

Ralph Mooney
By Alexis Operle

Ralph Mooney, one of the founding members of the St. Louis Writers Guild served as president in 1941. Not much is known about his early life, but we do know he was born in the year 1891. In his thirties, Mooney published short stories in popular magazines such as the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Argosy All-Story Weekly*, *The Popular Magazine*, *Munsey's*, *American Magazine*, and *People's Favorite Magazine*. Some of his most well-known stories include “Look like a Million” in *American Magazine*, 1921, and “Polysynthetic Football” published in *The Saturday Evening Post*, 1922.

Ralph Mooney is most known for his novel David Rudd. Published by Henry Waterson, New York, 1927, this novel, also often called a memoir, has been explained as a romance of the Mississippi River.

Later, Mooney published another book titled, Mr. Pelly's Little Home. This fiction novel was also published in New York, 1936.

Mooney also dipped into other endeavors with friend C. Eugene Smith. In 1914, a three-act operetta, “The Love Star” was produced by W. Gus Haenschen, words and lyrics were written by Mooney and Smith. This instrumental ensemble for chorus and piano was produced in St. Louis, Missouri by the Quadrangle Club of Washington University.

Between writing for the *Argosy*, *The Saturday Evening Post* and brushing shoulders with greats like Frank Munsey and Norman Rockwell, Mooney also found time to hold some of the Writer's Guild's earliest meetings. Members could often be found spending Sundays at his home. Ralph Mooney dedicated his life to writing and encouraging others to write.