



CRIME TIMES

Arizona Mystery Writers

May 2008

Cha-Cha-Changes-



At the April meeting, Stella Clancy announced that she would no longer be our Chair. Mary Ann Hutchison will be our new leader.

Thank you Stella for all your time and effort. Your ideas and presence have moved AMW forward.

Thank you Mary Ann for stepping up and accepting the position of Chair.

Publicity Chair Needed-

Mary Ann has asked that someone volunteer to take her seat on the board as Publicity Chair. Please talk to Mary Ann about the job, or email her at chair@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com

Note- May Workshop will be held after lunch at 12:45 pm.

Workshop- May 10, 2008



Fade To Black

Richard Hartmen and Carla Eardley, writing partners and long time friends of Arizona Mystery Writers, are going to present us with a different approach to fiction writing by adapting film techniques to the written word. Using techniques such as fade-in, fade-out you are better able to set scenes, and by seeing the scene through the "camera eye" you are better able to focus

on what is really important.

In an interview, Annie Proulx, the author of Brokeback Mountain, said that the screenwriters told the story she wished she had written. If you look at the story and the screenplay you see how, for the film, the screenwriters stripped out everything unnecessary and focused on the key points to tighten it. The point is that writers can borrow some tricks from the movies to make stories tighter and more suspenseful. Richard and Carla will give examples of this new technique and give some suggestions of how best to use them. Members will be asked to take a movie scene and make some changes using this new technique.

Note- Speaker will be at 10:15 on May 10!

Speaker - May 10, 2008

David Winston, M.D., Ph.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Pathology
Forensic Science Center



Dr. David Winston graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina and completed his Anatomic and Clinical Pathology residency at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center in Charlottesville, VA. He traveled to Albuquerque, NM where he did a forensic pathology fellowship at the Office of the Medical Investigator through the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. He then traveled back across the country where he was an Assistant Professor of Pathology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC for 4.5 years. One more trip back across the country in January 2003 brought him to the Forensic Science Center in Tucson where his duties have included teaching pathology residents and medical students about forensic pathology. Other than spending time with his family, Dr. Winston can be found at a driving range, golf course or the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum.

If you are attending the meeting, please call Mary Bellin 520-577-7270 or email her by clicking on the blue address: newsletter@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com or membership@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com and type in- I'm coming to the meeting.

April Workshop Summary By Richard Rohrdanz

At our last meeting Richard Rohrdanz, our Webmaster, presented the AMW web

Comment [rcr1]: I'm going to recommend to all the members that we capitalize the words in our e-mail addresses and for our web site because it will be easier to read it. For instance:
newsletter@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com versus
newsletter@arizonamysterywriters.com.



site to the membership.

All but two people had already visited the site. There were numerous questions on how the web site operated and some discussion as to what should be on the site. We all seemed to be in general agreement that the site needs little revision for now.

Richard emphasized throughout his presentation that the web site must constantly change and present new material and with this in mind he announced that he would be forming a web design team to oversee and direct the development of our web site.

A couple of days later the web design team (Richard didn't want to call it a committee) was formed. The members are: Adrienne O'Hare, Marilyn Johnson, Rae Schlesinger and, of course, Richard. Their first task is to create a comprehensive list of all the suggestions that have been made. In their first meeting, to be scheduled, they will begin analyzing the list, whittling it down and putting the items in priority sequence. Check the website for the new changes.

April Speaker Summary by Mary Ann Hutchison

The Bisbee Massacre Resurrected

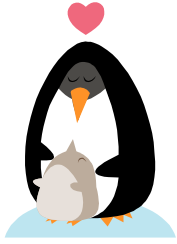
April's meeting almost ground to a halt because of the sudden illness of Amber Harrison*, the Forensic Anthropologist who was scheduled to speak in the afternoon. Instead, the suggestion was made that we have an impromptu writing workshop.



Many of the members stayed on, while others took advantage of the free time to take care of personal business. Then, Stan Lehman asked if we'd like to hear about the Bisbee Massacre. Would we? You bet!

This past March, Stan, who is a Cochise County Public Defender, took part in a discussion of the Massacre at the annual Arizona Territorial Justice Forum at the Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park. In that discussion, he took the prosecution's view of one of the trials that resulted from the violence committed on December 8, 1883.

