

# Arnie Deckwa Book Reviews

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2011

"The Singin' Salmon Man from Cornet Bay by Arnie Deckwa. Book Review

"The Singin' Salmon Man from Cornet Bay by Arnie Deckwa.

This book is like sitting down with an old and very dear friend over a couple of beers (or cups of coffee) and listening to exceptionally interesting, frequently funny, occasionally a tad frightening, and always heart-warming stories of his life and the paths he has been down.

I read a great deal and generally fairly rapidly, "so many books, so little time." However, from about the third paragraph of Arnie's book I slammed on the brakes. My brain simply said this is a book to be shared completely with the author, to be read as if the author were right across from you wherever you might be reading and speaking just to you, because that is exactly what Arnie does. He simply shares, in the most entertaining way, a life's path with more twists and turns into unexpected places than most people could experience in ten lifetimes. I really enjoyed reading this book very slowly and savoring the wonderful tales this interesting man shares. I was actually sorry the book came to an end, and I've found myself going back and rereading about some of the fascinating trails this "singing; salmon man" has traveled. If you want to relax and spend some truly entertaining time with a fascinating man, read The Singin' Salmon Man from Cornet Bay. By the end you'll feel as though Arnie Deckwa is one of your oldest and dearest friends, you'll be smiling broadly, and you too will not want the stories to end."

Captain M. J. McCamish, USN (Ret)

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011

Book Review by Glenda McClurken

Hey Arnie and Joanne good to hear from you. Got your book today, can't put it down. Thanks for sending it. Brought back so many fond memories. You did good Partner. Keep up the good work. God bless you both and thanks for letting me be a part of your lives.

Glenda McClurken

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Book review by Mary Pippert

"I recently bought the book, "The Singin' Salmon Man from Cornet Bay" by Arnie Deckwa and thoroughly enjoyed it. It was easy reading and each chapter was a different adventure of Arnie's -- and

he had many.

He lived, and continues to live, life to the fullest. It was one of those books that was hard to put down and after reading it, I ordered three more books for my sisters."

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Mary Pippert  
Overland Park, Kansas

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011

Book review by Leroy Cook

Arnie and Joanne:

First of all, thank you for taking the time to write in the copy of your book Eleanor sent me. Getting a copy so I could read it was on my list but had not made it to the top of the list yet.

I thought I had gone a lot of places and done a lot of things and I am kind of an arms folded "show me" kind of guy on most everything and everybody. I finished "The Singing Salmon Man" a couple of days ago and I am really impressed. I am impressed with your stories, the way the book is written and, most of all, what you and Joanne have done and are doing. Thank you for all the good things you have done and for taking the time to tell others about them so they can be inspired and motivated. Besides telling your stories well, the book is a page turner.

Good luck in your business ventures and, although I don't think I have to tell you this:

Keep enjoying each day.

Leroy Cook

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2011

Book Review by Mark Brady

Let me first mention I have the privilege of knowing Arnie first hand... We are neighbors here at Cornet Bay and I've spent more than one afternoon/evening in his home hearing the tales of "Arn, the Commercial Fisherman", "Arn, the Contractor", "Arn, the Deputy Sheriff", "Arn, the Cowboy, Bull Rider, Chariot Racer", "Arn, the Entertainer"... The list is almost endless... I was actually able to share Arnies' escapade of putting the book together. He allowed me to read many of the transcripts as the different chapters were written.... It was a fun adventure!

As we travel our journey through life, we come across those unique souls that somehow manage to take life to its fullest.... I consider them a "Rare Breed". You're about to read the tales of one of those characters... I have managed to put a little excitement in my own life journey including flying jet aircraft on and off a "Pitching Deck" aircraft carrier in the middle of the night, but all-in-all, my life journey has been pretty tame compared to the first seventy years of one Mr. Arnie Deckwa...

It's the type of life journey you usually only read about in books or see in movies.... Most are usually fiction, but every now and then you get the "Real Thing"..... Most folks are ready to start "Slowing Down" at seventy, but this cowboy is "Just Gettin' Started".....

How many of us at age 14 can say "I'm the "Skipper" of a commercial fishing Boat? My biggest achievement at that age, was knowing how to "milk a cow"...

It all started back when he was 14 and he easily assumed the persona of "James Dean" in front of the bathroom mirror.... Black leather jacket un-zipped, collar turned "up", white T-shirt exposed.... Attitude in place.... Yes sir, he was "Going Places", he just didn't know where at the time.... You now have the book that tells the story!

Reminds me of those descriptive words, "Fire in the Wind" by America's most prolific singer/song writer, John Stewart.

So, get ready for the "Ride". You're about to take a journey that has many turns and will show you that "Following Your Dream" can sometimes turn out totally different than you anticipated, but the final road taken, does indeed end with a "Dream Come True". It's filled with adventures and "Roads Less Taken", but most of all; it's a book that just makes you "Feel Good". I guarantee it will bring a smile and "Warm Your Heart"....

