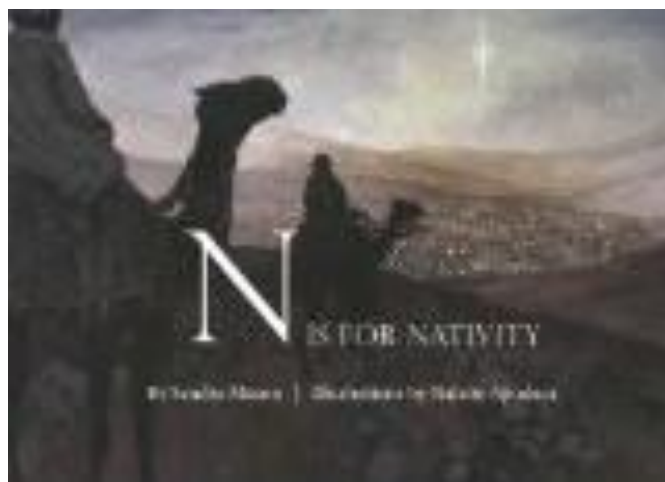




Literary Gazette

September 2024

Spokane Authors
P. O. Box 18573
Spokane, WA 99228-0573



**Submissions Due by:
September 25th for the October
2024 issue.**

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers (SASP), now known as **Spokane Authors**, began in 1998 when *Chuck O'Conner, Elmer Freeman, Joe Meiners, and Dan Vollmer*, Spokane area authors, formed a club to share knowledge and experience with those interested in writing and alternative publishing. Today, SASP is an organization dedicated to anyone interested in any aspect of writing and art. Members include aspiring (and successful) authors, poets, journalists, illustrators, editors, publishers, printers, writing instructors, and many others. Monthly meetings provide inspiration and education by way of knowledgeable and entertaining guest speakers, and the cheerful camaraderie of people sharing common interests and goals. Membership is open to all who love writing, art, and interesting people.

Spokane Authors meets the **second Friday** of each month at the **Sans Souci West Club House**, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane.

Presentations and discussions begin at **2:00 pm**. Members and guests also have a chance to relate accomplishments and note upcoming activities. We usually draw for door prizes.

Spokane Authors also meets the **third Saturday** of each month in the social hall of **St. Francis of Assisi Church**, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane.

Meetings begin at **2:00 pm**. We must be out of the room and building by **4:00 pm**.

We often provide refreshments such as bottled water, cake, or cookies. We set up a collection jar for those who wish to help reimburse whoever brings such refreshments.

Membership benefits include listing on the Spokane Authors website, www.spokaneauthors.org. Many members provide short biographies and links to external personal websites, creating more marketing exposure. Current members may list and describe their published works on the Spokane Authors website and offer their work for sale at meetings.

Visit the "members" page on our website to connect with members' webpages. Our "links" page connects to interesting on-line locations.

Guest speakers inform, inspire, and entertain with a variety of topics designed to provide knowledge about writing and publishing.

Spokane Authors members are encouraged to purchase or trade completed works with fellow members. They are also encouraged to donate copies of their work as door prizes. Winners of other members' work are expected to provide a review.

Note: Your name tag is yours to keep and maintain. We provide space to display your books, but *you* must bring them to each meeting.

2024 Officers:

President: **Carl Northup (Nathaniel Bennett)**
(509) 445-0166 ikneadedthat53@yahoo.com
(509) 671-3949

Vice-President: **Bob Manion**
(509) 448-2901 heygunnerbob@gmail.com

Secretary: **Linda Sonntag-Noble**

Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Web Master:
Dave McChesney
(509) 325-2072 daveeva@comcast.net
(509) 768-6178

Public-Relations: **Marilee Hudon**
(509) 325-9465 mjnoduh2@gmail.com

Equipment Manager: **Bob Hildahl**
mr.inky@yahoo.com

Advisory Board:

Member: **Esther Hildahl**
mr.inky@yahoo.com

Member: **Mary De Bord**
(509) 999-4797 violetpetalsbook@gmail.com

Member: **Bob Weldin**
(509) 514-2747 minersquest@comcast.net

"Like" the Spokane Authors Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679

"Join" the Spokane Authors Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1646364128981815/>

"Follow" us on "X": <https://twitter.com/AndAuthors>

Contact us at: authors@spokaneauthors.org
Or: saspworks4u@gmail.com

Videos of many of our presentations are available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/@spokaneauthorsself-publishers>

Cover: Books by Spokane Authors member Sandra Mason

THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Spokane Authors member Sandra Mason currently has two books available. One is a children's book and the other a non-fiction work about and Inland Northwest historical event. Visit her Member Web Page at:

www.spokaneauthors.org

Go to "MEMBERS," scroll down and click on her name.

