I'm going to be a better husband (perfection is hard to improve on though, right Honey? Honey?).
5. I am going to grow my Faith (frankly, I think God sick of me waking Him up in the middle of the night).
6. I am going to be a better neighbor (I'll try not to write obscenities with "Roundup" his beautiful green lawn. I'm going to really try).
7. I am going to quit walking like Fred Sanford (new right knee, this month).
8. I'm going to sell all of these damn houses (one way or another)!!!!
9. I am going to learn to speak fluent Spanish (right Honey? Oh now she's listening).

And.....

10. I am going to give the President-Elect, Barry the closet Muslim (nothing wrong with Muslims, just don't lie to me about it), Mr. Potato Head, a fair chance to be my leader (yea, and monkeys will fly out of my butt).

## ***NEW HOME PAGE***

***Of interest ....***

### ***Thinking About Buying a New House.....***

***The freaking Fed discount rate is at freaking "free"!!! Home prices are at "cost"!!! This is the freaking sign from God you have been waiting for! Are you mental?! If you don't buy one tomorrow, your children should call for the wagon full of white-coated men!!!*** (By the way, I know it's a sign because I woke God up again, and He said it was ok, so just go ahead and buy a house. It came straight from the top.). Boy, if you don't buy a house in this market we'll all know that your **Mother did a number on you!**

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**True story.** In the early 90's, during my "Colonial/Williamsburg" style phase, I built a spec house in Southwest Arlington. It was a cut little "Williamsburg" special with a red-blend brick house with white mortar, white windows, black shutters and a black front door. This little house just looked like "home". I had even created a 2-story master closet with a built-in ladder to get up there. It was genius (why haven't I done that lately - that was a good idea). I had hung an American Flag on the front wall, so it would look like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July year round. It was a "doll-baby".

One day, my realtor called my and said he was writing a contract on it, but the people were very religious and wanted to pray on it that night. He said they had agreed to everything, but they were taking the contract to church with them that night to pray. Of course, being a Christian, I could understand that, so he told me to not sell it until I hear from him. Sure enough, the next day, the realtor comes by my office with a signed contract in hand. There were a few contingencies, but they were easily remedied, and we were to close in about 60 days. Fifty-eight days go by, and the realtor calls me, hotter than a \$3 pistol, saying the people no longer think that The Lord wants them to have that house. The hell you say (sorry, bad choice of words given the context)!

**Now, at this point, they have a problem.** Their problem is that all of the contingencies have been removed from the contract and/or cured; therefore not closing at that point would result in a "default" on the contract. In the case of default, the realtor was due his commission and I was due damages because I had taken the house off of the market for 60 days. As I mentioned the realtor was muy hissed off, so in preparation of his next call to his attorney, he asked me what monetary damages I had incurred by not having the house on the market for the last 60 days. I estimated the interest, taxes, maintenance, utilities, etc., to be about \$10,000. He agreed, and added that the commission due him was about \$10,000. He called the couple and told them they *could* walk away from the contract, but because all of the contingencies had been removed, resulting in a default of the contract, so they needed to write a check for \$20,000 or face a lawsuit which would cost them at least \$20,000 plus attorney's fees.

The husband said he was certain that the Lord no longer wanted them to have that house, but that they would pray about again that night and give their answer in the morning, which was to be the day of closing. The realtor, nor I, ever heard a word from the couple, but they were at the title company the next morning, waiting in the parking lot before they had opened, ready to sign the papers. I guess The Lord does work in mysterious ways, and ***so does writing a \$20,000 check!!!!***

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## Market News...

