



Valley Byliners Newsletter

Harlingen, TX

March 10, 2010

The next meeting of Valley Byliners will be held on Saturday, March 13 at 1:30 PM at the Harlingen Public Library.

From Janet Wilder:

Don has suggested that I put something in the newsletter about the monthly writing contest, so here goes, modify it as you see fit, or put something in it about your idea for a new contest in the near future aimed at creating a conclusion for your dream:

A few weeks ago, I had a wild dream. I related it to my husband and he wanted to know how the story ended, but I awoke before the conclusion. Here's the challenge: finish the dream.

Barry and I are driving in a big, white one-ton pickup truck. We stop at a gas station located in the vee of a fork in the road for fuel. We know we are headed up the right side of the fork after we fuel the truck.

The three men working at the gas station refuse to pump the fuel. From their appearance, they are of Mexican extraction. They laugh at us and my impression is that they are toying with us, but Barry loses his patience, guns the engine and starts to drive off. The men try to block the truck from leaving and one of them falls to the ground, uninjured, but angry. As we drive off I look back and they are angrily shaking their fists in the air.

We drive up the road to the right. It is a dirt road and has a very steep incline. We reach the top of the hill in about 5 minutes, so it isn't very far from the gas station.

Next scene: We have parked the truck in a parking lot of an auto dealer. Barry is out of the truck walking in the parking lot when out of the blue a small, faded red* and very old pickup truck races up to him. Several of the men who were at the gas station jump out and grab him and start to force him into the pickup truck. I jump out to try to rescue him. They get him anyway and drive away towards the road we came up on.

I return to our truck to get my cell phone to call the police. I have left my purse in our truck. When I get there, our truck is gone. I assume the same kidnappers are also the truck bandits.

Next scene: I am in the auto dealership. There is a high counter and a couple of stools. I am thinking that this might be a service desk. There is a tall, beefy man standing there talking to some employees. I ask him if I may use his phone. He says I can, but continues to talk to his employees and doesn't give me the phone behind the counter. My chest is sore with apprehension. I reach over the counter and grab the phone and start to dial 911 but realize that there has to be an outside line engaged. I try dialing 9 first and it works.

I speak to the police and tell them that my husband has been kidnaped by Mexicans in a red truck. I am insisting that they have to move quickly in order to intercept the kidnappers. I tell them that my husband has several medical conditions. I beg them to send a helicopter. I wake up.

Your turn.

*yes, I dream in color

From Jack King:

At the March 13 meeting we will vote to select a new winner for the monthly writing contest. The prize is \$10 per month, so \$30 will be awarded to the winner because there was no winner in January or February. We now have three submissions and will wrap up the voting on Saturday. Some members have submitted votes by email and more may come in before Saturday, and of course those at the meeting who haven't voted will do so then, and a new contest will begin. Frankly I'm somewhat disappointed that only one very short piece per month is all that is being submitted by an entire membership of more than thirty writers.

Contest rules: Submissions must be anonymous and no more than 1500 words. You may submit a poem, short story, reminiscence, essay, exposition, rant, or anything else composed of intelligible words or phrases. The rules could hardly be less stringent, and your writing is judged by your fellow members, not by an editorial board or professional critic. Your name won't be released unless you win, so you'll never be put on the spot. If you've never written before and want to get your feet wet, this is the place to wade in. Bring at least ten copies of your piece to the meeting, plop them on the front table so that each attendee can pick up a copy, and make it a habit. Practice will make you a better writer. I'd also like to suggest that all submissions be emailed to the current membership rather than printing them and bringing them to meetings. Voting would also be by email. Let's discuss this at the next meeting.

Write we must.



Here is something Don sent:

<http://www.glimmertrainpress.com/writer/html/index2.asp>



More From our President

The February Creative Writing Workshop featuring Shoney Flores and how to write a short story was a big success. The exercises he presented to the participants were fun. It seemed everyone had a good time – in spite of the apparent inability to warm the room. A special thanks go to Jack King, Mariana Nelson, Jeff Harris, Nelly Venselaar, Judy Stevens, Janet Wilder and the Java Coffee Shop for making the event go well..

