

Estill Native's 5th Book Headed to Pulitzer Committee

Kentucky author and Richmond resident, Earl Lowell "Robbie" / "No Sweat" Robbins, Jr., Irvine High School, class of 1969, an Eastern Kentucky University post graduate, who swam long-distance under Donald Combs, has recently finished his fifth book, a fictional work entitled, *Black Bluegrass*, which has been accepted for publication by Old Seventy Creek Press, Rudy Thomas, editor, who plans to submit the work to the Pulitzer Committee.

Black Bluegrass is a 150 page collection of 12 short stories, primarily based in Kentucky.

"Two of the stories are set in Madison County," informed No Sweat. "One, entitled, Miracle on East Irvine, concerns the death of three men who supposedly freeze to death. The other, *Fort Boonesborough*, involves my imaginary excavations I conduct there. Several of the stories are set in Estill County and one is in Jessamine County, The only story not set in Kentucky is one about a Kentucky hillbilly living on an island in the Bahamas called, Eleuthera."

Robbie Robbins has been writing under the pen name, "No Sweat" for over forty years. In 2012, after 800 rejections, his first novel, *These Precious Days* was taken by editor, Rudy Thomas, Old Seventy Creek Press. A few months later, *Nefarious*, his second novel, emerged. Carol Itoh, editor, Itoh Press.

In 2016, *Singer Island And Ernest Hemingway Volumes I & II*, surfaced, thanks to editor, Rudy Thomas, And, in 2017, *Letters from A Genius to An Oaf* was published by Monday Creek Publishing, Gina Mcknight, editor.

Black Bluegrass is scheduled to appear sometime this spring, 2018. The book will

be available through Old Seventy Creek Press, Barnes and Noble, Amazon and other book outlets.

There is more to writing, than writing," spoke No Sweat. "I'm a journalist who enjoys converting reality into fiction. So far, I've worked with three different editors. Each time has been a learning process. After the completion of a book there is a great deal of work involved before it ever sees print. When I was a boy, I thought, being an author, was special. Today, it seems, hardly anyone cares. Now that *Black Bluegrass* is finished, I will be wrapping up the loose ends of Volume III to *Singer Island And Ernest Hemingway*. This will be the last volume to that work which is 1,500 pages. The setting takes place on Singer Island, Florida, in the Colonades Beach Hotel, which, sadly enough, is now gone."

"While living there three months throughout every summer, I became friends with John D. MacArthur, the Kennedy family, Arlo Guthrie and others who shared my love for the area. I have stories about these people and about Luisa Lang, who committed suicide while I was reading to her. Her father, Will Lang, was *Life* magazine's best World War Two war correspondent and a close friend to Ernest Hemingway. Through Luisa, I came to know Hemingway, whether I wanted to or not."

"My fourth book, *Letters from A Genius to An Oaf* involves my long relationship with Guy Davenport, a Rhodes scholar who won the John D. MacArthur Genius award. Guy gave me the confidence I needed to follow through in my convictions to be an author, all my books are dedicated to him. When Guy died, the Harry Ransom Center at The Uni-

versity of Texas purchased all of his manuscripts and letters, among them, some 500 having been written by me. Guy was the most brilliant man I ever knew regarding literature."

"At Eastern Kentucky University, I formed a close bond with Charles Whitaker in their English Department; he was exceptionally kind in all the time he afforded me as well as his understanding of what it took to be a serious author."

No Sweat is married to his High School sweetheart, Chesteen, who is a retired principal in the Estill County school system; he credits Chesteen with all of his successes.

"Without her," he stated, "I am nothing. I could not live without her. She untangles my computer headaches. And absorbs all my frustrations. Without her, I have no sun."

Chesteen and No Sweat have been married 45 years and have one daughter, Nancy, who is an English professor at Sullivan. Nancy has two sons, Lance and Barrett.

"The stories in *Black Bluegrass* are told in first person," informed No Sweat. "One of my stories, 'Ali Babba And The Forty Thieves', is based on a fictionalized night when the citizens of Irvine prep for an invasion of blacks who were supposedly coming in buses from Detroit, to avenge the death of Martin Luther King. Another story, *Hello 49er* is my dream about an Estill Countian who serves in the navy with John F. Kennedy was given after 109."