### **BUSINESS AND OFFICE PAGE**

*Of interest....*

### **Randall Garrett Homes, Inc, - For Sale**

**Let me say that I have possible builder financing options on my entire inventory of homes for sale, so if you think obtaining a mortgage might be an arduous task, think again. Call me! Let's give it a shot.**

#### **Keller, Bourland Oaks Community (www.bourlandoaks.com):**

816 Gentle Wind - 4 Beds, 4.5 Baths, Study, Game, Media, 3 car (4,189 sf)

**Cool Feature** - "Pottery Barn" Styling **\$579,000**

***New Price***

812 Gentle Wind - 5 Beds, 4.5 Baths, Study, Game, Media, 3 car (4,487 sf)

**Cool Feature** - wheel chair access to 2<sup>nd</sup> bedroom **\$599,000**

***New Price***

416 Settlers Ridge - 4 Beds, 4.5 Baths, Study, Game, Media, 3 car (4,142 sf)

**Cool Feature** - 2 outdoor living areas **\$559,000**

***New Price***

400 Settlers Ridge - 4 Beds, 4.5 Baths, Study, Game, Media, 3 car (4,596 sf)

**Cool Feature** - Pond view/best price per sf in B Oaks **\$550,000**

***New Price***

#### **Arlington, Lago Vista - Gated Community with common pool & cabana (randallgarrethomes.com):**

4802 Spicewood - 3 Beds, 2.5 Baths, Study, 2 car (2,515 sf)

**Cool Feature** - "Pottery Barn" Styling **\$289,000**

***New Price***

4810 Spicewood - 3 Beds, 2 Baths, Study, 3 car (2,566 sf)

**Cool Feature** - only 3-car available **\$299,000**

***New Price***

***My bank said they could finance this home for 4.5% with 20% down***

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## Hurst, Glade Pointe Court (randallgarretthomes.com):

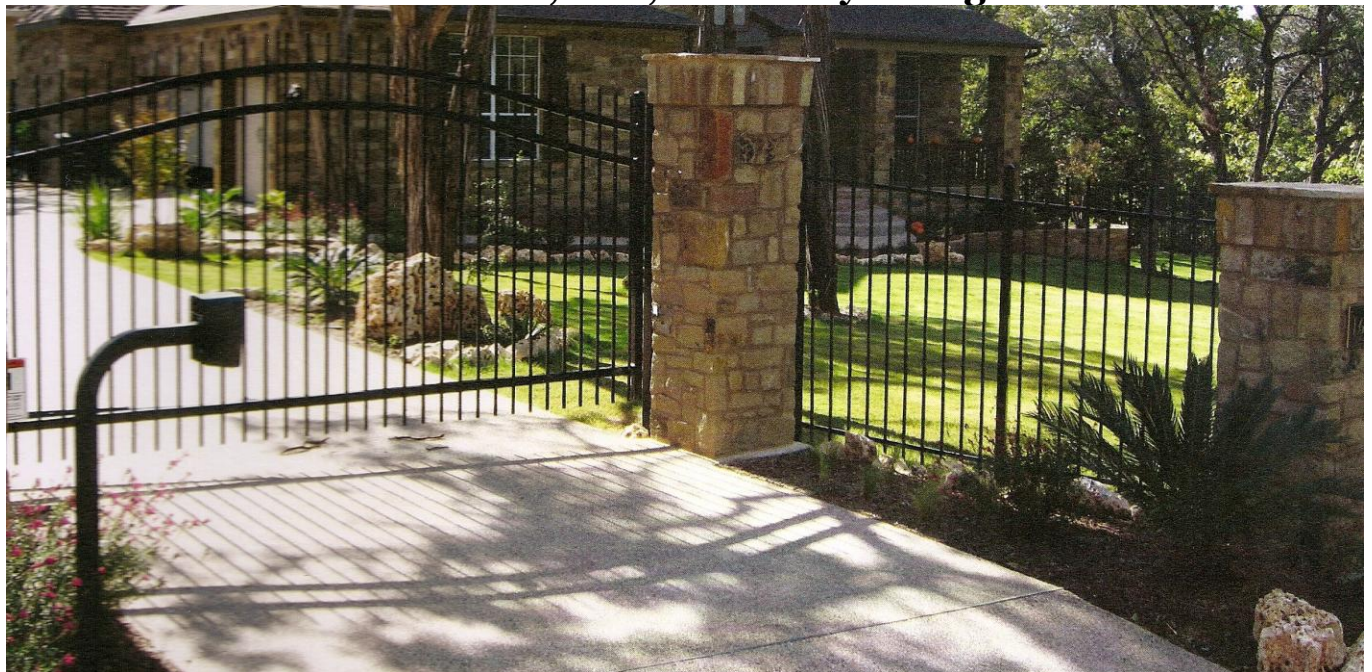
3209 Glade Pointe Ct. - 3 Beds, 2.5 Baths, Study, Game, Loft, Upper Balcony, exercise room 2 car (3,569 sf)