This ride includes:

Snakes, Horses, Moose, Mountain Goats, Bears in the Tent, Little Red, a little dirt in the face compliments of a poor choice of words and Grandpa Deckwa, flying through the air and bouncing "Off the Wall" compliments of another poor choice of words and Grandpa Sterkel, 57 Chevy's, Bulls & Chariots and Condos & Cowboys. After a 5000 mile round trip journey from Oak Harbor, WA to Nashville, TN; this cowboy's "Dream" gets a new direction after a chance encounter in the back stage area of the "Grand Old Opry" and he returns home with a beautiful wife who helps him become the "Entrepreneur of Cornet Bay". He now has products in 1000's of food stores across the nation and he is making personal phone calls from his 400 sq foot boyhood home (now serving as his office) to CEOs and managers of billion \$ companies ..... It's a ride you will enjoy taking. Next stop, "The Movie"!!!

To Arn; "Thanks for a GREAT weekend", I was up till 4:30 AM on Saturday morning and then my final

Saturday night read until midnight. Makes a man realize how special life can be..... Thanks for the smiles!!!!!! Yes sir, YOU DID GOOD!!!!!!

Mark Brady  
Cdr, US Navy (Retired)  
President, Island Sound & Video Systems, Inc  
Friend and Neighbour

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Book review by William A. Kimmins

When I started this book I didn't really know what to expect. I have known Arnie for sometime now and have known bits and pieces of his story. I can say now that I know who Arnie is and why he is driven the way he is driven. This was a book that I wanted to swallow a chapter at a time cause it was such a peek "under the hood" of a close friend. Every person has their story....its just that Arnie's story is a big one. Read the book....you will know why his product is so good.  
Lots and Lots of love...that's why.

William A. Kimmins

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TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011

Book Review by Wallie Funk

RE: the book, 'The Singin' Salmon Man from Cornet Bay'. Yes, Arnie, you got it right from the beginning to end. You are all that was written, outgoing, affable, willing to give almost anything in life a shot. Arnie, you are an original. Who has a love of kin and huge cross sections of friends.

I first met you when you came into my office at the Whidbey News Times, a perfect picture of the urban cowboy, 10-gallon hat, boots, spurs and all. Began that day a relationship that has grown stronger over the years. There has been the records, the snoose commercial, singing engagements, from coast to Nashville and home again. Now as, 'The Singin' Salmon Man from Cornet Bay' - the book that brightly details it all. Good Read, Arnie! Go for it, now at the biographical level.

Wallie Funk  
Former Publisher  
Whidbey News Times

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Book Review by Wayne Lewis

“Arnie’s first book is a shining light on what it was like living on Whidbey Island before traffic over the Deception Pass Bridge was a steady stream. I call it Arnie’s first book because he has many more terrific stories, which call for a Book 2.

If you’re looking for a book that honestly sets the example on how to stay on track thru ups and downs and get to your goal, Arnie’s book is it.”

Wayne Lewis

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011

Book Review by Allen Shambin

Arnie is a true American original and I count it one of my great blessings to have met him when I first moved to Nashville as a “hungry songwriter.” Not only were there times when “Arn” literally showed up at my apartment door with a bag of groceries, but there were many other times when he nourished my soul with one inspiring, funny and heartwarming story after another. As I read the stories in this book, I caught myself bursting with laughter one second and trying to swallow a big lump in my throat the next. This book captures the spirit of a man who lives with as much passion, gusto and love for life as anyone I’ve ever met. I’m proud to call “Arn” my friend and I hope this book is the beginning of many more.

--- Allen Shamblin, Writer of “He Walked On Water,” Don’t Laugh At Me,” “I Can’t Make You Love Me,” and CMA Song of the year “The House That Built Me.”

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011

Book Review by Jimmy Gray

I've read the book now word to word. Well done!!!!

Arnie, You've done it!!! Me, Rick and Gerald all give you a "high five". I know there were times you were frustrated and ready to quit....but, thankfully, you didn't.

I appreciate Joanne, Rob and the others who worked on the illustrations, book design and cover. All I can say is that the book is everything I had hoped for.

Again....Well Done!!!!

Jimmy Gray

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Book Review by Ron Elmer

The Book, besides having a nice professional finish on the covers and inside, two things stand out. First I commend you for your recall of all those thousands of details from so many years back. I took that for granted the first time I looked at the book, but on the second time it just flat amazes me. I could not begin to recall anything like that.

Which brings me to the second point. I think that part of the reason is your story is so unique. For the last two decades, or more, people just have not been really getting out and living a real life. Everything outside of eating sleeping, and working is simulated either in print or in the last 10 years electronically. That's what's compelling about the stories and the overall book, is the reader gets to ride along with somebody that would never be satisfied with somebody else's reality. Why would he? His is way more fun. Keep the faith Arn, this is going to go well because you are a positive person and positive energy always creates good positive results.

My only regret in all of this is that I cannot be right there with you on this adventure.