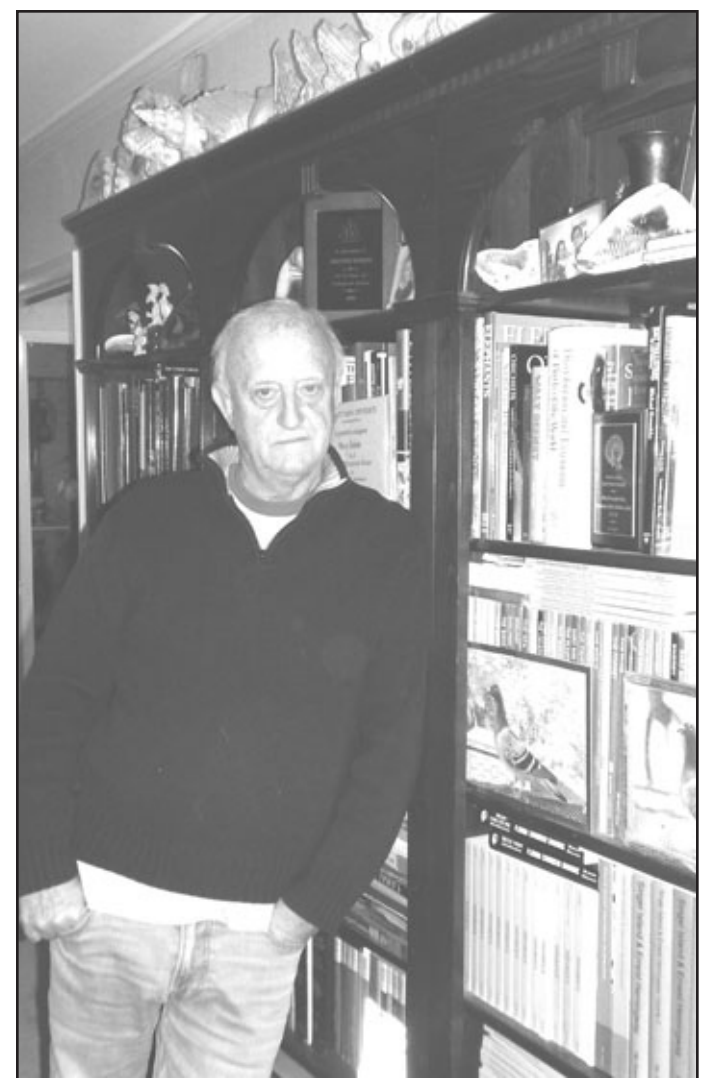
When asked if writing books was the only writing he did, No Sweat responded: "No, I write constantly. Last year, I completed a 75-page article on Charles Heitzman, a friend who once was the

best racing pigeon flier in America. And recently, I completed another article for *The Racing Pigeon Digest*, of equal length; this article involved my life-time of observation studying long-distance racing pigeons. The articles were serialized in America's top racing pigeon magazine. Guy Davenport used to love my pigeon stories. I felt a ashamed of them. Guy told me, No Sweat, Robert Frost, used to write articles for a chicken magazine. That was the Guy Davenport I knew. For him to brag on my writing was hail from Caesar. Guy laughed about all the many people in Kentucky who claimed they were writers. He said, No Sweat, I have never seen so many. I can't throw an anvil without hitting one."

No Sweat's future literary plans will be to complete a novel, *The Outlaw, Ed Hawkins, Fact And Fiction*, another novel, *The Boat That Never Was*, a scary children's book, *The Grandma Freda Story & The Red Devil* and a collection of his fifty best racing pigeon stories, *My Life with A Pigeon*.

"Before I die," he vowed. "I have a goal of ten books. I would like to write a novel about the place where I work, Eastern Kentucky University's heat plant. I am soon to be 67 years old and I occasionally stop and smile, knowing that I shovel coal to make a living. I suppose, I am working at the little heat plant while alive, getting ready for the big one when I die. I have met some great characters working there; good men who often risk their lives. It is easy to see why, Steinbeck was blessed, working in a fish cannery."

When asked, what authors No Sweat admired, he responded: "Mark Twain could look at something black and



The fifth book, "Black Bluegrass" written by Robbie "No Sweat" Robbins is headed to the Pulitzer Committee.

turn it white and make you laugh. He was the first person to draw me to words. I love Tennessee Williams as he always kept a candle burning in a world of darkness. Edgar Allan Poe owns the finest heart. I am addicted to *Moby Dick*. And who doesn't love Defoe's, *Robinson Crusoe*? As for Kentucky authors, Walter Tevis had a wonderful talent. About once a year, I visit his grave here in Richmond. Few know, he is buried here. I used to correspond with Robert Penn Warren, he was a wonderful man, witty. And he could make you feel, even about an old boot. I suppose, there are many great Kentucky writers, they win

literary awards about every thirty seconds."

