

CELEBRITIES NEWS

And Holiday Greeting

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Celebrities News

For the 9th Holiday Season, Dee and D. E. Woods send greetings and bring you news of writer-folk.

It has been a happy year with much ado about many things. And there are exciting plans for months to come. The 1960 Southwest Writers Conference date is June 4-7th.

Joe Small's two unique magazines, *True West* and *Frontier Times*, have gone national with a quarter-million copies each month. Joe started TW with forty dollars after telling his plans to a flock of chickens while he sat atop a rail fence. He still has bothers such as getting enough paper to get out the books.

E. B. Mann, former director of University of New Mexico Press, is editor of the new *Guns Quarterly*. He also edits the magazine *Guns* and the *Shooting Goods Retailer*, a trade magazine. . . . Dr. J. A. Carroll, formerly of Del Mar College, is editor of *Arizona and The West*, published by the University of Arizona. . . . Lynwood Giacomini of Harpers is writing a column titled On the House for the *Library Journal*.

Books are prized as Christmas gifts and there are several new ones of special interest. Ed Kilman did a whale of a lot of research on "Cannibal Coast" which is a history of the Carancahua Indians. . . . "San Antonio" by Charles Ramsdell, University of Texas Press, is a beautiful book, chockful of pictures. . . . *Saturday Review* devotes a columnar space telling about Harnett T. Kane's adventures "running about the country" autographing "Have Pen, Will Autograph".

Dallas had an autographing avalanche one week in October. Lon Tinkle and Allen Maxwell autographed their "Cowboy Reader". Wayne Gard signed his name in "The Great Buffalo Hunt". Frank X. Tolbert wrote on the title page of "The Day of San Jacinto" and John Howard Griffin signature-d his "Land of the High Sky".

The first two of five western novels to be published in Holland by Elsa Barker have been received by her. These are five of the six books Elsa has had published in England. . . . Brent Locke Riley and Lillian Fuller Jones who write under the

name Robin Langtry have a new children's book, "Dinosaur Harvest". Brent has sold a new mystery, a sequel to her "Hidden Cat".

"Friendly Feudin"—Alaska vs. Texas" is Boyce House's latest. Boyce does a weekly column for 85 newspapers and is working on two books at the same time. . . . When Violet West Sone received galley proofs of her "13 Innocents Abroad"—the printer couldn't resist—it was mis-titled "13 Innocent Broads". . . . First book of a series in the Library of Western Industry was "Line Haul" by Samuel W. Taylor. Sam and Gay have just bought a ranch with a barn and have visions of a repertory theater.

General editor of "The Meridian Documents of American History Series" is George F. Scheer, a 12-volume series. "The Confederacy" edited by A. D. Kirwan is off the press. Next appears "American Foreign Policy", edited by Robert A. Divine of the University of Texas.

"The Long Road to Humanity" by Stanton A. Coblenz was published this year and forthcoming is his "My Life in Poetry".

Harry Sinclair Drago's latest novel is titled "Fenced Off". Essie Forrester O'Brien's new book is all about the circus. Virginia Nielsen McCall's romance, "Journey to Love" was reprinted by NEA syndicate. . . . Other new books include "Great Women of the Christian Faith" by Edith Deen and "Gold Country" by Elma Dill Russell Spencer. . . . Frontier days in New Mexico will be featured in C. L. Sonnichsen's next book. . . . Author of 500 short stories Wilfred McCormick has his 28th book off the press this month.

An anthology of western short stores, "Frontiers West" was edited by S. Omar Barker. Omar, past president of Western Writers of America, was made an honorary chief of the Kiowa tribe during the WWA convention last June. His Indian name is Pa-la-tau-kau-ga which means "Man Who Talks Good".

Another honor recipient is Fred Gipson. He was awarded the 1959 William Allen White Children's Book Award for "Old Yeller". . . . Van Chandler is very busy honoring the office of poet laureateship of Texas. . . . Dee Walker and Rudolph Hill are rightly proud to have their biographies included in "International Who's Who in Poetry" recently published in London.

The Byliners and Lichtenstein's will honor General W. W. Sterling with an autograph party for his book "Trails and Trials of a Texas Ranger". Col. Bill—affectionately we call him—and Zora helped put over the initial writers' meeting.

Brownie McNiel (Dr. Norman W.) is one of a panel of three members of National Association of Foreign Student Advisors who probably will visit Venezuela, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala under the Creole Foundation of Venezuela during the coming months. Remember Brownie's folk songs at the Ed Harte's fabulous garden party last June?

Wings and wheels and perhaps a sail or two figure past plots and future plans of a lot of folk. We had an 11-state, 6,000-mile jaunt this fall, spent a weekend with Maurine Eastus, met Click Relander, sculptor and writer, was impressed. . . . Our other Maurine, M. D. McElroy, is working on her Ph.D. at U. of Texas.