**Cool Feature** - It's like living in a mountain chalet with a Low maintenance, wooded lot that backs up to a creek. It's like a bird sanctuary. Mallard ducks cup their wings and land in your back yard during the winter. **\$479,000**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Classified Section...

If you need to fence something out or fence something in, Sundance Metal Fabricators, LLC, is where you begin.... I do!



***"I have bought a lot of iron fences and gates in my career, but I have never seen a product of this quality. I went to the factory, in Austin, to personally see the product and the process. Sundance uses galvanized steel with a powder coated finish. You know what else is powder coated - Automobile engines! It will last!!".....Randall Garrett***

**Galvanized Steel**

**Powder Coated Finish**

**Gazette Approved**

**Sundance Metal Fabricators \* [www.sundancemetal.com](http://www.sundancemetal.com) \* DFW 817.516.7000**

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**Restaurant Furnishings for Sale!!** The lovely and talented Ana Garrett closed down her restaurant in Frisco, so we have an abundance of **real marble and granite tables with iron chairs**. Purchased wholesale for \$1200 originally (you can't tear up granite and iron).....per set (1 table, 4 chairs).....**\$250.00**

**Original Oil Paintings** by Venezuelan artist, *Hugo Camacaro*.....**\$250.00**

*I have actually sold three of these! They ARE original oils and very artsy-fartsy cool.*

**For Information on the above Call me 817.475.4644.**

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***In My Opinion*** (that, and \$5 will get you \$0.50 worth of coffee at Starbucks).....By Randall Garrett

**September 11, 2001: *I still remember. I won't forget!***

**Barry "Mr. Potato Head" Update:** Hmmmm? So, you say Barry never talked to Rod Blagojevich, the Governoris Corruptoris of Illinois, about who might assume Barry's very "own" Senate seat? Isn't it strange that Barry's chief advisor, David Axelrod, said he did. Man, it has already started. That is what they call the "the Chicago Way". You, know the land of Capone.

**Blair House:** The Blair House is a second house behind The White House where dignitaries usually stay when visiting the Soviet Socialist Republic of DC. Mr. Potato Head and Michelle had asked to move into it before the Inauguration so their daughters could start to school on time. **The Bush Administration said sorry, no room at the inn. It's booked up with Republican events till January 15<sup>th</sup>!! Too bad, so sad.**

**Less Than Full Disclosure:** Mr. Potato Head confessed he has fallen off the wagon a time or two, as a SMOKER. I never heard that during the campaign. Did you? Can you imagine, Barry standing out on the back porch of the White House this winter, with a fresh pack of Kool's (opened from the bottom, of course), freezing his Hillary off, with Putin or some Chicom on hold until he can get his smoke fix he has been "jonesing" for. *He's gonna catch cancer!!!*

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**Bowl Championship Series (BCS):** *This just in....* due to the supreme effectiveness of the BCS in determining the National Champion of college football, leaders have decided to use it in determining other major events. **Consequently, the BCS has declared Germany as the winner of World War II!** Even though it suffered two major losses to the United States and Russia, the BCS determined that in conference play, Germany had the tougher schedule by defeating a higher quality and quantity of opponents in Italy, France, and England, on the road, while defeating unranked Poland, Belgium, The Netherlands, Austria, and Checkslovakia , close to home. (Borrowed from Bob Sturm on 1310 AM, The Ticket.)

