

“A tribute to Tony Hillerman”

LEFT COAST CRIME 5

February 17 • 19 • 1995

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The Poisoned Pen



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LEFT COAST CRIME ventures into new territory for its fifth annual criminal assembly. Scottsdale is the 1995 winter hotspot for mystery, where, if the usual balmy February weather holds true, much of the mystery book world can enjoy Southwestern hospitality in casual yet elegant, intimate yet spacious surroundings, spreading out over the lawns and gardens of the Scottsdale Civic Mall. It is our hope that LCCC5 members will enjoy visits to art galleries, shops, restaurants, entertainments, and various natural and man-made wonders of the Valley of the Sun.

We want you to enjoy our killer program, too, a positive binge of panels, signings, receptions, workshops, and book shopping. LCCC5 especially appreciates its partnership with the Scottsdale Public Library which hosts the pre-conference program with P. D. James and the Sisters-in-Crime gathering.

For something a little different, the conference is within striking distance of a mystery bookstore, so *The Poisoned Pen* is hosting its own round of author signings to share the LCCC5 excitement with the local mystery community. We hope each of you will find a moment to stroll two blocks west and pay the store a visit.

While *The Poisoned Pen* is playing host to the conference, the real work has been done by the volunteer committee, ably chaired by Jean Hanus. This dedicated group salutes you at the end of this program. They will be easily recognizable by their badges, so please take a moment to speak with them over the weekend.

Previous organizing committees have imprinted the conference with a distinctive personality and style we've greatly admired. Some of the already traditional events like the Saturday autographing roundtable and the infamous card room have been retained. New features like the Taco Tea have been added. No doubt each region will borrow from previous LCCC's and add its own distinctive programming when it becomes host.

Thanks to a special combination of circumstances, and in recognition of the many fans who would have liked to participate, a pre-conference program on Thursday extends the excitement to a full four days and allows some writers' workshops and a round-robin introductory session to be added. These developments may have come too late to benefit most of you, but perhaps they, too, will become a tradition.

Best of all, with its move to Scottsdale in 1995 and on to Boulder in 1996, LCCC becomes a true regional resource for all to treasure. To facilitate its passage up and down the Left Coast, LCCC has become a not-for-profit corporation with a regional board of directors, by-laws, established procedures, a carry-over budget, and a mailing list — in short, with the apparatus in place that will carry it from success to success.

We hope all of you will enjoy the distinctive Southwestern flavor of this year's conference and will pay tribute to a star-studded cast surrounding a glittering constellation of Southwestern writers headed by our Guest of Honor, Tony Hillerman, and our Toastmistress, Judith van Gieson. This fabulous conference program wrapped in an original John Dawson painting of Tony Hillerman will help preserve your memories for years to come.

The organizing committee, all the volunteers, and the bookstore staff join me in welcoming you. If you have any questions or problems that need answers, don't hesitate to ask any of us for assistance. Above all, have fun!

Barbara Peters, *The Poisoned Pen*



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We salute the many Volunteers who made this conference possible

CONFERENCE GUIDE

For details consult the Pocket Program in the book bag

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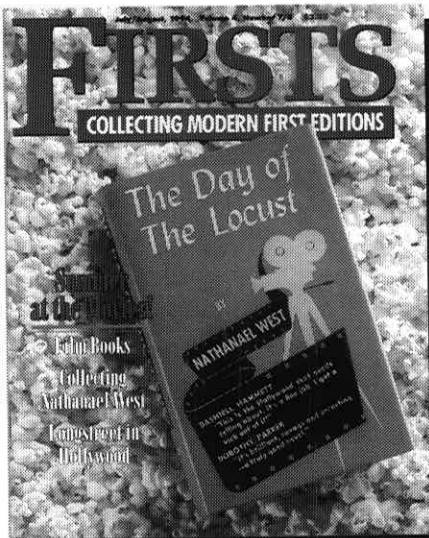
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- 1991 Carl Hiaasen for *Native Tongue*
- 1992 John Dunning for *Booked to Die*
- 1993 Peter Hoeg for *Smilla's Sense of Snow*

Join the Opening Festivities on Friday evening, February 17, when the new Dilys winner will be unveiled.

