

# ***The Drugstore Philosopher - Telling my Father's Story***

**Writers' League of the Villages**

**March 1, 2017**

**Phil Goldsmith**

**(703) 370-0449 / philgoldsmith@outlook.com**

## **Genealogical Writing - Who's your subject? / What's your objective?**

To tell the story of a family

To tell the story of a person

In depth or focused on an event/era/time span

## **Who's your audience?**

Yourself

Family

Local history reference

## **What's the style?**

Genealogical Descendent Report

Personal style

## **For my book:**

### **Objective**

To tell the story of my father's *professional and creative life*

Not so much to tell his *personal and family* history

Can't entirely separate the two

### **Audience**

Family and friends

Gave copy to

My sons

My eight first cousins

A few close friends

Put aside a copy for each of my grandchildren

Printing more to put away for *their* (future) children.

## **Writing and publishing process**

### **Sorting the resource material**

Find a space and make piles

Sort, resort and resort again

Decide what's needed to keep - Not everything is!

### **Creating an outline/structure**

Broke the book into "Chapters" based on the type of writing (then into roughly chronological order.)

Needed a biographical chapter (*who he was*) to put his writing (*what he did*) into context.

Also wanted

Dedication

Table of Contents

Introduction

Acknowledgements

Two special sections

2 page timeline of his life

Boston Globe Sunday Magazine article (6 pages)

### **Selecting/scanning the content**

Lyrics, etc.

Could only accommodate a representative selection

Most took a full page (and so, selected a “portrait” format book)

Maintain readability

Scanned each item individually, naming files consistently

Edited each lightly in Photoshop to clean them up

Photos

Focused on photos of Maury in his “creative” endeavors

Photos of family life reserved for that chapter, and just enough to set the stage.

Photos scanned, many needed extensive Photoshopping to restore and enhance

### **Writing the text**

Expository style – explain/inform/describe

Primarily in the third person

Primary font:

American Typewriter, a monospaced font, is an homage to Maury’s decades of pounding away on Remington manual typewriters.

### **Creating the book**

I used Blurb, which is photo-oriented (Far superior to Snapfish/Shutterfly, etc.)

For text-heavy books

Lulu

Amazon/CreateSpace

### **Editing**

Use multiple editors

My team:

Cousin Don – journalist and published history author, interested in family history

Friend Beth – knew Maury pretty well, but independent view from the family

“Genealogy muse” Missy – brought genealogist's perspective

PS: You don’t have to listen to them!

### **Printing and Distribution**

How many copies?

E-book vs paper

Hard-cover vs paperback

Give a copy to local or genealogical libraries