**Barney Frank:** The way his mouth looks, he is always eating those atomic sour lemons, or he was one of the mouths in the “Clutch Cargo” cartoons when I was a kid? No seriously, you people from Massachusetts reeeaaalllly elected this guy? Mr. “My Boy Lollipop”?

## Randall Garrett Gazette - Final Top 10 College Football Teams – 2008,

- 1 Oklahoma Pom Squad** – (last issue #1). **NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!!!**
- 1 Texas - National Champion** – (last issue #1A). I do not care who won the alleged the BCS, alleged “championship”, because Colt McCoy would have figured out how to beat that Florida team. OU was flat that game and should have been up 21 to 3 at one point except for 2 fluke interceptions. Sorry, BCS, you are wrong!!
- 2 Florida** – (last issue #2). Ok, they beat OU but they did not put on a dominating performance. In the first half, I thought OU was clearly the better team. Fluke interceptions were essentially the difference. Heisman Bradford was a couple of clicks off that night, and they still could have beat them.
- 3 Oklahoma** – (last issue #1B). They are better than they played in the alleged National Championship game, but they did expose their vulnerability against a strong pass rush from Florida.
- 4 USC** – (last issue #5). The best team in a weak conference. They’re future is so bright they gotta wear shades.
- 5 Utah** – (last issue #5). Well..... Anybody get the name of that truck that ran over Alabama?
- 6 Ohio State** – (last issue #7). The second coming.....of Vince Young has arrived in Columbus, Ohio. Get ready for Terrell Pryor.
- 7 Oregon** – (last issue UR). Gees, those uniforms are hideous! They sure made Oklahoma State look like chumps. I think they are better than their record shows

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and I believe they could handle the remaining 3 in the RGG top ten.

8 **TCU** - (last issue #UR). They have a pretty impressive defense (ask Utah) and their quarterback is fairly average, but he is getting it done.

9 **Boise State** – You know, they keep showing up and beating good teams. If I was a BCS team, I would be scared to death of this team. You know for about 2 years, I thought there was something wrong with my reception looking at that blue field.

10 **Alabama** – (last issue #4). See number 5 above.

## Also Ran's:

12 **Texas Tech** – (last issue #6). I believe some sports genius declared the Red Raiders to be over-rated. I wonder who that person, who writes for a rogue Gazette was? Guns up? Not so much.

13 **Penn State** – (last issue #5). Unfortunately for them, I think Coach Joe Pa may live to be 100.

15 **Oklahoma State** – (last issue #9). I wonder if that hurt falling from so high up. T. Boone just can't buy good hedge fund or a big win these days.

\*\*\*\*\*

## *FUN PAGE*

### *Of interest....*

## Wine Tip of the Month....

I don't think we have been to France yet on the **Randall Garrett Gazette** wine tour, so off we go. This month's selection is from the **Beaujolais region of France**, and oddly enough it is called "**Beaujolais Village**" (pronounced: Bo-zju-lay Vil-ahjz) from the vineyard of **Louis Jadot** (pronounced: Lu-i Zja-doh). I know how to pronounce the names because I took 2 years of French in high school, mainly because I knew I would never need to know Spanish and because Mrs. Mars (pronounced: Marz), the French teacher was hot, and she drove a 1969 Buick Wildcat....reeeooooow! Lest I digress. Anyway, the wine is a **red wine of the Gamay varietal**, and the current release is 2007.

I first partook of this wine in the 80's, I think it was the 1985 vintage that I drank around the Christmas of 1988 at my father-in-law's (Big Daddy) house during the holidays that year. He had discovered it at his favorite spirit store in Houston, so we drank several bottles over the week or so we spent down there that year. Honestly, I remember that year as being the best vintage of that wine I have ever had.