LCCCS'S AMBIANT AUTHOR

And here we have our mystery ghostwriter who will be roaming amongst us during the conference. See if you can recognize **him**. He has a life that parallels the adventures of his hero. One of his book jackets states: "Whether searching for legendary gold mines or leading expeditions to find famous shipwrecks, he has garnered an amazing record of success. With his NUMA crew of volunteers, he has discovered more than sixty lost ships of historic significance. He also collects classic automobiles. His collection features seventy-five unique examples of custom coach work and is one of the finest to be found anywhere. He divides his time between Denver, Colorado, and Paradise Valley, Arizona."



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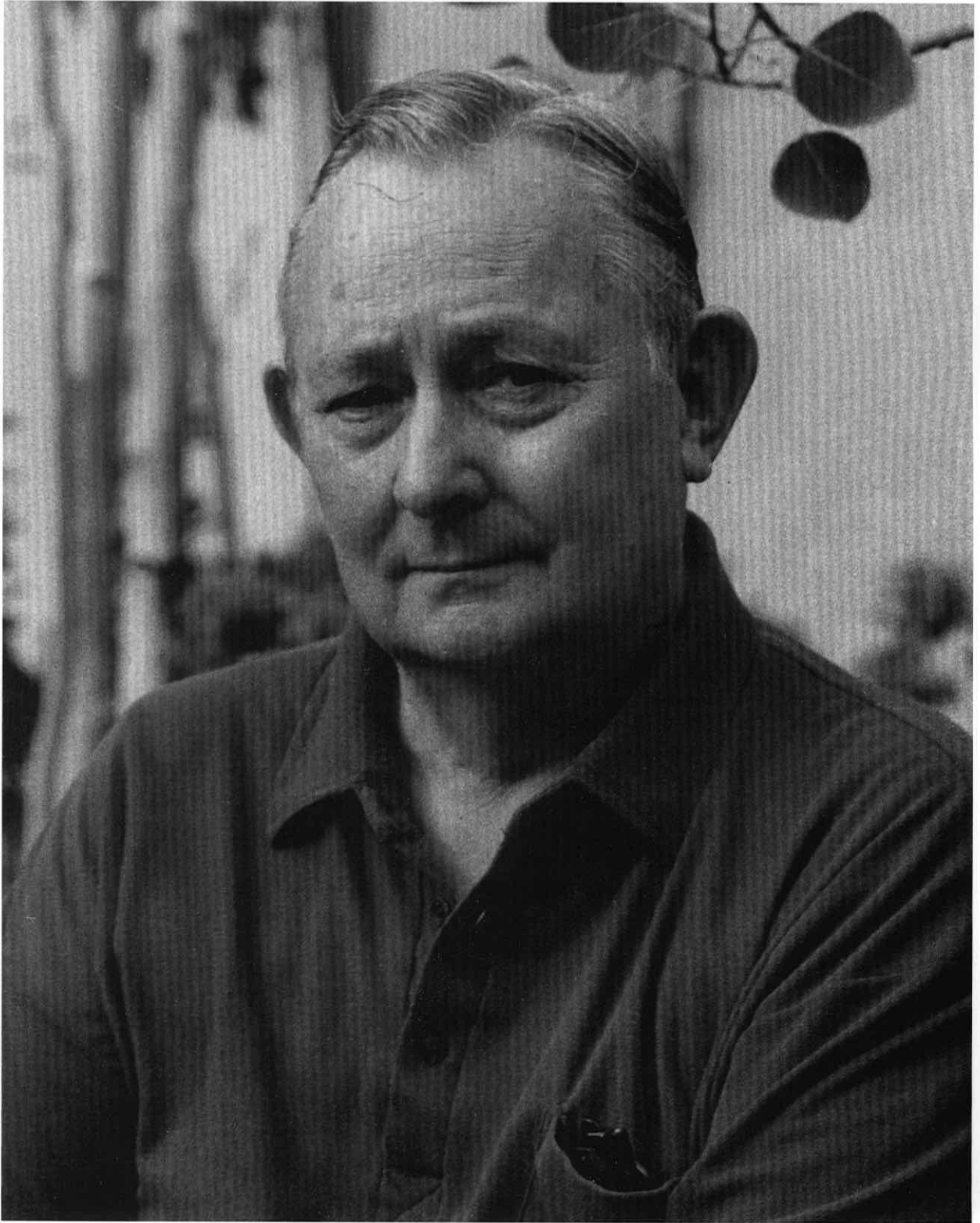
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The 5th Left Coast Crime Conference's

