



Valley Byliners Newsletter

Harlingen,

September 04, 2010

NOTES FROM THE August 14 Meeting

OK folks. This is my second attempt at creating the newsletter for the Valley Byliners. Any feedback is appreciated. I had some feedback from the last newsletter, and I am incorporating the ideas into this month's newsletter. One of the ideas given for future editions of the Byliners' newsletter was for me to publish the newsletter the week before the next meeting so that the activities of the last meeting are fresh in the minds of those who are participating in the next meeting. The other idea given requires the group's participation. It was suggested that I act more as an editor for the newsletter, and open the forum up to the rest of the group. This requires those of you who wish to participate in submitting articles for the newsletter to actually get them to me in a timely manner. I think that articles submitted to the newsletter should be sent to me by the last Saturday of the month. This would give me a week to incorporate the articles in the newsletter. For those who are still wondering what happened to the newsletter from the July meeting, there was none because we did not have a meeting in July.

Don started the August meeting by having Verne update us on the sales of the groups book, **Collected Tales From the Rio Grande**. Don summed it up by stating that during our first quarter we made our money back from our initial investment and had several hundred dollars more in addition to that. Jack King had eight submissions to his challenge, which was the most stories submitted since he started the contest. Last month's challenge had **The Neighborhood A&P**, **Charlie Hamburger**, **Heroes, July 1953**, **Kitty Snack and Wolfie**, **Musical Voyage**, **My Soap Opera**, and **Sweet Mary**. The winning submission was **Sweet Mary**. **Sweet Mary** was written by Leroy.

We had two visitors us at the last meeting. Patrica Collins and Frank from Sebastian were introduced to the group. We are glad they came to visit, and we hope to see more of them.

Brenda spoke with the group about starting a writer's workshop. It was suggested that the workshop be held at a neutral location such as a coffee house or a restaurant. The size of the group and the length of the documents to be worked on were discussed. The ground rules of the meetings were also discussed. It was suggested that the details be worked out at a later meeting.

Travis Whitehead gave a lecture concerning the art of the interview. Travis works for one of the local newspapers here in the Rio Grande Valley. He took questions about his trade, and gave instances of some of the experiences he has had over the years working as a news writer.

An interesting blog to look up is <http://writersoftheriogrande.com/> . The blog seems to focus on writers and writer's groups here in the Valley. There is a link to other blogs on the site.

Don asked me to put this in this edition of the newsletter:

The Brownsville Historical Association sent me the following message. I think this will be a fun event and would like to know who wants to attend. I will pass on the time and any additional info that's needed. On the 24th (Sunday, Oct. 24), we're also scheduled for a book signing at the Edinburg museum.

The Brownsville Historical Association is gearing up for the 2010 Old Fashioned Halloween event, scheduled for October 23, (Saturday) and we'd like to invite you to participate this year. The OFH is a program that celebrates the Halloweens of yesteryear and introduces guests to the Stillman House in a whole new way. Because storytelling was such a large part of the Victorian Halloween tradition, we'd love to invite your group to come out and sign copies of your book *Tales Told at Midnight Along the Rio Grande* during the event, with scheduled readings. We currently carry copies of your book in our gift shop for people to purchase, but extras are always welcomed. As a donor and sponsor, your logo will be found on advertisements, linked to our website and promoted on Facebook.

Anyone interested in these activities should contact Don Clifford at donclifford@sbcglobal.net.