

## **The Authors Corner**

by Dutch Rhudy

Welcome to the third edition of The Authors Corner.

World building for a short time period is not very difficult, but when spanning over 150 years, the landscape is constantly changing and evolving. Beginning with nothing but wilderness and a single lone pioneer, gave me the wonderful opportunity to track every early structure.

This information includes how and when the structure was built, and carries through each remodel or addition. Both structure and character sketches maintain what families lived in each home over what time period. I also keep track of each structure, when it was razed or went on to become an historical monument or museum.

Each of the first families, and several new families arriving in the area are meticulously maintained. Massive genealogy tables give birth and death dates, children, and who they married and their children for several generations.

Every early time period must have young adults within marrying age for the small community to grow and prosper. This required much research into area demographics for several cities to develop a mean average for Roaring Falls.

Each family needed farmland, a home and barn, a church and school, and stores to run or shop in. As the area developed and land divided to heirs, new plat maps were drawn for each time period. If it is beginning to sound like one heck of a lot of paperwork to keep track of everything, you are correct.

Almost all of the preliminary development of Roaring Falls had to take place before I could begin writing the novels. The two projects also work hand in hand, as I write scenes introducing new features, they must be included in all the associated sketches.

Transportation of goods and services is another issue requiring careful monitoring. New or improved roads are a necessity to a towns growth. Sanitation, fuels, water, and food, the necessities of life, evolve over time as a city grows in size.

Nothing is ever truly finished, but with the world building, genealogies and structures in place, covering several time periods. I began storyboarding major breaks in the series, to make sure I did not leave out some major aspect of a city.

I felt the best way to ensure I've covered everything, besides studying several town's history books for things I may have missed. I wrote the entire history of Roaring Falls as a base reference book, and then began writing the first novel for the series.

Pleased with how the history book turned out, and the direction the first novel is going. I learned from these early attempts my city needed to be much larger. The original city of Roaring Falls will be relegated to the Old City Area of Roaring Falls, and the city will grow to consume a major part of Yarnell County. This is typical of many old cities.

Writing the first novel was much harder than expected, simply because each thing mentioned must fit perfectly with the future elements named in the reference history book. Nothing was etched in stone, so many changes took place on the maps and in the many associated sketches.

The first rough draft of my opening novel, which had reached the length of three novels, was finally completed. A critique member with an eye for developmental editing took a look and offered a few content suggestions.

One of the ways I chose to improve the story may sound a bit odd. I sat down with my fictional characters for a nice long interview, to talk about anything and everything, so I could learn them more intimately. Then I had each rewrite the storyline as they saw it from their own point of view.

They were able to reach into the recesses of my mind and come up with things I never considered. Becoming each character for a day, and writing as they would write, proved to be one of the most informative lessons I have ever learned about writing.

I compared each story and created a new outline, which included the information my characters provided. Then did a complete rewrite of the story and sent it off to my critique members and a professional developmental editor.

While it underwent the reviews, I began writing a few short stories for a contest sponsored by our writers guild. Made the mistake of sending the wrong files in for the contest, which was most embarrassing. I brought the ones I was supposed to submit for the contest to our critique group meeting.

Then after rewriting each, and having an editor glance over them, I decided to publish. I asked a cover artist to do the first cover, and was not pleased with his work. I made a minor modification and used the cover anyhow.

After spending several days formatting for e-book, double checking each, and designing my own covers, I submitted them to Draft2Digital e-book publishers. Each published on the seventh of this month, only three days ago.

The first was *Boot & Milk Balls*, with the pro designed cover I modified. The other two, *Lady Buff & Yardstick*, *the Three-footed Kitten*, and *The Elusive Smoking Gun*, have the covers I designed and tested with children and young adults.

One other book I started while waiting for the *Roaring Falls* edits to come back, I have not chosen a name for yet. I should finish another rewrite this week and send it to the editor. Will let you know what title I chose next month.

Respectfully submitted  
Dutch Rhudy