Guest of Honor
TONY HILLERMAN

&

Toastmistress
JUDITH VAN GIESON



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GETTING TO KNOW TONY HILLERMAN

by ROSEMARY HERBERT

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All readers of Tony Hillerman's work know that the quest to live in physical and spiritual harmony with one's world is his greatest theme. Anyone who gets acquainted with Hillerman personally soon learns that this theme is natural territory for a very special man. For Hillerman not only possesses tremendous insight into the way of life of the Native Americans who are guided by this concept but he also lives the philosophy that he writes.

The Navajo have a word for their idea of harmony: They call it *hosrah*. It is a quiet concept, often unspoken, but it underlies the way in which they approach their daily round and embrace life.

Hillerman, too, employs *hosrah* in his daily round, particularly in his writing life. For this harmonious notion is not only the theme around which his fiction is centered but it guides the author in the crafting of his novels. Hillerman's mysteries featuring the native American sleuths Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee take an ordered world, introduce a shocking element of disorder, and then proceed to reestablish harmony by means of the investigation and eventual solution of the crime.

The notion of the detective story as a shattered idyll requiring the sleuth to reinstate order is not new to the genre. Back in 1948 the distinguished poet and literary critic W.H. Auden expressed this idea in his landmark article entitled "The Guilty Vicarage". He was chiefly writing about the cozy fiction epitomizing the British Golden Age of detective writing, where bodies discovered in leather armchairs of gentlemen's clubs provided "unpleasantness", or country house libraries were cluttered with the inconvenient corpse. In British and imitative American detective fiction of the cozy school, the shattering crime was the occasion for an intellectual puzzle, the opening move in a game between the author and the clever reader. While it

might not be sporting to place a corpse on the tennis court or polite for a criminal to leave muddy footprints on the carpet by the French window — and it certainly was in poor taste to disturb the pouring out of afternoon tea — the shocking interruption of the idyll was often used as a mere device in such fiction. The detectives were brought in to clear up the disturbance by means of a tidy solution.

What was new when Hillerman arrived on the mystery scene in 1970 with the *Blessing Way* was that the order of things in the world about which he wrote was imbued with far more significance. In Hillerman's work that harmony was essential to the philosophy of the Native American community in which the fiction is set. And twenty-five years later, this remains the case. Not only do the ceremonies that Hillerman's criminals interrupt have profound spiritual significance to those involved, but Hillerman's Tribal Policemen are steeped in a heritage that drives them to bring their community back into peace with itself. Their professional duty is to solve crimes; their cultural commitment is to serve as agents of order on a more profound level.

Like his sleuths, Hillerman sets himself the task of crafting crimes that are solved in an action- and puzzle-oriented narrative. This is his job as a mystery novelist and he performs it as a true professional. But his underlying mission is to repeatedly reestablish order in a community that he loves and admires. For through reinstating that order he is able to convey the delicate sense of balance he values in the culture that he is writing about.

