



Bloomington Public Library

Home Services Newsletter

Summer 2015

Spotlight on Mary Daheim

Mary Daheim is a cozy mystery writer whose series are set in the Pacific Northwest. Ms. Daheim is a Seattle native. She has a journalism degree and has worked as a reporter and in public relations. Before mysteries, she wrote historical romances. Mary Daheim's main two series are the "Bed and Breakfast" series and the "Alpine (Emma Lord)" series. Her witty, engaging, writing embodies small-town charm and family relationships. The following are some comments regarding her books. "Daheim writes . . . with dry wit, a butter-smooth style, and obvious wicked enjoyment." - THE OREGONIAN "A complex plot and a cast of vivid characters will keep readers turning pages." - PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (Above based on Mary Daheim's homepage www.marydaheimauthor.com, LITERATURE RESOURCE CENTER database, and www.randomhouse.com)

Mary Daheim has favored us with an original essay written just for our readers! She provides a history of the setting of her "Alpine" series. Enjoy!

Why Alpine? by Mary Daheim

Alpine. Growing up in Seattle, I heard many tales of my family's life and times in the old logging town. All were told with fondness and frequently with humor. It was clear that my parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and everybody else who had ever lived there thought it was a special place.

[This story is continued on page 3....]



New Audio Books

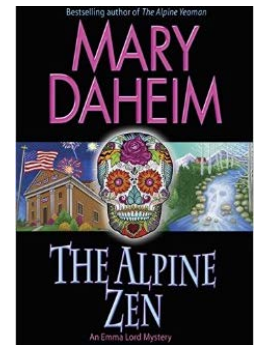
The Alpine Zen by Mary Daheim

Dreaming Spies by Laurie King

Emma: a Modern Retelling by Alexander McCall Smith

Just Kids from the Bronx by Arlene Alda

Natural Born Heroes by Christopher McDougall



New Large Print Books

At the Water's Edge by Sara Gruen

Chasing Sunsets by Karen Kingsbury

Dead Wake: the Last Crossing of the Lusitania

by Erik Larson

The Good Girl by Mary Kubica

Mrs. Grant and Madame Julie by Jennifer Chiaverini



Movies You May Have Missed

The Shunning – with Bill Oberst, Jr., Danielle Panabaker, and Sherry Stringfield—Katie Lapp is a beautiful Amish girl who has always felt like something in her life was missing. But she just may find out what that is when a mysterious ‘Englischer’ comes to Lancaster County hoping to find the baby girl she gave up for adoption nineteen years ago. Based on the book by Beverly Lewis.



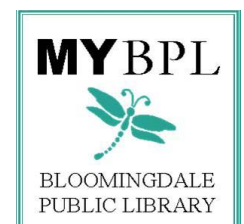
Quote for the Day

“The love of books is a love which requires neither justification, apology, nor defense.” – J.A. Langford

Homebound Services

If you are a senior without a car, physically handicapped, recovering from surgery, or limited by illness, you are entitled to receive free delivery of library materials to your home. You must be a Bloomingdale resident with a valid library card.

Contact Merril or Brenda at 630.924.2730 for delivery.



As I grew older, I began to wonder why they had so many happy memories. There was never a road into the town. Access from the old Cascade Highway was only by train or climbing up a mile on a mountainside. Every winter there was snow on the ground, sometimes as much as eight feet, and it lasted from early September until late May. It all sounded like rugged isolation to me.

But I realized that was the main reason the town's residents had forged ties that were passed down through three generations. In my teens, I asked my father if we could try to find the old site, which had been abandoned when Carl Clemans closed his mill and moved his logging crew elsewhere. Dad, who had vast knowledge of our part of the world, told me that even he probably couldn't find Alpine. Too much logging, too much second growth timber, too much change even in highway access, he said.

But the place intrigued me, especially because of all those wonderful memories. When I was asked by an editor at Random House/Ballantine if I could write a second mystery series (my B&B books had recently been published by Avon), I told him I could. Alpine immediately came to mind. This special place didn't deserve to be lost to time. Thus, I created a town that had survived the loss of its only reason for being, the original mill. I figured I'd done my share to preserve Alpine's memory.

[This story is continued on page 4....]

But two men--old friends, one living north of Seattle and the other finishing his teaching career at a Georgia university--began reading my books and got hooked on finding Alpine. When Pat Burns retired and moved back to this area, he and Tim Raetzloff decided to go looking for the old town site--and they found it. Now, because of their efforts, there's a plan to create a trail that will connect between the existing Deception Falls and Iron Goat Trails.

Unfortunately, Pat Burns died a couple of years ago. His ashes were scattered at Alpine. There is a road now, but it's rugged and intended mainly for Bonneville Power maintenance of the cross-state power lines that go over Alpine. Oddly enough, I wrote about those lines in one of the early books in the series. I had no idea they actually existed.

I've been to Alpine. So have other members of my family, including my youngest daughter, Maggie, and her husband, Paul. In fact, they have spent many weekends there in a tent. I once asked her what kind of feeling she had when she was at the old town site. She answered without hesitation: "Love. It comes right out of the ground."

I understood.