OUR SEPTEMBER MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, September 13, 2024, at the San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA.

It is possible we will have a speaker.

We will also meet at 2:00 pm. on Saturday, September 21, 2024, at St. Francis of Assisi, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA 99205. The conference room in the social hall is available from 1:30 to 4 pm.

We plan to continue to use this meeting to share ideas and thoughts about writing. It is likely these alternate meetings will feature group discussions.

FROM THE PREZ

If the year could be condensed into a day then I would say to all of you, "Good Afternoon."

It is back to school time, harvest time and craft fair time. Even though my garden got started a month late, it is finally producing beans, beets, zucchini, garlic and potatoes. The onions tapped out this year.

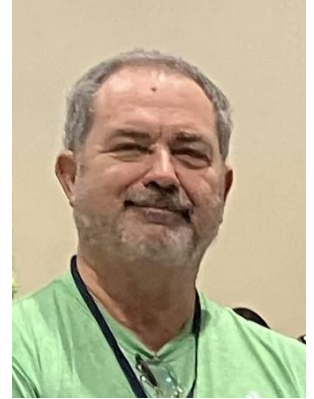
I was hoping to have a speaker for our September meeting but as of this moment it doesn't look like she will be available. However, I may have a backup.

Getting back to craft fairs, I am hoping to partner with as many authors as possible in as many craft fairs as possible this year. So far I am signed up for three...there's like eight this year.

Also, we have the catalog and the

Christmas Anthology which are due by the middle of the month. Also, be mindful of the elections in November. Not just the national election but also our own Spokane Authors elections.

As always, looking forward to seeing you all again. I hope you are all in good health and that everything is write in your world;) See you soon.



Carl/Nathaniel

The Prez.

FROM THE VEEP

Here it is, almost the end of summer. The cooler weather will allow us to spend more time hunched over the computer writing the next Great American Novel. Yeah, sure, do you feel it?" Me neither, but the keyboard calls and like the rest of we writers; we will answer, and clicking will be heard throughout the neighborhood. Cool days will cause us to answer the keyboard call. With cooler weather also comes the call for coffee, tea, or maybe a writer toddy. Give me time and I'll think of one that will enhance our writing... or so we think. Can you tell I'm procrastinating and not addressing the Christmas Anthology? Yes, I've thought of a title, *Santa's Christmas Shorts*. Now, that title should tweak the imagination!

Our goal is to write or have twenty-four shorts: averaging three to four pages each, or seventy-two to ninety-six pages. I feel the goal for us to have a good salable sized anthology would be to have 120 or so pages. I think that is a nice size for a seasonal anthology. Our *drop-dead date* (DDD) is October 11th. That should give us time to edit and do the things



that need to be done before it goes to the printer. We need the book in hand prior to Thanksgiving and book selling and signing opportunities.

For those of you who would like to get together and toss around ideas and maybe write a little, I talked to the County Library on Regal. We can get a room with a white board and bust out and write about Christmas and Santa Clause. I know you have a creative sense of humor, let it be free. Show the world just how creative we can be.

Bob Manion

The Veep

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

So far at least, I seem to be on a more normal schedule for sending out this issue of the newsletter. Ideally, it'll go out tomorrow, the last day of the previous month, or at the latest, Monday the 2nd of September. Even that is well within the time frame I try to meet.



It's getting busy. We have Arts and Craft fairs coming up that a lot of us will participate in as we try to sell some books. We are also trying to put a catalog together to better promote our members' books. We are also pushing ahead with the idea of a Christmas themed anthology that hopefully will be ready for the public in time for the Christmas shopping season.