As an interviewer, I have been privileged to discover how Hillerman came to his understanding of the people and culture about whom he writes and to ask directly how he crafts his work so that the

reader is placed in the dramatic landscapes and circumstances that he writes about. Hillerman confided, "One reason I think I write about the Navajos is because I know I have so much in common with *The People* in basic ways." For instance, he told me that as a person who survived the dust bowl period in Oklahoma, he shares the Navajo instinct to begin each day by looking at the sky. Like the Navajo, this child of a harsh environment treasures rain. It is also significant that when Hillerman was a boy, his playmates were the Native American neighbors in Oklahoma. Thus, Hillerman's insight into the psychology of his characters is built upon a grasp of the practical realities of their lives and upon boyhood friendship. It is not surprising that Hillerman frequently draws on his characters' physical reactions to their circumstances and environment in order to draw readers into his narrative. "I want to bring the reader in there with me in the dark," he says. "So I have you feel the things under [the protagonist's] fingers; I have you hear what he hears; I try to bring in the maximum number of senses. So you're right there with his nerve endings."

But to write about the philosophical underpinnings of his work, to relate biographical facts, or to reveal a secret among his considerable crafting skills does not tell the whole story of Hillerman. All writers will tell you that much is revealed about themselves in their books. But many will also admit that they write about the world as they would wish it to be and, by extension, reveal themselves as they would wish people to know them. If you precede your acquaintance with Hillerman by immersion in his writing, you might wonder if the man can live up to the quiet strengths of his work. Will he be as articulate in person as he is on the page? Will he pronounce the occasional nugget of truth in the refreshing voice we've come to know? Has fame spoiled him? Does he retain a commitment to writing each page as earnestly as if he had no recognizable name to ride on? Will he have time for you? Will he be a smaller man in person than he is on the page?

Well, in person, Hillerman is all one would hope. His conversation is full of accounts of personal experience that resound with the ring of

truth about himself and about human nature in general. Much of what he tells you is in the form of stories or vignettes. These reveal the eye for detail for which he is known as a writer.

If there is any surprise about a conversation with Hillerman it is his strong sense of humor, particularly regarding himself. Readers know that he appreciates the subtle sense of humor shared by the Native Americans about whom he writes but his ability to laugh openly about his own experiences makes for much fun in Hillerman's company.

Take for example Hillerman's account of his early employment experience just after he had returned, wounded, on a thirty day convalescent furlough from his Army service in World War II. He got a job hauling oil on the Checkerboard part of the Navajo reservation where there were no roads. The boss was going to drive one truck and "he rather reluctantly, I think, gave me the job of driving the other. I had a patch over one eye," Hillerman recalls, "and I couldn't see very well out of the other. But worse, I was in terrible physical condition. I'd been seven months in the hospital." According to Hillerman, they "would drive twenty hours and then pull over and sleep. These trucks were shot, and we drove real slow and labored up every hill. One awful day we were struggling up Nine Mile Hill out of Albuquerque, for about the second day in a row. I went to sleep in the middle of the afternoon. *Behind the wheel*. But anyway [the boss] was going slower than I was and I ran into the back of his truck — not very hard — but it sure destroyed his confidence in me."

As this anecdote illustrates, Hillerman possesses a good measure of modesty. This inborn modesty surely accounts for the fact that fame has not spoiled him. And his background as a professional writer, journalist and professor has kept his standards high. Yes, he continues to write each page as if he still needs to make a name for himself.

To be sure, he is terribly busy. No doubt, he cannot make time for every fan who would love to meet him. But those who are privileged to share some of his time find that he makes a wonderful companion. He has the gift for forming friendship

enhanced by his natural curiosity and inclination to care about the well-being of others.

And there it is: well-being. This is what one experiences in Hillerman's company. As an interview, as a co-editor working with him on a volume of short stories, and as an individual, I simply trust that he is there for me. There's something solid about him. Hillerman is at least as big a man as a friend and colleague as he is on the page.

The memory that I shall always cherish about becoming acquainted with Hillerman is this. Like so many other people who first met the man through his work, I concluded my first personal visit with him by requesting his autograph. After he obliged, I shook his hand and made a lingering exit from his home, reflecting on the fact that I was taking away not only superb material for my book of interviews but a sense of well-being. Through Hillerman's work and conversation, I knew that Navajo word for it. *Hosraah*. I also knew that this profound state of balance is referred to as "going in beauty".