A warm welcome to new members Peter Gray and Grace Guido. We hope your writing skills will only get better.

Our book, COLLECTED TALES FROM THE RIO GRANDE is at iUniverse. We await the galley proofs. The membership majority voted for Jack King's cover design.

Roger Paulding of the Houston Writers Guild wrote saying he would like to see story contest entries from the Valley. Much information is detailed in the Guild's newsletter, The Scribbler, which I try to send to everyone each month. For more info, visit their web site at www.houstonwritersguild.org. or Roger direct at rpaulding@sbcglobal.net

Remember, keyboards that gather dust have no world impact.

Byliner dues for calendar year 2010 are past due. Those who have not brought their membership up to date by the end of this month will be dropped from the membership rolls. If you are unable to attend the March meeting, you can mail your dues (\$20) either to Valley Byliners c/o Jeff Harris, 15859 Perkins Rd, Harlingen, TX 78552 or Don Clifford, 2101 E. Bowie, Harlingen, TX 78550.

March Speaker

Our speaker for the March meeting will be George Gause, Jr. Here is his resume:

GEORGE R. GAUSE, Jr

University of Texas-Pan American Library
1201 West University Drive
Edinburg, Texas 78541-2999
(956) 381-2799
FAX: (956) 318-5396
GGause@utpa.edu

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

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| August 1973 | George Peabody College, Nashville, TN
M.L.S. Emphasis on Academic Librarianship. |
| May 1969 | Park College, Parkville, MO
B.S. in History and Germanic Languages. |
| 1974-1976 | The University of Texas at Brownsville, Brownsville, TX
Three graduate History courses (9 hours). |
| November 1977 | Cuernavaca Language School, Cuernavaca, Mexico
Four-week intensive Spanish course. |

WORK EXPERIENCE

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| September 1977- | Special Collections Librarian since 1980.
The University of Texas-Pan American.
Prior to being Special Collections Librarian responsible for Circulation,
InterLibrary Loan, Microforms and Periodicals. |
| September 1973-
August 1977 | Library Coordinator.
Pan American University - Brownsville Center
(Note: Now called The University of Texas at Brownsville) |

NATIONAL AND STATE MEMBERSHIPS

American Library Association, 1973-
 Former member, ALA Genealogy Committee (and former chair)
 Former member, ALA Local History Committee
Texas Library Association, Life member, 1975-
 Texas-Mexico Relations Committee Co-Chair, 1998-2003
Society for Southwest Archivists
Texas Oral History Association (former president)
Texas State Historical Association

LOCAL REGIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Brownsville Historical Association
McAllen International Museum of Art and Science
Mission Historical Association
Museum of South Texas History
Museums of Port Isabel
Starr County Historical Society

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of Texas - Pan American University Press Committee
Pan American University Library Tenure Committee, 1986, 1989

COMMUNITY SERVICE

CineSol Latino Film Festival Board of Directors, 1994-2004
Futuro McAllen, 1998-
Hidalgo County Historical Society, 1973-
 Vice President, 2000-
Hidalgo County Historical Commission, 1981-
 Newsletter Co-Editor, 1986-1994
McAllen Centennial Committee Steering Committee, 2004
 Exhibits coordinator for McAllen Centennial Celebration
RGV Arts Council Board Member, 2003-
South Texas Literary Festival Planner, 2004-
Texas Folklife Festival Volunteer at Storytellers' Stage, 1989-1999
Mesquite Review Travel Writer, 1998-2004

Elections!



It's time to start thinking about elections...Byliners elections!

In May we will hold elections for two Board members and for all the Club officers, so nominations will be made at the April meeting.

If you wish to be nominated for any office, or if you wish to nominate someone to serve on the Board or as a club officer, please contact Verne Wheelwright , chairman of the nominating committee.

verne@personalfutures.net
956-4523-5758

Thanks!