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Louis Jadot was founded in 1859 by Louis Henry Denis Jadot and has always kept its headquarters in the heart of the vineyards. They make several other varietals of wine from very expensive to this level which is around \$12.00 at Costco. The Beaujolais Village 2007 is described as ***“This brilliant garnet wine is bright and fresh, with ripe supple crushed strawberry flavors underscored by zesty nuances of peppercorns, gentle tannins and a clean acidity, finishing on a clean succulent refreshing note.”*** I find the wine very light with no heavy flavors overpowering the blended, pleasant touch down on your palette. In other words, to me, and the LAT Ana Garrett, it is a very pleasing, sit and watch a movie, wine at a price friendly enough that you can enjoy the movie without having to pay attention to the wine, all the while your brain is telling you this is a nice and tidy, swill. I give it 2 clicks shy of a total Yummy, but anything within 5 clicks is good. For the price you will like it. Try it! France is an okay country for wine.

## Humor of the Month

Evelyn and Berle live in a small town in Texas and they love to fish, so Evelyn decided to buy Berle a new “Ugly Stick Clear Tip” worming rod and an Abu Garcia “Abumatic” reel for this birthday. In this Walmart or Home Depot free town they shop for goods like that at a hardware/sporting goods store that is run by a man named B. E. Edson, and has been for the last 25 years. On this particular morning when Evelyn went down to the hardware/sporting goods store, B. E., who normally works the cash register was out for coffee, so his brother Arvin, who is visually impaired, was working it. Evelyn was really disappointed B. E. was not there to help her pick out good ones, but she was running out of time and asked Arvin to help. Arvin said he would be glad to help and he knew the fishing equipment really well. He told her to walk over the fishing department which was nearby the cash register and just shake the rod and spin the reel and he could tell what it was and how much it was by the sound.

She was skeptical, but once again, she was running low on time. Walking over to the rod stand, she picked up the Ugly Stick Clear Tip rod, and asked Arvin to listen as she shook the rod. Arvin listened for a few seconds and said, “oh, yea. Evelyn that is the Ugly Stick Clear Tip and it runs \$40.00”. That was in her budget, so that one was a keeper. Now, she took the reel out of the box and spun it a little. Arvin said, “Man, Berle is going to love that Abu Garcia Abumatic reel. Those are one of our best sellers and they run \$60.00.” Evelyn was planning on spending about \$100, so she was well within her budget, so she was happy. As Evelyn was putting the reel back in the box, she accidentally let the rod slide down the shelf which fell to the floor. She bent over to pick it up and one of life’s happenstances occurred. I’m sure we all remember a time

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when we bent over, which contracts the muscles in the posterior, and an odiferous gas is released into the atmosphere. That is what happened to Evelyn. She pops up to see if anyone if anyone heard. Not seeing anyone, she sheepishly walks up to the register to check out with Arvin. Arvin is calculating her purchases in his head, and says. "Evelyn, that'll be \$105.00, plus tax." Evelyn says, "I thought it totaled \$100.00, plus tax?" Arvin explains, "Well, you have the Ugly Stick Clear Tip rod which is \$40.00. You have the \$60.00 Abu Garcia Abumatic reel. **And we charge \$5.00 for the "stink bait"**."

\*\*\*\*\*

## Parting Thought ....

### Are there more debits or credits on your "Favor Ledger"?

We had some friends stay with us during the holidays. Actually, they are more friends of the lovely and talented (LAT), Ana Garrett, and I got them in the matrimonial package. Alma and Armando, with their 8 year old daughter, Sandra, stayed with us for what was supposed to be two or three days right before Christmas. This is in conjunction with the LAT Ana Garrett's other friend Nana, that helps her/us with the house and keeping up with Ana's son, E J. Unlike most home builders, our home is not a McMansion, it is only a three bedroom with a study. If you do the math, that puts 7 people staying in a 3 bedroom house. Just to let you know, that number is down from the 14 Venezuelans (the spell check just freaked out), that came and stayed for a month or so, for our wedding (Three people in the house spoke English and, I was one of the triad). Never the less, Alma, Armando, and Sandra, came to stay with us for a few days until they closed on their new home.

