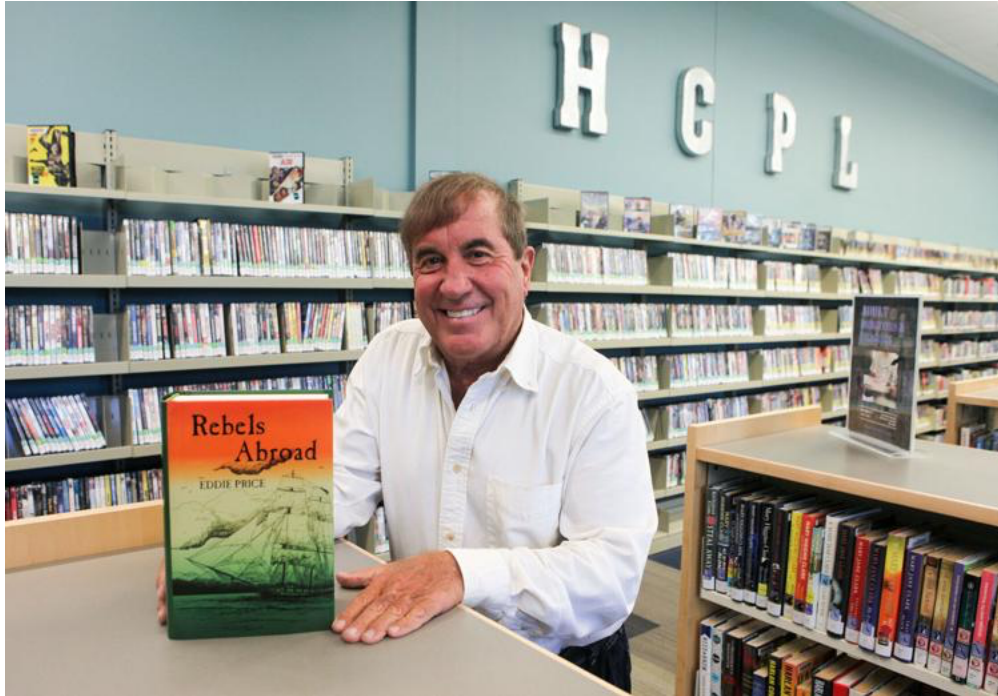


https://www.messenger-inquirer.com/news/you-hope-youre-here-for-the-right-reasons-price-finds-purpose-in-second-career-as/article_b453d888-4f0f-5fe2-b131-bc9fc581178b.html

'You hope you're here for the right reasons': Price finds purpose in second career as historical novelist, children's author

By Freddie Bourne Messenger-Inquirer

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Eddie Price shows off his recent book, "Rebels Abroad," on Monday inside the Hancock County Public Library in Lewisport.

Photo by Alan Warren, Messenger-Inquirer | awarren@messenger-inquirer.com

When Eddie Price retired from being a history teacher at Hancock County High School in 2012 after 36 years in education, his career as an author was only just beginning.

In the same year, the 68-year-old Hawesville resident and Daviess County native released his first book "Widder's Landing: Life & Love on the Kentucky Frontier" — a historical novel detailing a young man having to relocate after losing his job during "bleak economic times" in the early-to-mid 1810s. He received the gold medal for "Best Historical Fiction" at the Readers' Favorite Awards among other accolades.

By October 2022, Price had become known for his other works including "One Drop — A Slave!," "An Unlikely Trio: The Winners of the 1913 Kentucky Derby" and the 1,273-page novel "Rebels Abroad" — with the latter garnering the bronze medal in the category of "Adult Fiction: Historical" at the 2023 Florida Authors and Publishers Awards.

For Price, writing is something he always had interest in.



“When I was younger, I wanted to write,” he said. “I remember writing stories for my class in second grade at Philpot Elementary School, and then I actually wrote a play for the school ... when I was in upper elementary.

“I always dreamed of writing the great American novel,” Price chuckled. “Become rich and famous and all that stuff.”

Price continued to write while he was a student at Daviess County High School in the late 60s and early 70s, eventually getting his poems and short stories chosen for one of the school’s writing publications.

But it wasn’t until Price enrolled at Kentucky Wesleyan College that his writing “took a big change” when he was introduced to late English professor Bob Darrell.

“He really taught me a great deal about thinking about when you write how to make sentences, who are you talking to and how does one paragraph tie into another one,” Price said. “I had really never been taught that.”

But instead of diving into a career as a writer, Price earned his master’s degree in history and education at Western Kentucky University and earned his Rank I certification for teaching.

“I liked that, too,” Price laughed. “I had a great history teacher at Daviess County High named Floyd Hooks, and I actually mention him in books because he really turned me onto history.

“I think you take the love of writing and the love of history, and you put ‘em in a blender, and you hit frappé — and you get a novelist,” Price laughed.

Price has been fond of history in both his careers in teaching and as an author, but he’s expanded his writing skills with the “Little Miss Grubby Toes” children’s picture book series, with illustrations by Mark Wayne Adams.

A father of two daughters, Price recalled telling stories to them at night while they were growing up.

“The stories had a little bit of a lesson to them,” he said, which inspired his books: “Little Miss Grubby Toes Steps on a Bee!,” “Little Miss Grubby Toes Plays with Fire!,” “Little Miss Grubby Toes Falls in the Pool!,” “Little Miss Grubby Toes Eats Too Much Candy!,” “Little Miss Grubby Toes Gets Stuck in a Tree!” and “Little Miss Grubby Toes Gets Lost!” — which all have received gold medals at the Mom’s Choice Awards.

Since debuting “Little Miss Grubby Toes,” Price has remained busy with bringing the titular character to life.

“These things really do sell like Cracker Jacks,” he said. “I go into schools. I do puppet shows. It’s insanity.”

Regardless of what readers will be attracted to in Price’s catalog, he “really (wants) to entertain and educate” while still keeping his second career and passion intact.

“It’s overflowing (my cup),” he said. “Every day I get up, I answer a little bit of fan mail ... and also people that (want) to know if I’m available for a historical talk or an event. ... Every day, I’ve got something new.”

And he’s happy that his work has made an impression on others.

“I’ve had people who told me ‘you taught me how to swim’ or ‘I’m now a member of the historical society because you got me into that,’ ” Price said, “and so you think, ‘Man — you know, you hope you’re here for the right reasons.’ ”

For more information on Price and his works, visit eddiepricekentuckyauthor.com.

F Bourne