



Nancy Dressel

The Dog Days of Summer

This article first appeared many years ago in the Wow Principles. We are re-printing for two reasons: 1) the article is appropriate since it's so dang hot outside and, 2) the mentioned website is still a great tool for quick information and we use it a lot here at Publishing Syndicate. Enjoy!

The dog days of summer are upon us here in Northern California. Add to the century-degree heat a whole lot of smoke from our wild fires, and on some days our air quality could give Beijing a run for its money!

What exactly are the “dog days of summer” anyway? According to the Columbia Encyclopedia, this phrase was “named in early times by observers in countries bordering the Mediterranean, the period was reckoned as extending from 20 days before to 20 days after the conjunction of Sirius (the dog star) and the sun.” The time span of the dog days of summer occurs about July 3rd to August 11th.

I located this answer at a fun website: www.FactMonster.com. You can find just about anything you want there, from the origins of names to quizzes to instant access to research materials. Did you know that the state name of Minnesota came from a Native American word meaning “sky-tinted waters” and Florida’s name means “feast of flowers” and is derived from the Spanish words Pascua Florida. I learned this on FactMonster.

When I first started writing in 1987, the Internet was in its infancy. Back in the old days, when we had to do research for a book or article, I would check out the encyclopedia, visit the destination, conduct research at a public library via microfiche and rely on past recollections of others. And I typed my query letters and articles on a real typewriter.

But writers today have it easy—you can find just about anything you want or need for a writing project in a heartbeat. So with the dog days of summer—and the heat and “yuck” outside—it’s a great time to do your research, sipping ice-cold refreshments in the luxury of your air-conditioned home. And go play “Word Wise” at FactMonster.com. You’ll have a ball and you might come across an idea for your next writing project!



Southeastern Writers Workshop



In mid-June, we traveled to St. Simons Island in Georgia to speak at the 39th annual Southeastern Writers Workshop. Our original focus was on four nonfiction sessions (plus, Ken met one-on-one with writers for free consults), but we got so caught up in the excitement and Southern hospitality that the trip felt more like a vacation than work. All y'all know that we sure did need some time off!

Highlights included being able to visit with nearly every participant, as the conference was small and intimate. And Dahlynn had her first hushpuppy and moon pie! Other fare included yummy fried chicken, grits, greens and cobbler. Yes, every meal was all you can eat, and we came home a few pounds heavier but many pounds lighter in the mind and soul.

If you live in the southeast, we highly recommend you join this writer's organization and attend next year's conference, which will be the 40th annual event. For more information, visit www.SoutheasternWriters.org.



For you NYMB fans, you will recognize the names of these five amazing writers and frequent contributors to the NYMB series: L to R: Sheila Hudson, Erika Hoffman, Dahlynn, Cappy Hall Rearick, Debra Ayers Brown and Janet Sheppard Kelleher



One of Dahlynn's talks was called "Make Them Laugh." Thus, the clown noses!

Photos were a must. In the group shot, Dahlynn is in the bowler hat, holding the riding crop (will leave the rest up to your imagination).

In the smaller group photo, L to R: Sheila Hudson, Dawn Burr, Meredith Brown (in black sweatshirt), Janet Sheppard Kelleher, Amy Munnell, Mary Strippling (with noses on her ears), and Kay Eaton



Letter to the Editor:

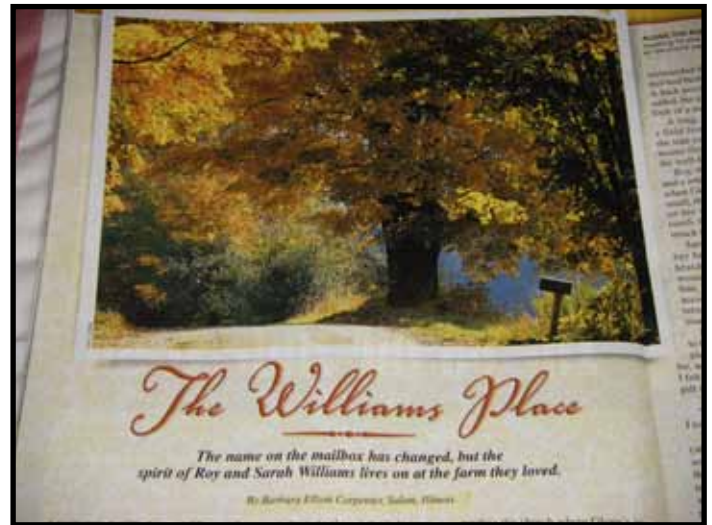
Just a quick note on your featured article in May, “Submit It and Forget It,” and writer Melissa Face.