Besides writing, No Sweat is internationally recognized for racing pigeons. In 2019, in South Africa, a syndicate composed of old friends, is paying for his entry to race in the biggest pigeon race in the world, which pays two million dollars.

No Sweat loves being with his family. "I'm happiest when my wife, daughter and both grandsons are all with me," he confided. "The five of us always support each other no matter how much it rains---that is what its all about."

IPD Activity Report

Brian Dean Morgan, 34, of Beattyville, was arrested Monday morning at the Irvine bridge and charged with public intoxication of a controlled substance by Officer Brian Cloyd.

An arrest warrant from Estill District Court was served Monday by Officer Cloyd on Rebecca Masters of Macedonia Road, Irvine. The warrant was issued because she failed to appear in Estill District Court.

On Saturday, Daniel T. Robertson, 30, of Walton Road, Irvine was charged with public intoxication and disorderly conduct, second degree at Family Dollar. Cloyd was the arresting officer.

A Madison County arrest warrant was served Thursday by Officer Cloyd on Virgil L. Janeway of Old Red Lick Road, Irvine. The warrant charged him with harassment - physical contact - no injury.

Trevor Braukman, 34, of Mt. Crest, was arrested Wednesday in front of his residence by Sgt. John Sturniolo. He was charged with public intoxication, possession of a controlled substance third degree (xanax) and unlawful imprisonment, second degree. The citation

Man arrested after wreck

An Irvine man was arrested following a vehicle collision on Broadway early Sunday morning. The collision was investigated by Officer Brian Cloyd.

The citation states that Michael J. Hatton, 37, of Clearview Drive, hit a vehicle legally parked on the side of the street.

Hatton told the deputy the vehicle belonged to his girlfriend and did not have

states that Braukman would not let his girlfriend leave the apartment.

Two arrest warrants from Estill District Court were served Wednesday by Officer Colton Lewis on Crystal Rawlins, 40, of Cantrill Street, Irvine. The first warrant states that Rawlins has failed to pay a fine. Her bail was set at \$165 in cash.

The second warrant says she failed to appear on charges of theft by deception and contempt of court. Her bail on this warrant is \$500 cash.

Officer Lewis served three bench warrants last Tuesday from Montgomery District and Circuit Courts on Marie A. Becraft of Mt. Sterling.

The first warrant states that Becraft, 30, failed to appear on four traffic related charges. No bail was set.

The second warrant states that she failed to pay a fine for theft by unlawful taking or disposition or shoplifting. She could make bail of \$248 cash or serve four days.

No bail was also set on a warrant from Montgomery Circuit Court. She was found guilty in 2017 of four counts of forgery. The warrant was issued because she had a drug court violation. No bail was set.

Hatton reportedly failed field sobriety tests. He was transported to Marcum & Wallace Hospital for a blood draw. He was treated and released.

Hatton was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence, failure of non-owner to maintain required insurance, and failure to notify address change to Dept. of Transportation.

©2010 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

... And don't forget. A pencil and pad for Mr. and Mrs. Stuart—they're not _____ !"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Remote _____

STANDIT _____

Poise _____

CREAG _____

Simple _____

ALPIN _____

Ignite _____

LINKED _____

TODAY'S WORD

Birding BITS

BY Cindy Brook

High-Fat Foods

Try these favorites to help birds get through the winter:

1. Raw peanuts, in or out of the shell.
2. Suet cakes or nuggets.
3. Hulled sunflower heart chips.
4. Black oil sunflower seed.
5. Natural peanut butter spread on tree trunks or bread.

E-mail: birdingbits@fjr.com
© 2010 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

I Need Houses, Trailers, Farms and Land to Sell. I have many buyers!!

NEW LISTINGS

1 Pug Lane, Mt. Vernon
County Lot and Mobile

2107 Brassfield Road, Waco
4-Bedroom, 3-Baths, 2-Acres (Make offer!)

\$13,000

\$175,000

MARY RENFRO
CELL: 859-314-7310
www.FollowMe2Kentucky.Com

UNIQUE REALTY Co.

SFR SHORT SALES & FORECLOSURE RESOURCE

ABR Accredited Buyer Representative