

COMMUNITY

Superstition Trails and Local History Reflected in *Caldera* Trilogy

By AnnElise Makin

If Dan Baldwin's main character could talk to you in person, this is how it might go.

"Call me Caldera. Bull McKenzie was my father. All he gave me was contempt and an old Pima guardian. Growing up in Privy's bordellos, I soon learned to dodge my stepmom's poisons. My progenitor named me *Caldera*, or *bubbling cauldron*. So had seemed to him my squalling birth. That name blazed the way for many troubles."

Caldera II, A Man on Fire—Red Mountain Ranch's sage and ghostwriter, Dan Baldwin, recently received the second volume of his true Old West trilogy fresh off the (Red Willow) Press. It tells a larger-than-life saga of Arizona's pioneering history.

"In the second volume," Dan explained, "Caldera is driven by numerous trials into nearly fatal confrontations to discover his true family." Cast against a monumental Bull McKenzie, an ex-mountain man and fortune-digger, and a poison-mongering bordello-madam stepmom, Caldera is left to only trust a weathered Pima Indian.

Now, put these characters together on the map in the raucous, bawdy mining town of Privy. Imagine a



place of true grit and grime, less the glory. Reality bites in this town, like rattlesnakes do. And many bite the dust. Some of these bad characters seem so real you want to duck into a side alley to avoid them.

"The little town is totally made up," Dan said. But he admits snippets could have been drawn from the Florence area's stories and lore. To keep the Old West authentic, the writer dug deep into 19th century history books and diaries.

"This was a story that had to come out," Dan shared. The material coalesced for roughly a decade, as many ghost-writing projects kept the author busy otherwise. During that time, Dan, an avid hiker, kept visiting the places where history happened. Many backdrops can be imagined against the awesome Superstition Mountains.

Stunned by the sight of Weaver's Needle, Dan converted the image into the trail on which Bull finds his riches. In the Lost Dutchman legend, the Apache kill the Peralta family's miners, steal the mules, and dump the gold along the way. Bull stumbles across these bags and buys the town.

Drawing on local lore and geography, Dan's action-packed *Caldera* series delivers local history right into your face. It's rogue and rough characters, whose only tug of heart might be to bury the dead, reflects frontier reality to exacting detail.

Another volume is coming up. Dan currently is writing the third *Caldera* novel, *A Man of Blood*, which will be ready for publication in late 2012. ■

Dan Baldwin's Bibliography

Dan has ghostwritten more than 40 books. He currently is writing the third part of the *Caldera* series. In teaming with detective Kelly Snyder, he is compiling the second volume of *Find Me* (we reported), a collection of psychic crime scene investigations. Another Western novel, *Trapp Canyon* (Red Willow Press), is scheduled

for publication this March. Dan's no-cost, basic writing presentation, *I'm Not the Author; I Just Wrote the Book*, is available for presentations to clubs and organizations. To find out more about Dan and his books, go to <http://danbaldwin.biz/>, or www.amazon.com (Dan Baldwin, *Caldera*).



BUSINESS

Conflict resolution helps turn conflicts into opportunities

By Michael S. Seaver

A common reality in every workplace is conflict, and divergent needs, values, perceptions and opinions all contribute to differing views on any topic.

So, how do you turn conflict into an opportunity? By accepting and understanding that one person's concerns appear to be incompatible with another person's point of view and seeking a win-win solution to the disagreement. By following the below steps, you'll be able to turn a discrepancy into an opportunity for your organization.

1. EDUCATE YOURSELF

Take the Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Mode Instrument. It will tell you that you handle interpersonal conflict either by competing, collaborating, compromising, avoiding or accommodating. Explore the Interest-Based Relational Approach to conflict resolution. It focuses on keeping personalities and problems separate, making relationships a priority, and exploring solutions together. Understanding yourself and a resolution process will help give you the emotional intelligence required to find resolution filled with opportunity.

2. SET EXPECTATIONS

Hold a team meeting whereby you lay out a specific process for dealing with all future conflict. Rewards and consequences for specific behaviors should be developed and openly accepted by all members of the team. Allow all members of the team to provide input.



3. COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

Learn to listen actively, but also to use *I* statements. *You* statements accuse others and only help to build hostility. An example of an *I* statement is, "I felt my idea was a good solution to our situation. It bothered me that it wasn't even considered." Instead of saying "You wouldn't even

consider my option," focus on the action and describing the impact of that specific behavior without personal accusation.

4. ACT QUICKLY

Resolving the conflict sooner than later will help to limit hurt feelings. You do have to pick your battles, but if a situation warrants action, confront it head on. Sticking to the previously defined process will help thoughts, feelings and opinions become public, and create innovative solutions not previously discussed.

5. SEEK A WIN-WIN SOLUTION

You do not have to be right. You have to improve the relationship and come to a conclusion beneficial for all parties involved. Balancing courage and consideration is fundamental to real maturity and helping the organization reach new heights.

Often, the win-win resolution is so powerful that new ideas generated blossom into opportunities not previously brought to light. ■

Michael S. Seaver, MBA, SPHR, is the founder and CEO of Seaver Consulting, LLC. If you would like to learn more about career/business coaching, leadership training or consulting, visit www.michaelseaver.com.

GOLF TIP OF THE MONTH

BALANCE IS A KEY component for every golfer

By Ben Weir
Director of Instruction
Las Sendas Golf Academy

When addressing the golf ball and throughout one's swing, it is crucial for the player to maintain proper balance.

Proper balance begins with the address position. There are a few simple keys, which allow a player to begin building a foundation for desired balance prior to the swing. It is unlikely, but possible, for a golfer to occasionally hit wonderful shots without the proper balance on the backswing or the downswing. With less than proper balance, desired shot patterns become a hit or miss game of chance. In order to alleviate such a dangerous game to play, it is far easier to follow a couple basic principles.

When addressing the ball, one must first have a wide enough stance to withstand the *balance pressures*, which match the chosen club. Wedges require the narrowest stance, and a driver requires the widest, small to big, in accordance with the club. Next, the weight must be evenly distributed side to side with slightly more weight forward on the balls of one's feet to attain a strong foundation before beginning the swing.

The entire goal for a golfer desiring great balance is to load properly on the backswing, and to transfer completely on the downswing into the finished

position. In order to achieve *proper load* and balance, a player must focus on his weight on the inside of the right foot, right knee and right hip flexor by the top of the backswing. In order to achieve *proper transfer* and balance, a player must feel a downward thrust, which is initiated by the core body (hips, abdominals, etc.) and a rolling of the right instep/foot into a full upright position.



When the correct address position and a few simple keys on the backswing and downswing are learned, a player has a greater chance of achieving proper balance throughout the swing, which, in turn, will lead to more desirable shots.

If you have any further questions on balance or any other part of your golf game, please do not hesitate to visit lassendas.com/academy, e-mail me at benweir@pga.com, or call me directly at (602) 391-7100. I would be happy to arrange your next lesson, and provide you a roadmap to improving your game. ■