Joseph Wood Klutch is spending a good deal of time exploring Baja, California, and plans to do a book. He expects to be in Berkeley for the summer. . . . The J. Meredith Tattons and son John plan a visit in England and they will tour several countries in Europe. Florence Bosl spent twelve weeks in the Near East and certain European countries for the State Department this past summer. . . . Ada Wilson had a fabulous European trip, shopping, visiting art galleries, and consulting medical authorities. Her work at the Ada Wilson Crippled Children's Hospital is internationally known.

Allen Ludden of CBS works in New York during the week and flies weekends to various educational institutions in connection with his College Bowl TV programs. . . . Laura V. Hamner is spending the winter in the Deep South. . . . Billie Stevenson, staff of *Sheep and Goat Raiser*, station-wagons over the state about three weeks out of four. . . . Van and Helen Chandler plan a trip to Japan in 1961. . . . Kay Metz will fly down from Chicago to speak at our annual 4 C's Luncheon, Saturday, April 2nd. . . . Walt Wiggins just completed a three weeks flying survey for *Sports Illustrated* showing great fly-in hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation areas within a five hundred mile radius of Phoenix. Walt's new home address is Star Route, Ruidoso Downs, N. M.

Through the grapevine we heard wedding bells ring for Com. W. W. Grant and Miss Billie Thompson . . . Jerry Enderli and W. A. Read passed through town on a honeymoon trip to Mexico. Our biggest and best wishes to both couples . . . Other grapevine news: Dr. Walter P. Webb is teaching at U. of Houston. . . Texas Institute of Letters will meet in Houston next time. We like that.



Lily of Arkansas—Lily Peter, that is—is poet, musician, lecturer, critic and cotton farmer. Recently she took up architecture, redesigned a church building. When finished she drove her pick-up truck to Memphis for wrought iron railings for church steps—one up on Da Vinci because he never drove a truck even if he did design an airplane. As for engineering, Lily declares her masterpiece is a new cotton gin. “A cotton gin, a good gin, is an epic poem in itself—an astounding creation.” We must learn not to be surprised at anything Lily does.

We like surprises. Doesn't everybody? An unwrapped sturdy beautiful Indian basket from Flora M. Hood, Cherokee, N. C., was delivered. The expressman looked like he didn't want to give it up. . . . We also collect coffee cups. We have them from 18 countries! . . . And scarfs! Helen Vanderburg, Shell Rock, Iowa, president of National Federation of Press Women, surprised us with one. Helen is quite a gal—has her fingers in many important pies!

The writing fraternity works.

Ruel McDaniel's monthly quota on the typewriter is 50,000 words. At present he is spending off-moments on his long-planned novel with a shrimp industry background and has five chapters of a boys' book ready for perusal by a publisher . . . Isabel Gaddis is working on a Dobie Anthology.

Garland Roark is weary after completing a novel exceeding 150,000 words and wishes the SW Writers Conference were scheduled for now . . . Merle Miller has just finished a long novel, “A Gay and Melancholy Sound”, is writing on a play for TV-NBC, and is working on “The Hurricane Season” for the theater . . . Lewis Nordyke's new book, “Nubbin Ridge”, will be about boyhood reminiscences on a Heart of Texas farm . . . Boyce House made 51 after-dinner speeches this year but had to work to

earn the other 1,044 meals. He is now working on two books at the same time . . . Ross Phares is working on a novel, but the end is not in sight. Dr. Joe B. Frantz is editing a volume of cowboy lore.

Not working—at writing, anyway, is Dillon Anderson, who reports that business, professional, and government endeavors have just about crowded writing out of his life. He anticipates getting back into the fold.

Frank Wardlaw, president of Texas Institute of Letters, is en-paneling speakers for the next Conference program. Remember the brilliant panel on research at Watsonia in 1957—Vandiver, Carroll, Speigel, Frantz—conducted by Lelon Winsborough?

The 16th writers meeting June 4-7th, 1960, will be a star-studded affair. J. Frank Dobie will speak on the subject “The Truth is Stranger Than—”.

Publishers, editors, and writers who will be present include Harrison Smith, John Ciardi, Lynwood Giacomini, Frank Wardlaw, Dr. W. A. Stigler, Boyce House, Ross Phares, Ruel McDaniel, Lily Peter, Ed Kilman, Dr. George D. Hendricks, Dee Walker, Col. Wilfred McCormick, Diana Poteat Hobby, Eve Bartlett, Sr. Mary Francis Johnson, Lelon Winsborough, Rita Naylor, Van Chandler, Martin Dreyer, Dr. Grace Ross, Mabel Kuykendall, Katharyn Evans, Lewis Nordyke, Lon Tinkle, and many other V. I. P.s



Something has been added to our list of awards in Conference Literary Contests: a \$200 Charles W. Ferguson Prize for a non-fiction book-length manuscript. The Ada Wilson \$200 will be awarded to a novel script. Mrs. Wilson has given the top prize in contests for the past 12 years. We are truly grateful for her generosity . . . Perhaps we should mention there will be over \$1,000 in cash prizes.



We hope 1960 will be your best, your happiest year and that you enjoy a Gay Holiday.

DEE and D. E. Woods