Holding us spellbound, he related a story that contains all the elements of a great western movie: a planned robbery of the Goldwater and Casteñeda Mercantile gone bad, resulting in the deaths of four innocent townspeople, posses were formed – one of which may have followed a deliberately false trail – and the subsequent apprehension of the five robbers.



Add to the mix, the fact that John Heath, a local salon keeper, eventually admitted to masterminding the robbery (but denied he was responsible for the actions of the other five), and was only found guilty of second degree murder (carrying a life sentence), unlike the other robbers (found guilty of first degree murder, a hanging offense). This so angered the Bisbee townspeople, that they formed a lynch mob and descended on the Tombstone Jail, demanding that Heath be turned over to them. The Sheriff put up little resistance (Stan surmised that had Wyatt Earp been Sheriff, what followed would not have happened), and Heath was dragged to a telegraph pole at the corner of First and Toughnut Streets, a rope was thrown over the crossbeam, and old west justice was administered.

The other five were hanged nine days later. They were the first criminals executed at the Cochise County Courthouse in Tombstone. Pictures of the hanging still reside in the courthouse.

Stan gave us details of this famous happening, including the fact that the night before the Heath trial, both attorneys involved dined on oysters and expensive liquor. Learning that oysters were available in Bisbee in 1883 — surprising. Hearing about it during an afternoon at Arizona Mystery Writers — delightful. Thank you, Stan.

* * *

*Logistics may prevent Amber from speaking to us in the future. However, Kevin Josker, who suggested Ms. Harrison as a speaker, will be able to provide us with information about her in the future.

Upcoming events:

Society of Southwestern Authors, May 18th at the Sheraton Four Points Conference Center, 1900 E. Speedway, (at Campbell); 11:30 - 2 pm; Buffet Luncheon and Speaker \$20.00, cash or check, no credit cards. May speaker: 2008 O. Henry Award Winner Shannon Cain will talk about the challenge of writing the short story. Reservations please, phone: 546-9382 or email forums@ssa-az.org.

Romance Writers: Vicki Lewis Thompson winner of the 2008 RWA National's **Nora Roberts Lifetime Achievement Award** will be the May speaker - she'll be talking about *Writing Motivation*. The nuts & bolts morning speaker will be **Jill Knowles**, talking on *Editing in Color*. Romance Writers meet on the fourth Saturday of the month (with some exceptions) at El Parador Restaurant.

<http://www.tucsonrwa.org/index.html>

Clues Unlimited: Please join **Susan C. Miller** on Thursday, May 8, 7 p.m., at Clues Unlimited, 123 South Eastbourne, for a panel discussion with Tucson writer/historians Carolyn O'Bagy Davis and Jane Eppinga. They'll be discussing women's views of life on the American frontier, and Susan will be signing the new edition of my anthology, *A SWEET, SEPARATE INTIMACY: WOMEN WRITERS OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER, 1800-1922*. Copies of *HOODOO*, her new Frankie MacFarlane mystery, will also be available.

Writer's Showcase-

I asked Molly Mc Kinney if she would share one of her stories with the group. I'm excited to report Molly agreed and sent me this charming short tall tale called Operation Anonymous. Her story is inspired by *Shorttalltales* by S.J. Perelman. I hope you enjoy the story as much as I did.



Hint- I'm looking for other stories to put in the newsletter, they don't have to be long (less than 1,000 is preferred.) Please let me know if you can send me a story. Thanks Mary

OPERATION ANONYMOUS

By Molly McKinney

Chance has always played a great part in my life, and experience has taught me that chance is very unpredictable. Consequently, when the offer fell into my lap to reorganize the Data Processing Center of a large institution, I did not question or quibble. In fact, my gracious speech of acceptance was utterly drowned out by the *FRRP-ZIP!-WHRR-SSr-CL UG-HICr* of the monstrous memory machines as they satisfied their ravenous appetites.