The identical thing happened to me—same magazine, same publisher. I wrote a story about the farm on which we have lived since 1968, and about the original owners and how we came to buy it. I called it “The Williams Place” and sent it to *Country Magazine* (a Reiman publication) in February 2006.

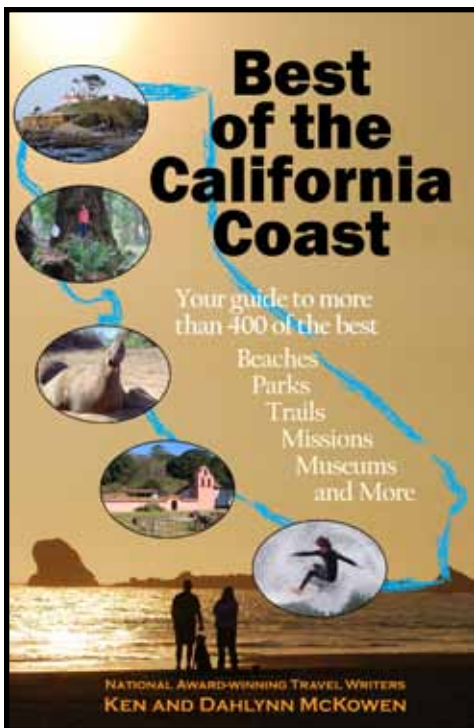
I had subscribed to the magazine for years, and it is one of the few my husband enjoys. He always picks up the mail on his way home. I noticed that the November 2006 issue of *Country* was in the stack, but I waited until after supper to glance through it. I came across a beautiful photograph—a splendid autumn scene with a country mailbox beside a golden tree. Across the page was the title, “The Williams Place.” Below it was my name!

I had not received an acknowledgement, much less a check, from the magazine. But that came the following week. Aside from a short anecdote in *Reader's Digest* (which brought me \$400 in 1998), I had not been published nationally. My experience duplicates that of Melissa Face's, uncanny as it seems.

~~ Barbara Carpenter, Salem, Illinois



In July's issue of *Wow Principles*: Dialog tags, or attributives, can puzzle. Guest author Terri Elders will discuss the whens and whys of varying the verb “said.”



We are proud to debut the cover of our newest travel book: *Best of California's Coast*. It will be released this fall.

Before we turned Publishing Syndicate into a publishing house, we made our living as full-time travel photographers and writers. We penned countless travel articles for newspapers and magazines, and wrote many travel books for varying publishing houses. One book we are particularly proud of is *Best of California's Missions, Mansions and Museums*. Judged by librarians, historians and travel experts, this book was awarded best travel guide by Independent Book Publishers Association at the Book Expo of America, 2007.

Best of California's Coast follows the Golden State's 1,100-mile coastline, north to south. The 120,000-plus word travel guide features beaches, museums, missions, trails, parks and much more, including the cultural and historical significance of this region, as well as its natural and geological treasures.

~~ Dahlynn and Ken

Book Updates

Hooray! Hooray! HOORAY!

Not Your Mother's Book...On Family will be officially released on June 24th. But it is available for purchase at your favorite book retailer. Congrats to co-creator Linda O'Connell and all the NYMB contributors!

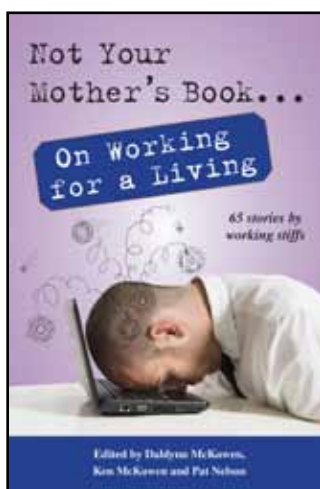
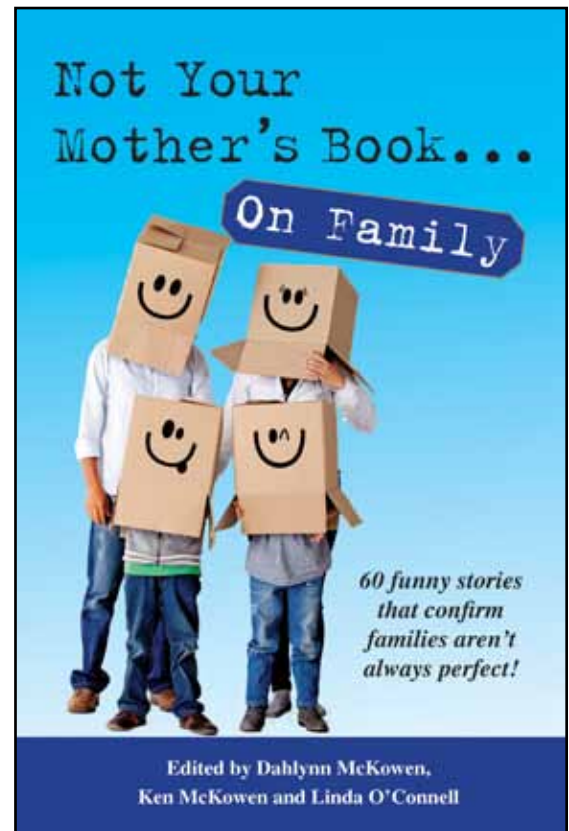
This is from the book's back cover:

The apple doesn't fall far . . .

