

CERES BASE GAZETTE

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THE INKWELL

by Clancy Weeks

WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL ISSUE of the CERES BASE GAZETTE! Since this is the first newsletter I'm sending, much of this information comes directly from the website. Later issues should include much more interesting tidbits, but don't hold me to that.

As I mentioned on my site, I trained as a composer and music educator, taught high school band for over twenty years, and conducted two separate community bands almost continually since before my retirement in 2006. I'm not new to publishing, having published over three dozen compositions for orchestra and wind ensemble. I always wanted to write Sci-Fi, and began writing again in 2012. In 2014,

I made the mistake of asking an author friend if she'd read some of my short stories while I was working for a small company that designed and built CNC equipment. A few days later, she urged me to quit my job and take up writing full time. My wife was incredibly supportive—especially since we'd completely depend on her salary as an elementary music teacher—and with her approval, I talked my employer into laying me off, securing unemployment for six months while I got our finances in order.

Even with little additional composing over the last fifteen years, I still make more money from that per year than I do as an author. I'm always hoping that will change, but I really suck at the marketing and networking thing, so I don't expect things to get better soon. If you're a budding author, get the idea of quick money out of your head right now. The instant success stories stand out because they are so rare. Even Stephen King had hundreds of rejections before his first major success with *Carrie*.

So... I bought a book on marketing myself as a writer (*Write. Publish. Repeat*, by Sean Platt & Johnny B. Truant) and my new website and this newsletter are two of the initial results. Over the coming months, I hope to improve on this and other strategies they outlined in their book.

Well, enough of that. On to what I'm working on now...

I currently have three completed novels at various stages of

production, with *The Ward* being the closest to release. This is my first horror novel, and it's written in the style of *It* by Stephen King. I think it's something most of you have never seen before, as it is told in first person by a protagonist who is a 75-ish-year-old man and bedridden in a hospital. He's ventilated through a tracheostomy tube, and cannot really talk, but he is the only one who sees the demons killing children in the cancer ward. Somehow, he has to stop them. The mythical town of Blackwater isn't exactly my home town, but most of my family and friends will recognize the place.

Check the calendar below for tentative release dates.

CALENDAR

Mid-January—Complete book 2 of *The River Saga*

Mid February—Release *The Ward*

End of March—Complete all final edits of *Bitter Knight*

End of April—Complete book 3 of *The River Saga*, release *Bitter Knight*

End of May—Complete edits of book 2 of *The River Saga*

End of June—Complete edits of book 3 of *The River Saga*

Mid-to-late July—Release entire *River Saga* series