

MANAGING MEMOIRS FILES

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My wife, PegEgg, and I are writing our memoirs.

We're writing *episodic memoirs* which are short stories about specific events. Examples would be "My First Kiss," "Surviving High School," and "My Best Pet." You can see some of my memoirs by clicking on "Muses & Memories" at <http://DarryD.com>.

The challenge that I find which causes most people to falter is how to name, store and access the files.

This lesson describes my experience. Use what works for you; discard that which does not.

First of all, decide on which word processor you are going to use. I use WordPerfect.

Next, separate your Memoirs files from all the others in the "My Documents" folder.

I keep copies of memoirs for myself, PegEgg, and several of our friends. So, within the My Documents folder, I begin each folder with "Memoirs" followed by a person's name (**Figure 1**).

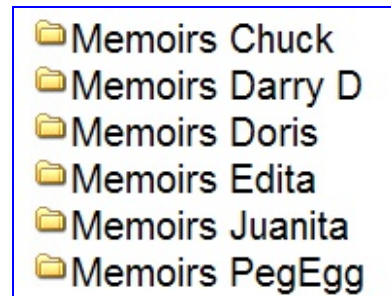


Figure 1

Within my memoirs folder, I begin each file name with the year of the memory (**Figure 2**). Thus my memoirs are in chronological order.

Even if the story is about a one-hour event during a given year, placing that year in front of the story

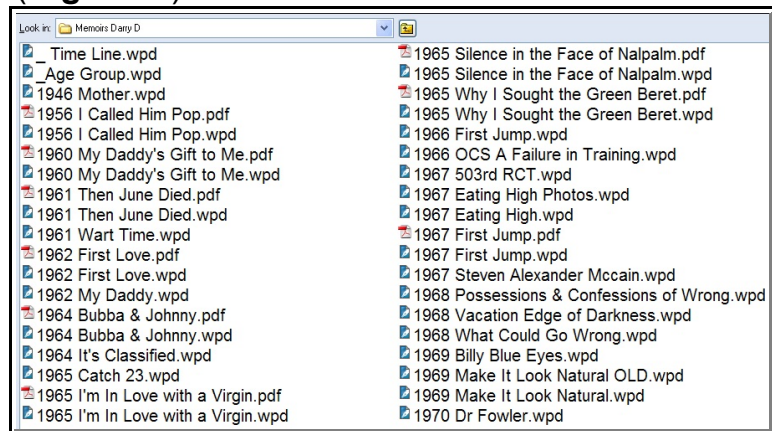


Figure 2

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aids one in knowing where — in the span of your life — some event occurred.

Note that I have two special files before my memoirs. I have forced these to be listed first by using an *underscore* (_) in front of the name.

The first is a “_Time Line.” This is a chart, by year, of the events in my life and in the history of the world (**Figure 3**).

I only list the World Events that had influence on my life. For example, unknown to me and my parents, three months before my birth, events in Asia were creating an occupation for me in 1967: a warrior in the Vietnam War.


DARRY D. EGGLESTON			
AGE	YEAR	PERSONAL EVENTS	WORLD EVENTS
0	1946	▶ June 5 th — born in [REDACTED] Hospital, Miami, FL, to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. 	▶ March 6 th — Vietnam War: Ho Chi Minh signs an agreement with France which recognizes Vietnam as an autonomous state in the Indochinese Federation & the French Union. <i>See 1967 below.</i>

Figure 3

The second is “_Age Group” which compares my age with those of several other people (**Figures 4 & 5**). PegEgg gave me this list and I find it interesting if not historically significant. Knowing that you’re the only one on the list that 100 other people don’t know keeps one humble.

To find the data for your birthday, visit <http://www.famousdays.com/> and select your month and year.

DARRY D's BIRTHDAY IS JUNE 5, 1946 YOU ARE 61 YEARS OLD AS OF 2007 YOU ARE ABOUT: 29 years 7 months younger than Walter Cronkite, age 89 26 years 1 month younger than Pope John Paul II, age 85 (Dead) 22 years 0 months younger than George Herbert Bush, age 81 14 years 8 months younger than Barbara Walters, age 74 12 years 7 months younger than Larry King, age 72

Figure 4

YOU WERE: 56 years old at the time of the 9-11 attack on America 54 years old on the first day of Y2K 52 years old when Princess Diana was killed in a car crash 49 years old at the time of Oklahoma City bombing 49 years old when O. J. Simpson was charged with murder 47 years old at the time of the 93 bombing of the World Trade Center 45 years old when Operation Desert Storm began 44 years old during the fall of the Berlin Wall

Figure 5