



Your Stories Can Interest a Larger Audience

by Denis Ledoux

“Can I do it?” you ask, poised at some uncertain point of the challenge you’ve given yourself—to write your personal and family stories.

“Can I write lifestories that are not only going to interest my family but have meaning for a larger audience?” Sure you can! Every year, people just like you write lifestories that bring pleasure and meaning not only to their families but sometimes even to strangers.

Many people—some of whom have never written before—have written books of personal stories that are bought by strangers. Perhaps by people browsing in bookstores where thousands of other books were vying for their attention. Others find the new book while perusing a catalog.

Your stories, too, can have this success. Two examples come to mind...

One woman from my Turning Memories Into Memoirs® workshop, a woman with no more writing experience perhaps than you have now, produced a book (which she asked me to edit) that was reviewed in *Library Journal*—a major American venue for pre-publication reviews.

Another woman who approached me for editing wrote *The Legend of Barjo Restaurant* (\$24.95, Soleil Press, 2001), which sold half of its print run of 2,300 books in the first three months of sales. In fact, *The Legend of Barjo Restaurant* outsold Harry Potter during the 2001 Christmas season at a bookstore in the Oxford (ME) Shopping Center, with 230 book sales! Not bad for someone who had never written more than a meal order.



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But, I've never done this before, you say. No problem! Neither had these people.

Theirs were sweet writing successes that led to speaking engagements, to newspaper interviews, and, best of all, to sharing their stories with a larger sympathetic audience than they could have found merely with their own friends and acquaintances.

Their success can be yours, too, but it will call for commitment and effort on your part. You will have to put your “nose to the grindstone”—or more precisely, your fingers to the computer—and work on a regular and frequent basis. You will have to search for meaning in levels well beyond “who did what when,” and you will have to pay attention to style.

But all of this is within your grasp! The Soleil Lifestory Network offers many programs to help you to begin and to sustain your work. It will help you achieve success.

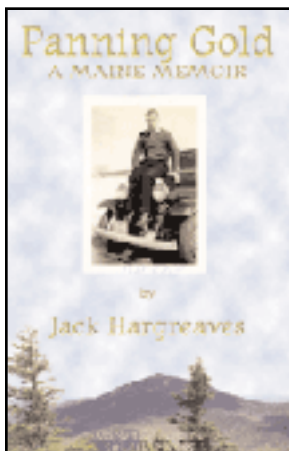
“But, I've never done this before,” you say. No problem! Neither had these people. One in fact faced a greater difficulty than most writers—not only had she, like you perhaps, never written before, but she had not spoken English until she was into her thirties!

Now if she can do it so can you!

Most recently, we edited Jack Hargreaves' manuscript, designed the book, and did the prepress work. He was very thrilled to see his book, *Panning Gold*, in print.

<http://www.turningmemories.design.html>

Good luck writing and publishing your book of memoirs and, if we can help at any stage of your effort to publish your book, give us a ring.



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