If you want to have your books listed in the catalog, you need to be a paid member for 2024. We've also asked that you review your book blurbs/descriptions and make sure they are short enough to fit within the catalog format. (A good target would be between 50 and 70 words.) The same goes for author bios, as we hope to include a short bio and picture of each of the authors listed in the catalog. We've asked that you provide blurbs,

and bios, and dues no later than the 21 of September. If bios and blurbs aren't received, catalog "staff" will edit as needed to fit the page. If dues for 2024 aren't received by that date, no books for that member will be listed.

As mentioned, we are also working on a Christmas themed anthology. Our vice-president talks a little about it in his column. We are basically looking for short stories ranging in length from 1500 to 3000 words or so. (I don't think we'd reject something at 1375 words, or something at 3035, but...) Bob mentions a final submission date of October 11, but it has been suggested we should set an earlier deadline, perhaps around the middle of September, or to coincide with the catalog cut off date. If one wants to write a Christmas based short story, they should be able to do so in that time frame, and we will need time to edit and format before publishing.

So, in reference to our vice-president's column, let's find that magical writer's toddy, take a sip, and get those keyboards clicking.



CHRISTMAS ANTHOLOGY

We are looking for short stories and poems with a Christmas theme. Stories should be no more than 3,000 words. Deadline is September 15th. Send submissions to Sue Eller, sue@emilytracemysteries.com

An entry/release form will be sent out in the near future. It can be returned with your entry/submission or sent separately. Contributors must be current Spokane Authors members.

SPOKANE AUTHORS CATALOG

Current members, please send shortened/abbreviated book blurbs and author bios to Dave McChesney at daveeva@comcast.net You may also want to include cover pictures, especially if they have been updated recently.

OUR AUGUST 2024 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met on Friday, August 9th at the Sans Souci West Club House. Members present included Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Carolyn Eller, Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, T. Hammond, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Suzanne Holland, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Steve Lalonde, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Jon R. Miller, Carl Northrup, Elena Smith, Mikel and Kay Stevenson, Terry Stratton, and Sarah Vail. Shandra Tanner attended as a guest, joined our organization and is now a member of Spokane Authors.

We began the meeting with several announcements. President Carl Northrup noted his children's book *The Princess Who Had No Name* was close to being ready to publish. He also told us about a Garlic Festival on September 28 and 29 near where he lives and mentioned it might be a good place to have a booth and sell some books. It was noted that members who want to have their books listed in the upcoming catalog should try to pare down book descriptions and author bios to a length that would fit. A soft deadline of the end of August was set, with a final, or "drop dead" deadline of September 21. (Our September meeting at St. Francis.) WE talked a little about creating two anthologies. One would have Christmas and Holiday related stories and poems, while the second would be of a more general nature. The original idea was to have both ready for sale during the Holiday Season, but Sue Eller suggested that may not allow us enough time to ensure quality products. Dave McChesney suggested we keep going, push forward and see what happens.

We also talked a little about Valley Fest in Liberty Lake as a place where one could have a booth. We were also told that our hosts, San Souci West would be having a Craft Fair sometime in November. Sue Eller and T. Hammond should have information on that event. Dave McChesney noted he was still

waiting for the website to be updated so he could sign up for a vendor booth at Palouse Days on September 14th.

Carl then introduced our speaker, Colin Conway. He talked primarily about author branding, and mentioned products so popular they give their name to the product. Nearly all of us refer to facial tissue as Kleenex, as an example. He suggested that those who write in different genres might want to use different pen names. If a reader expects a particular type of story from a particular writer, it might confuse them to find another type of story from that same author. He also noted that we should attempt to deliver what the reader expects, based on the genre we write, and noted that genre can often be defined by the tropes contained in it. These are the standard events and occurrences people expect when reading that type of story.

Colin strongly suggested that an author should have a website, a blog, and a newsletter. He observed that a blog and a newsletter might contain much the same thing, but a blog goes out to everyone, while a newsletter only goes to those who sign up for it. He added that one should try to avoid negativity, politics, and religion.

Following Colin's presentation, we took a short break. We resumed to draw tickets for door prizes before adjourning and going our separate ways.

Spokane Authors also met on Saturday August 17th, at St. Francis of Assisi. Present were Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Pat Moreno, and Terry Stratton. One time member Jeremiah Sargent attended as well and is in the process of rejoining.

