

..a grandson with my father's name opens the door for me to tell a story that I have carried within me for as long as I can remember.

Author interview: WVPE

The hidden cost of progress

What begins as a letter to his grandson about his father becomes investigative research and reporting that reveals the hidden story behind the destruction of his father's boyhood home and the destruction of Somerset, Indiana.

In this powerful exposé, discover how a flood-control reservoir was sold off the books, twisted in the name of community recreation and economic development, left those most affected without a voice . . . and ended in disaster.

Shroyer's story is one of the past and the present, both a deeply personal account for his grandson, and a searing commentary of what the powerful can do to the powerless—and why environmental activism in rural communities continues to be as important now as ever.

WHEN ONCE DESTROYED

"...a profoundly moving piece of American history."
—Robert Wuthnow,
author of *The Left Behind*

A Historical Memoir
of the Life and
Death of a Small Town

SID SHROYER



Sid Shroyer is a retired high school English teacher and an NPR affiliate broadcaster, writer, and essayist. He grew up in rural north central Indiana and has lived since 1977 in South Bend. For more about *When Once Destroyed* and radio essays, or to inquire about booking information for media appearances and speaking engagements, visit sidshroyer.com.

"Having grown up in a small rural community, and having spent years as a sociologist studying small towns, I was impressed with the depth of detail and insight in these pages. Sid Shroyer has captured a profoundly moving piece of American history."

—Robert Wuthnow, author of *The Left Behind: Decline and Rage in Small-Town America*

"... a brilliant example of the craft of storytelling. It's also a painful reminder of all the stories that exist around us yet go untold or become forgotten."

—Barbara Anguiano, producer, National Public Radio's *1A* podcast

"Shroyer skillfully pieces together newspaper stories, personal letters, government reports, archival papers, survey maps, secret plans, oral histories, outright lies, a murder, broken promises, small-town politics, and congressional acts in order to corroborate a complex story of American power and its victims."

—April Lidinsky, professor of women's and gender studies, Indiana University South Bend



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