Ain't that the truth! How many times have you hollered at your kids then thought, Oh, no! I sound just like my mom! Or looking into a mirror you notice your temples beginning to gray, just like your dad's? Genetics is the hand we are all dealt, and we have nothing to blame but our family lineage.

Regardless of what limb you dangle from on your family tree, your roots play an important part in your everyday life, from "Oh, crap!" moments to family squabbles, from daring adventures to dealing with a crazy aunt or uncle. From those nuclear, blended or extended families, new memories are created, memories that turn into family legacies and stories often repeated.

While you can choose your friends, you can't choose your family. So like the family on the cover of this book, always have a box at the ready. You never know when you'll need it!



NYMB...On Working for a Living: First-round story selections are still taking place; as of June 22nd, 33 Permission Release Forms (PRF) have been sent to contributors. The book's release has been pushed to October 2014, thus we took advantage of some downtime with the NYMB series to focus on a new travel book.

We anticipate the remaining 30 or so PRFs going out within the next two weeks. Not too late to submit your story for consideration, but keep in mind that while it may be the greatest story in the world, another one with a similar premise may already have been selected. That is why we always suggest that you not wait until the last minute to submit.

NYMB...On Cats: Hooray! The book is at the printer. Thank you to everyone who submitted stories. Release: September 2014

Last Page! Last Page! Last Page!

The “Last Page” features contests and story opportunities from Publishing Syndicate and other companies—but only those call-outs that do not compete with PS’ books will be posted.

Not Your Mother’s Book . . .

NYMB caters to mature readership, thus, submissions must be written by people age 18 and older.

Click on a book cover for more info or visit the PS website for other books.

UPCOMING DEADLINES



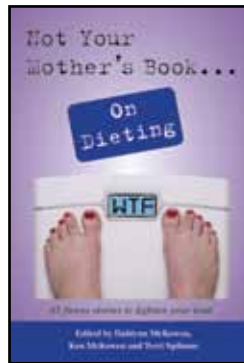
NOW!!

On Sex:

This title will start production as soon as *On Working for a Living* is done (mid-August). Submit now, as first-round selections will begin soon.

On Dieting:

July 1, 2014

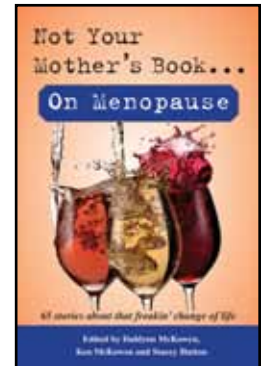


On Military Life:

Sept. 1, 2014

On Menopause:

Sept. 1, 2014



Submission guidelines at www.PublishingSyndicate.com

This just in from www.WritersMarket.com:

WritersMarket.com lists hundreds of contests for writers of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, writing for children, and more. Here are three with **July** deadlines:

- **Bard Fiction Prize** is offered annually by Bard College for a fiction writer aged 39 or younger. Top prize is \$30,000, plus designation as writer-in-residence for one semester. Deadline: July 15
- **Crab Orchard Series in Poetry First Book Award** is offered annually for the best first collection of poetry. Top prize is \$4,000 and publication. Deadline: July 8
- **Rattle Poetry Prize** offers an annual prize for the best previously unpublished poem. There is a \$5,000 grand prize, in addition to ten finalist prizes of \$100. Deadline: July 15



WritersMarket.com lists more than 8,000 publishing opportunities, including listings for contests, magazines, book publishers, literary agents, conferences, and more. Log in or sign up today to start submitting your work. www.WritersMarket.com

Chicken Soup for the Soul

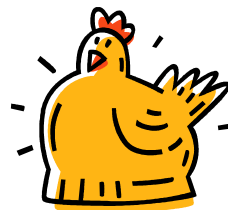
More info: www.chickensoup.com

Christmas Season: August 30, 2014

Stories BY Moms: Deadline: Sept. 30, 2014

Stories ABOUT Moms: Deadline: Sept. 30, 2014

The Power of Forgiveness: Deadline: June 30, 2014



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