I reached my car, turned to glance back at the Hillerman home, and opened my book to see his signature. His bold handwriting spelled out his wish for me. "May you go in beauty," he wrote. And I did.

*Rosemary Herbert became acquainted with Tony Hillerman while interviewing him for her book, **The Fatal Art of Entertainment; Interviews with Mystery Writers**, published by G.K. Hall. Currently she and Hillerman are co-editing **The Oxford Book of American Detective Stories** to be published by Oxford University Press in Spring of 1996. Herbert is also Editor-in-Chief of the **Oxford Companion to Crime and Mystery Writing** and editor of an additional anthology of detective stories, both in progress for Oxford University Press.*

Further comments on Tony Hillerman from:

Lawrence Ashmead, Vice President and Executive Editor of HarperCollins Publishers:

We all know about Tony Hillerman the writer, but for just a minute stop and try to picture the man who wrote the books and stories we all love. He's one of the kindest, most thoughtful people I know. And what priorities — his beloved family, the homeless, the beleaguered Native American, anyone in need or want. A man of generous spirit, he's truly religious in every good sense of the word. His books will never be forgotten and neither will the man. And then there's his beloved Marie....

Author Jean Hager:

I've been a fan of Tony's since his first book was published. Nobody evokes the southwest setting any better than he does. In fact, his books inspired me to use another Indian culture, the Cherokee, as a background in two mystery series.

Author Judith van Gieson:

I love the clarity and precision of Tony Hillerman's writing.

Author Ron Query:

Twenty-seven years ago Larry McMurtry pointed out that, while there have always been literary capitals and literary provinces, those of us who choose for whatever reason to live and work out here in the provinces should not expect the kind of modish recognition our city cousins get. Things have changed — thanks in no small part to Tony Hillerman. I am persuaded that had Tony Hillerman not set his fiction on Navajo-Hopi Land — had he not so sensitively and so skillfully used his novels as vehicles to gently instruct his legions of readers on Navajo lifeways — my own work might still have found audience outside the region ... 'though I doubt it. I will tell you that those of us who write from and about the Southwest — and do not for a moment imagine that I am referring here only to *mystery* writers — are deeply indebted to this most generous man.

The Ballantine Publishing Group Salutes
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FROM
JUDITH VAN GIESON
LCCC 5 TOASTMISTRESS

I've lived in New Mexico on and off since 1981. I love writing about it; the Southwest is an endless source of fascination and inspiration for me. I love the space, the big sky, the colors, the scenery. New Mexico has an interesting mix of urban areas and wide open spaces. Albuquerque is surrounded by Indian reservations and national forest. My heroine, Neil Hamel, says that the best thing about Albuquerque is that you can go fifteen minutes in any direction and be out of it.

I write about crime and there's plenty of interesting crime in New Mexico. New Mexicans seem to be as creative in crime as they are in the arts. Neil's lover, who she calls the Kid, is an emigre from South America. At one point he was an illegal alien and he knows a lot about border crimes and issues.

I like the mix of cultures in New Mexico: Indian, Hispanic, Anglo. There have been a number of mysteries written about New Mexico's Indian population but hardly any that involve Anglo/Hispanic relations. I deal with that through Neil's relationship with the Kid. He has a different language and background than Neil and it's always interesting for me to look at things from his perspective.

In the Southwest we have the sense of living in several time zones. There is the present, of course, and one of the problems of the present is the rapid growth that Albuquerque is experiencing. Growth involves real estate development and often real estate fraud which is always fun for me to write about as I was a real estate broker in a past life. I dealt with savings and loan fraud in *The Lies That Bind*. President Clinton is known to be a mystery fan and mystery writers are always sending him their books to read. I passed on that one.

We also exist in the future in New Mexico with the high tech labs at Sandia and Los Alamos and the space center at White Sands. We have the Very Large Array on the Plains of San Augustin where

satellite dishes are turned towards outer space trying to pick up messages.

The past is accessible in the Southwest in a more tangible way than in most of America. There are the petroglyphs with their stories to tell, the ruins, the Indian pueblos and the traditional ceremonials, as well as the agrarian traditions of the Hispanics of the Rio Grande Valley.

