

## **Walter Cronkite, a Reporter's Life**

*Book review by Jane Cala*

The recent death of Walter Cronkite saddened me, as I thought, "This is the end of an era." When I checked out the Barnes and Noble website for a CD I was looking for, lo and behold, there on their home page was the book Walter Cronkite, A Reporter's Life by the Master himself. I just had to order it.

This is a book, which I think everyone should read. Along with the fact that Walter was a pretty good storyteller and can make you laugh your head off at times, the inside story on the history of our country (and the world) during the time he worked for CBS and other news organizations is enlightening. One of the things that stood out for me was the courage this man had and the lengths he went to in order to bring unbiased news to us. Walter flew combat missions in World War II. He went to Korea and Vietnam. He travelled to the bottom of the ocean in a somewhat questionable submarine. He stood his ground against the leaders of the world who disagreed with him or disliked his honesty and the way he "told it like it was."

Because this is a book of memoirs, Walter didn't mean for it to be a history of news organizations too, but it turns out a good picture of what news gathering has been like from the early 1900's right through to today. He points out the importance of getting our news from a variety of sources - a good newspaper, weekly news magazines, TV, even the internet. He bemoans the fact that infotainment, rather than information, is becoming so important and puts forth his hopes for the future of newsgathering and dissemination.

The world has lost a great man, a courageous man, a man of honesty and integrity the likes of which are hard to find today. May he rest in peace.