As our president was not there, Vice-President Bob Manion conducted the meeting. He noted that the south hill County Library has a system that might allow us to have our books on their shelves. It's based on having reviews or recommendations of the books that would then go in a special local author section. Bob passed out copies of the review form. (Your editor/webmaster can provide copies of the form, should you wish.)

We talked more about the anthologies we are planning to publish. It was agreed there may not be enough time to do both the general and a Christmas themed one in time for the Holiday shopping season, so we agreed that a general one could wait until next year. We will still try and have the Christmas one out for this year. It was suggested that stories range from 1500 to no more than 3000 words. Poems can be of any length. Someone suggested a review committee to look over submissions and Jeremiah offered to participate in that. The goal would be to have twenty-four stories in the anthology. October 11 would be the deadline for submission. (It has since been suggested that that be moved up to the middle of September to allow more time for editing, formatting, and other tasks needed before publishing. It would be great to have it out and available by *Black Friday*.)

We also looked at the possibility of having illustrations done for each story, providing we can find someone willing to do so for a reasonable price. Denise and D. J. Guy said they would ask Shandra Tanner, who is now also a member. The question of distributing proceeds was brought up but not discussed in depth. It was suggested that we could donate a percentage of the income to one or more selected charities.

The catalog was also discussed. One question that was raised concerned financing the printing of the catalog. Would those whose books will be in the catalog be willing to contribute a little extra to see it printed, or should costs come out of dues already paid?

Bob talked a little about a publishing company he has been working with. Someone pointed out that the Central Valley High School Arts and Craft Fair is set for Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3. Finally we did a short writing exercise, prompted by a picture of two ugly fish Marilee had on her phone.

By then, we were out of topics and out of time, so we locked up and left.

MEMBER WEB-PAGE GUIDE

1. Name and **photo/headshot**
2. Brief biography
3. Links to any web-site, blog, or other on-line locations.
4. Information about any books published.
 - a. Book cover shot/thumbnail
 - b. Brief description/blurb.
 - c. Amazon ASIN, ISBN or other catalog number
 - d. Locations where physically available.

In many cases your editor/webmaster can find much of this on-line, if it is there. If it's not and you would like to have a member web-page that is as complete as possible, please e-mail information to daveeva@comcast.net, authors@spokaneauthors.org, or send via USPS to:

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers
P. O. Box 18573
Spokane, WA 99228-0573

We are always ready and willing to update and correct your member webpage. Do not hesitate to contact your webmaster if your page needs attention.

MEMBER UPDATES

Joan Kopczynski recently provided this note from *Writer's Digest*.

Dear Joan,

Congratulations! Your entry, ***Spy fiction is back in vogue. But did you know there are two basic types?*** was awarded Honorable Mention in the Nonfiction Essay or Article category of the 93rd Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition.

There were 3,571 submissions in this year's competition, spanning 44 countries! Your accomplishment is something to be proud of.

Your name and the title of your winning piece will be listed on WritersDigest.com, and you will receive 20% discount off purchases made at Writer's Digest University. Prize

packages will be distributed by November 11, 2024.

Again, many congratulations from all of us on the Writer's Digest team!

Best,

Moriah Richard

(She/them)

Managing Editor, *Writer's Digest*

WritersDigest.com

Barbara Cagle recently provided these links to articles in the Deer Park Gazette concerning her family and her book.

<https://news.dpgazette.com/2024/08/olivo-family-reunion-a-legacy-celebrated/>

<https://news.dpgazette.com/2018/06/local-talent-writer-barbara-olivo-cagle>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Arts and Crafts Fairs and more

Palouse Days Main Street Vendors

Saturday September 14

Contact: Palouse Chamber of Commerce

www.palouse.com/palousedays

(Dave McChesney will have a booth and it looks like Carl Northrup, Bob Manion, and Mary De Bord will join him.)

University High School

Saturday & Sunday October 18-19

Contact: Mariah Newvill.

craftfair@uhighmusic.com.

Central Valley High School

Saturday & Sunday November 2 - 3

Contact: Debra Long, 14222 E Desmet, Spokane, WA 99216

Mt. Spokane High School

Saturday & Sunday October 11 - 12

Contact: Jod Magee (?)

mshscraftfair@gmail.com.

