

BIO OF CHET CUNNINGHAM:

Chet Cunningham is a prolific writer of both novels and nonfiction books. He has published 309 books through major publishers. He comes from a newspapering background so is geared to producing writing every day and not “when the muses move him.” He doesn’t believe in “writer’s block”.

He is married with two grown children. He lives with his wife, Rose Marie, in San Diego where he has been for the past 47 years. He began the San Diego Writer’s Workshop for novelists and other writers 44 years ago and it still meets twice monthly.

He was born in Nebraska, grew up in Oregon, worked in Michigan, and went to college in New York City. Now lives in California. He works in an expanded den in his home and is never late due to fog, rain or traffic jams. Walk down the hall and turn left and he’s at work. He graduated from Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon with a BA in journalism, and after serving in the army in Japan and combat in Korea, received his MS degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York City in 1954.

In 1994 he founded the non-profit corporation, San Diego Book Awards Association, to recognize local writers of books. A competition for the best book in 18 different categories as well for unpublished short stories, novels, and poems. From that has come the Read-4-Fun program aimed at 5th graders to encourage them to read more. Free books are given to students who do 200 pages of outside reading and turn in a book report. The Read-4-Fun committee now works with 12 schools and just over 2,000 students. Last year the nonprofit group gave away over 3,000 books. He continues to write novels, nonfiction books, and medical books for the layman.