They had purchased their new home a couple of months prior with quick approval from a mortgage lender, all the while they had leased their current home leaving themselves 60 days for closing and to get out of their house. Even with quick approval and great credit scores, in today's mortgage climate, the process resulted to be equal to that of trying to gain access to the "gold vault" in Fort Knox. Needless to say, the process drug on for weeks, and consequently 60 days had passed to where Alma and Armando had to move out of their house because they had given their tenant, a single mother with two kids, their *word* that they could move in on a certain date. More and more, I am finding, in the Latino culture, that one's "word" is, in fact their "bond". I don't always find that in my culture.

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Knowing that Alma and Armando had helped the LAT Ana Garrett so many times in the past, I welcomed the suggestion to help them out for a few days. Armando was Ana's restaurant manager and when the restaurant was sinking like the Titanic, he would work for less to no pay, just to help her. Bearing in mind, they are blessed with any jumbo CD's, but they are hard workers, and I hope some day they will be blessed with some jumbos. One other thing they offered to do, but never had to, was to sell their house to help with E J's therapy and treatments. Early in his life, he was mis-diagnosed as autistic. He had delays that did not necessarily fit any particular affliction, so they essentially threw a dart on the board and hit autism (We have since found out that was a mis-diagnosis, big time. That kid, with treatment from a special neurologist in Mexico, is quickly catching up to with the other kids, and is scary smart). Anyway, Alma and Armando were willing to sell their house and use the equity to help with those expenses. So, do you think the big privacy freak, gringo could share his house for what ended up being almost a month for some friends? ***You damn betcha!***

My point of all of this is, we can learn a lot about what really matters in life from the Latino culture. **Sidebar – I'm really not totally sure if the Latino culture, as a whole, is that way, or is it that my wife attracts those types of people with such great hearts. I tend to think it is culture-wide, based on hearing of so many instances, similar in nature.** You know it is often said, that it is more blessed to give than to receive. I honestly felt that way, helping Alma, Armando, and Sandra with some place they could count on staying as long as they needed to. It was actually very enjoyable. They ended up staying through Christmas and New Years, so we had larger celebrations than in the past. As a parent with older children, your kids tend to want to scram to meet their friends after the geezers get a little boring, so have friends to celebrate with was fun. I had Armando to watch the plethora of football games with, and I could blame it on him ("*Honey, he really wants to watch this game and he is our guest, you know*".) when the LAT Ana Garrett asked why I was watching *another football game!* Also, Alma and the LAT Ana Garrett got into long conversations which resulted in me being able to watch many football games, unmolested.

I guess, for sharing my home and sacrificing my privacy (or is privacy the same as arrogance) I felt like I was contributing to putting back credits on Ana's "favor ledger". That is kinda how I think. I feel like if you do something nice for me, I owe you. But the Latino culture doesn't work like that. They don't keep a "favor ledger". They help people because it is the right thing to do. They love to help each other. You know a few years back, my sister got burglarized, and they took everything. They even took my nephew's allergy medicine. Being the great big brother I am I "loaned" my sister \$1000. What a great guy! My sister, a single mom teacher with two kids, had not one thing left,

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and I'm now her banker. A Latino would have *given* her \$5,000 and felt bad for not having more to give. Lisa, I'm sorry I ***loaned*** you that money. I now, meant to say, I ***gave*** you that money and I wish I would have given you more. How many of you fellow Gringos have paid your kid, your brother, your niece, or a friend to help you? I would be willing to bet all of you have at one time or another. One of my serious New Years Resolutions is to be more conscious of helping other people, because ***it is the right thing to do and they don't have to pay me back.***

**I don't think there is an ATM just outside the "Pearly Gates" so you can tell St. Peter your account balance and buy your way in, but I do think there is a R W Garrett history book, and it better have more good stuff in it than not so good stuff in order to get the "Pearly Gate Password".**

***How is your favor ledger even though you don't keep one?***

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