Mead High School

Saturday & Sunday November 9 - 10

Spokane Authors Larry Danek and Marilee Hudon have information

Shadle Park High School

Saturday & Sunday November 16 - 17

Spokane Authors Esther and Bob Hildahl have information

Ridgeline High School

Saturday & Sunday December 7 – 8

www.ridgelinebandboosters.org/craft-fair

Thanks to Sue Eller for information about a number of these

Other!

Auntie's Local Author Book Club

Wednesday September 4, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)

Possibly Cancelled this month.

Spokane Authors

Friday September 13, 2:00 pm

Sans Souci West Club House

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Saturday September 14, 2:00 pm.

In Person meeting, **Coffee with Linda**

The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg, Perry District. Looking for volunteers or just to socialize. Please RSVP at

lindathewriter@gmail.com

Possibly Cancelled this month.

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday September 18, 7:00 pm. (ZOOM)

Contact: Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Possibly Cancelled this month.

Spokane Authors

Saturday September 21, 2:00 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall

Auntie's Local Author Book Club

Wednesday October 2, 2:00 pm (ZOOM)

Spokane Authors

Friday October 11, 2:00 pm
Sans Souci West Club House

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Saturday October 12, 2:00 pm.
In Person meeting, **Coffee with Linda**
The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg, Perry
District. Looking for volunteers or just to
socialize. Please RSVP at
lindathewriter@gmail.com

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

Wednesday October 16, 7:00 pm.(ZOOM)
Contact: Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Spokane Authors

Saturday October 19, 2:00 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Social Hall

Sandpoint Writers on the Lake

Meet twice, both in person and via
ZOOM for critiques. Information at
bonniemcdade@gmail.com

SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

Many SASP members' books are on
Amazon and/or Kindle™ (We print short parts
of the list on a rotating basis. The complete,
and hopefully up to date list is available on the
web-site, under "NEWS")

To speed your search, add the provided
ten digit numerical or alpha-numerical code
(ASIN) to: [www\(dot\)amzn\(dot\)com/dp/](http://www(dot)amzn(dot)com/dp/)
Example: www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332
or: www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044
ASINs for each book are the same, regardless
of what Amazon Marketplace you use.

Phillip Jones

*The Casebook of Thadeus Rede & Other
Stories* B00HWXAWTW 1492181730

*Inventions and Discoveries: A Trip Through
History* B00FBHNFRW 149038460X
*Forensic Science for Writers: A Reference
Guide* B008Y2MX8S 1475267207
*Criminal Investigators, Villains, and Tricksters:
A Trip Through History*
B00DVP4YHQ 148279960X

Gail Saunders

Cluckenstein: The Halloween Chicken
1946882054

Johanna Price

*Raising Buckshot: A Family's Experience with
Autism* B00RKH993A 1483420205

Joan M. Kop

The Freedom Chaser B07PNYVCSF 0578217740
Spies, Lies and Psychosis
B0D6HMC4XX B0D6XF6118

Stephen D. Lalonde

The Phoenix Gift B07KGMSBDJ
A Palette of Verse B01NCJ8IP7

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

This month we have a new review for
one of our member's books and then we'll
resume our normal rotation.



Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

While this is the fifth book in Larry Danek's series about the Nomadic Ghost, it is also a tale of the beginning. In this slim volume of sixty-nine pages, we journey back to the American West and join a wagon train heading to Oregon. Thirteen-year-old John Vanderwick travels alone and appears likely to not survive the journey. With help from the Nomadic Ghost he continues on, aids others in the wagon train. Meanwhile the Ghost begins to understand his role in the afterlife and accomplishes a mission he has been chosen for.

The story is meticulously told as if by the ghost himself and is a quick yet compelling read. It is available on Amazon.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Pioneer Ghost begins when The Nomadic Ghost enters the body of John Vanderwick, a small, sickly thirteen-year-old boy, who has died after being left behind by a wagon train heading for Oregon. The ghost is not sure what his mission is and finds the body very weak and needing rest. However, they eventually catch up to the wagon train that had abandoned John. After eating and getting some rest, they decide to leave the train because the body is still too weak. Before leaving, the ghost/John is able to get a gun from one of the trail hands named Tom Brown. John already had a knife and a small bag with a flint in it.

