

## Journalism Collected in Books

"Journalism" is a broad term, including entirely objective reporting on a wide variety of subjects; it also includes less objective work like columns and editorials. While journalism covers current events, it can be helpful in understanding the past. Historians will often use newspaper articles, or, more recently, recorded radio broadcasts, television news, and internet reporting, to build pictures of the past. Sometimes a publisher will reprint journalism in book form, and we have many of these books in the Bartholomew County Public Library, including those on the list below. All the President's Men, by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, is the story of the two authors, reporters for the Washington Post, as they investigate the illegal activities of the Richard Nixon administration, including breaking in to the Democratic Headquarters in the Watergate Hotel. Their reporting had a large part in President Nixon's resignation. The book was turned into an excellent movie of the same name, starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman.

"Frank Sinatra has a Cold," by Gay Talese, included in Esquire's Big Book of Great Writing, started out when Talese was assigned to interview Sinatra for Esquire magazine. Sinatra, grumpy because he had a cold, wouldn't participate in the interview. Faced with no material for his article, Talese decided instead to write about Sinatra's friends and associates, and building indirectly an image of Sinatra.

Rachel Carson's Silent Spring, is a short book of investigative science reporting, where she looks into how certain pesticides had been weakening the shells of songbirds, leading to a drop in their populations, causing the "silent spring" of the title. The book led to closer attention to the unintended effects of pesticides on animals and people.

Even before he became a famous novelist and short story writer, Ernest Hemingway was a reporter. Many believe this influenced his style, and, indisputably, influenced his writing. His novel, For Whom the Bell Tolls, arose from Hemingway's experiences reporting on the Spanish Civil War. These articles and others are in By-Line: Ernest Hemingway, edited by William White.

Far different from any of these, Dave Barry's humor columns don't fit some definitions of journalism. However, in 1988, Barry won a Pulitzer Prize in Journalism for Commentary. The Pulitzer Prize committee noted that he used humor to "present fresh insights into serious concerns." His columns have been collected into many books, including Dave Barry Turns Fifty, Dave Barry Does Japan, and Dave Barry in Cyberspace.

This is only a sample of the excellent journalism collected in books, available at BCPL. You can do some investigating of your own, and find out the kind of reporting you like.

*Robert Mixner is a Reference Librarian at Bartholomew County Public Library*