

The Author's ADVOCATE

Special Newsletter

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Infinity Author Tapes History Channel Segment

By Betty D. Lewis

A dream can become a reality. I am proof of that. I had a dream. I live in the southern coalfields of Appalachia. You may have heard about us, our unique lifestyle, the way we cling to our age-old traditions handed down from our grandparents, our religion, original dialect, quilts, music, blacksmithing, our many struggles with issues like *wildcat* coal strikes, strip mining, mountain-top removal, black lung, the Hatfield – McCoy Feud and on and on. Yes, our lives our different and difficult, but wonderful in so many ways and worth documenting and preserving. This was my dream, documenting and preserving the history of Appalachia as well as educating the world in a positive but truthful manner.

I didn't know how I would be able to accomplish this huge undertaking but I had a dream, a real dream telling me one way to tell the world about our old ways of life was to use modern technology, design a website – www.AppalachianPower.com. But I continued to dream. I dreamed of recording permanently what I was collecting. A book was in order. I assembled my book, moving ahead as if I already had an agent and big-time publisher, which I didn't, but aren't we told in the Bible, *To act as if it were so?*

My dream had become a mandate, not only to tell the world about the special people in the Appalachian Mountains, but preserve their stories in their original dialect, their unique beauty captured in a book. I needed a special title - something compelling and uplifting, like the people. A friend, Jim Branscome, a contributing writer, suggested, *Appalachia: Spirit Triumphant*. Nothing could be more appropriate.

The book was coming together beautifully but not without many long, late nights, sometimes all-night sessions. I mailed my manuscript to traditional publishers. I sent the material to the University of Kentucky who

held it two weeks and gave me good advice when they returned it saying I needed a strong narrative to tie together this important history. I didn't know I would have to actually write, but I got busy. Writing a narrative, developing a common thread to tie all the components of a region into a work that transcends a century of the history of Appalachia.

In the middle of this dream, both really dreaming and working on my dream, an email arrived from Japan inviting me to participate in the International Mining Conference as a historian from Appalachia. I toured Japan for nine days, all expenses paid, then, returned to the isolated hills of West Virginia to resume publication of my book. I came to terms with the fact I might not be able to land a big-time publisher since many publishers do not accept manuscripts without an agent, etc. However, at this time, Jane Martin, an Infinity author, contacted me wanting to borrow a story or two. She and John Harnish came to Appalachia to meet my fascinating people. It came to me sometime during this connection with Jane and John—that I too, could and would become an Infinity author, and I did

My book was juried into **TAMARACK**, the market place showcasing *The Best of West Virginia*, located in Beckley, WV, in November 2004 by a panel of published authors. The trip to Japan and my book juried into TAMARACK were wonderful unexpected rewards. Then, on February 16, 2005, an email arrived from David Ballard, a researcher for Greystone TV Productions who produces shows for the **History Channel**. He invited me to Hollywood, CA for an on-camera interview for a series on this region. He had found my website and knew I had published a book. I flew out on Wednesday, April 27 and was interviewed on Thursday, April 28 on the topics of Hatfield-McCoy Feud, Mewan Massacre and Blair Mine War for the History Channel. All expenses were paid and I received a token payment for my interview, which will air in the fall. That makes my dream a reality that came to be for me.

Good Luck with your dreams.

Authors Wanted for Popular Regional TV Show

By Edward W. Smith

The Bright Moment Show is a cable TV access show running on the Time Warner cable network in Northern New Jersey. It reaches between 100,000 to 120,000 viewers. It has been running for 5 years and has a loyal following. The show airs at 8PM every Wednesday and runs 28 minutes. *The Bright Moment Show* is a Self-Help/Peak Performance show featuring interviews with experts in the self-help/success field.

The show has **Edward W. Smith**, the author of *Sixty Seconds To Success* and motivational expert, plus **Theresa Smith**, a life success coach, acting as Co-hosts. The show begins with a *One Minute Motivator* (a quick, action oriented tip on how you can move your life ahead) and then moves into an interview with an expert - which could be you! We look for guests who are experts in a field related to peak performance/success such as motivation speakers, psychologists, goal setting and time management people, etc. The key is for the guest to be able to talk for the length of the show, giving concrete, action oriented tips of steps people can take right now to move their lives ahead. The emphasis is on what to do now, rather than the theory or story behind the tips.

Prospective guests should be familiar with the approach to self-help, which is laid out in *Sixty Seconds To Success*, before approaching us. You can look inside the book at Amazon.com. The show is taped in Palisades Park, NJ, and we generally tape on Monday or Wednesday nights. Additional information on the show may be accessed at www.brightmoment.com and you can sign up for our free newsletter.

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Also, PRWeb places your news directly in front of the eyes of your audience. Press releases distributed by PRWeb are regularly featured in Yahoo! News, Google News and thousands of other online locations. This dual distribution to both traditional journalists and the online audience has generated publicity, established expert status, created brand recognition and loyalty, and created new customers, as well as higher search engine placement, relevant search traffic and powerful reputation management.

Other benefits of PRWeb include the ability to attach files to the press release and upload images. These files and images can include items such as white papers, biographies, book excerpts, a PDF file, photographs or graphics such as book covers.

Since January 2005, PRWeb has conducted a series of daily, free Webinars that further educate users about PRWeb, allowing them to examine the results that others have achieved by promoting their press releases online via PRWeb. PRWeb has a simple, easy to use, self serve online service found at www.PRWeb.com. PRWeb can also assist you with all of your writing needs via its service bureau found at PRWebdirect™. Simply go to www.PRWebdirect.com and use the simplest and most efficient newswire service ever. Or you can call (866) 640-NEWS anytime to speak to their friendly staff. Through **August 30, 2005**, Infinity authors can call PRWeb at the above number to receive a special Value Code that will entitle you to a **\$39 discount** on all PRWebdirect services.

Make Plans Now to Attend Our 6th Annual Authors' Conference

Every year we have a variety of new seminars presented by the top experts in the publishing industry focusing on new techniques to help authors learn how to promote and market their books more effectively. The only things that remain the same are the excellent accommodations and food service provide by the Sheraton Park Ridge at Valley Forge, PA. For updates, please visit our website at www.authorsconference.com and also check out the archived issues of this newsletter. We're looking forward to you joining us in September!

Take care and enjoy often...John