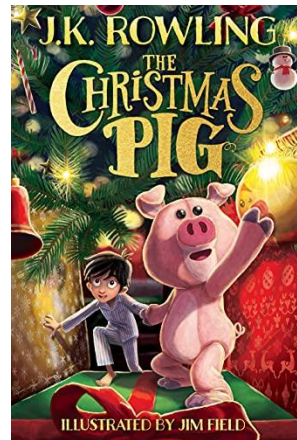
As they rested and waited for a later wagon train, they killed six Indians and rescued an Indian woman named Ina and a little blond-haired girl around five years old named Patty. When more Indians attacked, Ina proved to be a very good shot. Afterwards, they ended up with twelve horses that had belonged to the dead Indians. Then they helped the wagon train they left, defend itself against an Indian attack, joining it, after a deal is made concerning the horses. Many things happen as the story progresses. When they reach Fort Henry, The Nomadic Ghost discovers the real reason for this adventure.

Once again, Larry Danek has written an exciting story with believable characters. It's well written and the story moves right along. I recommend this book to one and all, especially those that like ghost stories and/or pioneer stories.

Reviewed by Beth Camp (New)

Larry Danek. *Pioneer Ghost*. Who doesn't love a ghost story, especially as we head closer to Halloween? How about a ghost story set in the Old West? *Pioneer Ghost* begins as a young boy is abandoned by a wagon train boss who figured he was too sick to make it to Oregon Country, even after he paid his way. If you've read any of Danek's other stories of the Nomadic Ghost, you know what follows: An intriguing tale that's hard to put down, well developed, believable, and endearing characters matched to a plot with surprising twists; and settings that bring those west-bound settlers in the path of attacking Native Americans, without relying on stereotypes. Engrossed, I enjoyed reading *Pioneer Ghost*, appreciating anew our history as well as this well-written tale.

The Christmas Pig



By J. K. Rowling

Illustrated by Jim Field

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

If you like J. K. Rowling (Harry Potter books), you will enjoy reading her latest book *The*

Christmas Pig. It tells the story of Jack who tragically loses his favorite toy and magically travels to the Land of the Lost to try to get it back.

It's an exciting book full of adventure and creative characters. I recommend this book for children and for those who still like to read children's books.

Close Calls: The True Tales of Cougar Bob



By B. J. Campbell

Reviewed by Robert G. Hildahl

Close Calls: The True Tales of Cougar Bob is a very enjoyable group of short stories about the life and hard times of Cougar Bob. The book starts out with stories of his life in high school, and then in the navy as a young man with polio.

After returning home from the navy, he gets on with his life and has many new adventures, most of which I would not attempt myself.

Campbell is a very talented writer, and after I read about each new adventure, I always wondered--What will Bob try next?

Reviewed by James R. Buchanan

“Determination!” *Close Calls: The True Tales of Cougar Bob* is a “way of life” story, lived out by a man of great courage and determination, overcoming all obstacles to

excel in his ever-adventuresome spirit. Cougar Bob, a “man’s man” has lived the life that most men only dream of and lived to tell about it!

Reviewed by Forrest Burgess

“*Close Calls* is close to perfection!” This charming tale is full of the adventures of a true western character. Bob Campbell alias “Cougar Bob” is one of those bigger than life individuals that we seem to grow out here in the mountains of Idaho and Montana the “real west”. His numerous experiences and close calls provide the reader with an honest and lighthearted view of living in the great northwest.

Although some of the exploits may ring a bit exaggerated the essence of the stories are essentially true and full of fun. Well written and with a tongue in cheek playfulness, this book is a joy to read. Obviously, a labor of love, this story is about a unique individual whose life-long challenges and exploits in the wilderness areas of the inland northwest provide the reader a close-up of the strength of character and resourcefulness that living and hunting in the wilds of Idaho and Montana require.

You will not be disappointed with this book.

Reviewed by G. T. Rees

Some great stories about north Idaho and the adventures of Cougar Bob. Funny and some great history of the region.

(We'll include the remaining reviews of *Close Calls: the True Tales of Cougar Bob* in next month's issue.)