So entranced was I by the varicolored signals and their hypnosis of maddeningly elusive patterns that, when I regained my equilibrium, I found myself alone with the vague feeling that no one else was around. Curiously absent from my recollection was the location of an exit from the maze of equipment through which I had been led; nevertheless I was confident that, in due time, someone would fetch me if at all possible.

My reputation for ingenuity was such that my employers did not insult me by making any suggestions as to the actual content of data being processed-only hinting that it was Top Secret, and leaving the rest to my discretion. I determined that my first priority must be to make sure there were no spies concealed in the machinery, since any interference with the delicate mechanisms would cause embarrassing interruptions.

My sharp scrutiny came to rest upon a lighted panel, the close proximity of which had previously obscured my view of it. In the center, a red light was flashing with an ominous urgency intensified by the wording below it: *ON*. Bringing my notoriously logical mind to bear, I reasoned that since the machine obviously was *ON*, due to the unmistakable hum of a machine when it is *ON*, there should be no need for a signal of such a distracting nature; ergo, something -

or someone--must be endangering the system.

Swiftly I produced, as if from nowhere, a miniature master tool designed to resemble a bobby pin, and in less than two hours the data processor's original shape was barely recognizable. Inside was a fascinating array of little colored wires, but so confusingly arranged as to have no artistic value whatsoever. Loath to pass up this occasion to bring sophistication to the business world, with the aid of my portable color chart I rapidly regrouped the wires into harmonious and contrasting schemes.

While I was debating the merits of abstract expressionism vs. figurative impressionism as my basic concept, an odd noise wormed its way into the close-knit fabric of my thoughts. It was another thought, gradually making itself heard above the rest, to the effect that the machine was no longer operating as before.

My suspicions, then, had been correct! Sabotage was afoot, beneath my very toes. With no previous experience in computer programming, I improvised an ingenious code which, when fed into the master memory, caused all active processes to cease and desist. The resounding silence that ensued promised a speedy resolution to the problem that had been threatening to disrupt months of meticulous planning.

Mere seconds later, the tranquility was shattered by excited human voices emanating from a crowd that had materialized around me. As their applause rose to a crescendo I was lifted onto someone's shoulders and borne triumphantly into the office of the president of the organization, where my modest ears could not help overhearing a glowing description of my achievements, which had far exceeded expectations.

My supervisor explained to my admirers that all I had been asked to do was keep an eye on some cards as they were automatically fed into the machine, and if one should get out of alignment, to push it back again. Instead, I had taken upon myself responsibilities which the normal person would not dream of attempting. At the president's insistence I revealed the details of my innovative security procedures, for which my supervisor graciously denied any credit.

With the unspoken appreciation of my coworkers ringing in my ears, I seized the chance to take an indefinite vacation without pay, so that I might recount at leisure how I protected a major institution from unauthorized tampering with its valuable equipment.

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Share a ride! A few members have asked about car pooling. One member who lives near Craycroft Road and 5th Street would like a ride. If you are interested in car pooling, please let me know- newsletter@arizonamysterywriters.com



Board member information:



Chair-Mary Ann Hutchison, chair@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com
Workshop Coordinator-Jan Pope,
workshops@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com
Speaker Coordinator- Karen MacLeish,
speakers@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com
Newsletter & Membership-Mary Bellin,
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Treasurer-Rae Schlesinger, treasurer@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com
WebMaster-Richard Rohrdanz, webmaster@ArizonaMysteryWriters.com

Comment [rcr2]: Correct some spelling errors.
Changed the domain portion of the e-mail address to reflect the capitalization.

MEETING INFO: Second Saturday of the Month- next is May 10, 2008, HomeTown Buffet at the northwest corner of Oracle and River roads.

TIMES: AMW [business](#) meeting for all members 10:00 – 10:15 am, workshop 10:15 - 11:45 pm, Lunch 11:45 – 12:30, Speaker 12:30 – 2:00 pm.

Comment [rcr3]: Corrected spelling error.

Cost: Exact change or check is appreciated, Speaker, Workshop and lunch = \$12.00. Workshop or Speaker Only, no lunch, \$5. Yearly Dues are \$25.

Reminder- Have a nice summer. We don't meet in June, July or August.

Have a productive writing month! See you May 10, 2008.

Mary Bellin and the AMW Board of Directors.

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