Best regards

Ron

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Book Review by Buddy Hayes

BOOK REVIEW

THE SINGING SALMON MAN

by

Buddy Hayes

Reading the stories in "The Singing Salmon Man" took me back in years to my childhood around the first or second grade. Nap time was a big part of the days curriculum and I always looked forward to it. Not because I was made to lay down and be quiet but because my teacher always read to us before we did so. The stories she read excited me to the point I could hardly wait until the next days nap time to continue where she left off.

Arnie Deckwa's book is a compiled version of such stories. Finishing the reading of one inspires the

desire to hurry and read another and then another, making it difficult to lay aside. Within the pages of this biography, one will discover information, excitement, mystery, and fun; written the way a story book should be written. The comparison of your childhood to Tom & Huck, the ups and downs of adolescence, growing to maturity as a younger man, and following your dream through adulthood, with everything written simply enough to be understood and enjoyed by anyone is an accomplishment any writer would wish for.

It has a special place in my library between "Tom Sawyer" and "Huck Finn"; which by the way, as characters, are referenced with much affection. If you loved Tom and Huck, you'll love the adventures of the Singing Salmon Man.

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TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2011

Book review by Peggy V

Only one problem with the book . . . . I couldn't put it down once I started reading it!

--Peggy V., Johnsonburg, PA

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The Official 'First' Press Release  
-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

NEW BOOK DETAILS LIFE AND CAREER  
OF AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL-ARNIE DECKWA,  
"THE SINGIN' SALMON MAN from CORNET BAY"

Release date: January 13, 2011  
232 pgs., softcover - \$16 plus S/H  
Cornet Bay Publishing, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

For information Contact: Cornet Bay Company  
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The life and times of one of the business world's most fascinating characters have been captured in his new book, "The Singin' Salmon Man from Cornet Bay". It tells of his adventures growing up on Whidbey Island in a commercial fishing family, the lessons of a cool teen in the 1950's, love, marriage,

careers, rodeo experiences, musical pursuits and putting together a food business. The book brings it all together and shows how determination can make it all happen.

Founder and president of Cornet Bay Company, Arnie heads his food business that began with smoked salmon dips and now features more than 80 products. Many of these products are sold in QFC, Haggen, Top Foods, Saar's and many other fine stores in the northwest. His Kroger labeled seafood dips are sold in Kroger stores throughout the south and southeast. "The Singin' Salmon Man from Cornet Bay" is the fascinating and sometimes hair-raising inside story of how it all happened, told by one of the world's great story-tellers, Arnie himself.

Born to a fishing family on Whidbey Island in Washington State, Arnie was a commercial fisherman, a rodeo contestant, a deputy sheriff, a building contractor, a land developer, and a world-traveling country and country-gospel singer before he found his true calling as the head of a booming business based on some of the best smoked salmon and crab dips that ever tempted a palate.

Readers will accompany Arnie as he fishes the waters of the Pacific, rides bulls and races horse-drawn chariots, plays music on stages from Nashville to the Orient, and finally sees all his dreams come together backstage at the Grand Ole Opry, where legends like Roy Acuff, Charlie Walker and Little Jimmy Dickens help set the stage for him to become known as "the first and only cowboy ever to ride into the history of Nashville's country music on smoked salmon."

Meet the Singin' Salmon Man-Arnie Deckwa.

"A wonderful read-it's great, it's entertaining, it's funny." - Tom Long, president/owner, That-A-Fly Music, Nashville, TN

"Arnie is a true American original." - Allen Shamblin, writer of "He Walked On Water," "Don't Laugh At Me" and "The House That Built Me"

"Arnie...is an inspiration to us all." - David Long, Seafood Coordinator, The Kroger Company  
Foreward - From the Book

Once in a lifetime someone comes along who doesn't fit any kind of mold. They are true self-starters who go against the grain and are relentless when the impossible needs to be done. One such person is a salt-water cowboy I've known for twenty-plus years named Arnie Deckwa.

"The first and only cowboy ever to ride into the history of Nashville's Country Music on Smoked Salmon."

About Cornet Bay Food Company

It all started on the back stage of the Grand Ole Opry in January of 1987. I brought a gift of hot smoked salmon to give to a friend, Brent Burkett, original member of the quartet named "the Four Guy's". With excitement Brent tasted the smoked salmon in the hallway between the green room and Roy Acuff's dressing room. After that taste he looked at me very seriously and said, "I know you want to sing, cowboy, but you need to do something with this!". Being caught off guard I said "do what with it?" he said "SELL IT!!", "Sell it to who?", "Sell it to KROGER!", I pondered for a bit then said ... "who's Kroger?".

I'm from the North West, a place called Cornet Bay located on Whidbey Island just 75 miles north of Seattle.

About Arnie Deckwa and Cornet Bay Food Company

Went to the Grand Ole Opry to become a singer, instead found my destiny as an entrepreneur, and started the Cornet Bay Food Company.

Singin' Salmon Man from Cornet Bay - the book.