I like to write about wildlife and endangered species and those are big issues in the Southwest. I enjoy doing the research for the wildlife books. I like to get out in the wilderness areas and the people involved are fascinating.

Another part of New Mexico I really enjoy writing about is the food. Neil likes hot food and junk food. She drinks Cuervo Gold and Jell-O shots. The question I get asked most frequently about my books is what are Jell-O shots and does anybody really eat, slurp, or drink them? They are a mixture of Jell-O and an appropriately flavored liquor and, yes, people do actually ingest them, one way or another—in New Mexico anyway.

JUDITH VAN GIESON is a graduate of Northwestern University. She has worked at a number of odd jobs (some very odd) but has been a full time writer since her first Neil Hamel mystery was published in 1988. Five books have been published in this series: *North Of The Border*, *Raptor*, *The Other Side Of Death*, *The Wolf Path* and *The Lies That Bind* (nominated for the Shamus Award for best novel in 1993). They all involved environmental issues in the Southwest. *Parrot Blues*, the sixth book in the series, will be published by Harper Collins in February, 1995. Judith will give an interview on SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 12:30-2:30, at the Phoenix Zoo. A portion of the *Parrot Blues* book sales that day will go to fund the Zoo's wolf and parrot programs.



**ROBERT B. PARKER
FROM
DELACORTE PRESS**

Born and raised in New England, Robert B. Parker is second generation Irish American on his mother's side and what he calls "English Yankee" on his father's. His maternal grandmother — born in Cork, Ireland — settled outside Boston in 1894 and married Charles Murphy, himself a first generation Irish American. They were, as Parker describes, a classic Irish Catholic family. Although he remembers several Irish wakes as a child and some immersion in the Irish History of his family, he also remembers being somewhat embarrassed by his staunchly Irish Republican grandmother who was so anti-English as to be almost pro-Nazi during the Second World War.

Parker attended Colby College in Maine where he experienced one of the key events of his life. In 1950, at the freshman dance, he met his future wife, Joan Hall. After graduation and two years in the infantry in Korea, Parker returned to New England to marry Joan. They raised two sons, David and Daniel. Parker has always considered himself a family man, and will go so far as to say, "I'd much rather be a husband and father than a writer...if I *had* to make a choice." As a disciplined writer he produces five pages a day, five days a week, but with his priority on being a husband and father, he refuses to work weekends or nights, saying, "I decided early on that I wasn't going to let this writing career eat me up.

In his early professional years, Parker worked a string of jobs he detested: management trainee for Curtiss-Wright, copywriter for Prudential Insurance Company, and technical writer at Raytheon. At age 30, he decided to forgo the pleasures of the working world and enrolled in the English doctoral program at Boston University. After nine years of studying, Parker taught English at Suffolk University, Bridgewater State College, and Northeastern University.

In 1973, disenchanted with his teaching position, Parker withdrew from the world of

academia and sat down to write the first novel to feature Spenser, his now-famous street-smart Boston private eye. Parker is now the author of twenty-six books. In addition to *All Our Yesterdays* and the Spenser series, he has written two stand-alone novels: *Wilderness* and *Love and Glory*. He has also become the direct heir of Raymond Chandler for completing Chandler's unfinished manuscript, *Poodle Springs*, and writing a sequel to the *The Big Sleep* called *Perchance to Dream*. His closeness to his family is also reflected in his one nonfiction work, *Three Weeks in Spring*, which he co-authored with his wife Joan.

More than any previous work, Parker says, *All Our Yesterdays* "gave me a chance to say some things and examine some issues that would have been hard to address in a 'Spenser' format. It allowed me to mine my own history and use what I know about being a husband, a father, and a son, in a way that would have been inappropriate to Spenser's world."

*What is that strange Southwestern sight. **The Snowbird?** It migrates here every winter and feathers our nest. Several references are made about "the snowbird" throughout this program. Our portrait of our region would not be complete without an example of the species, and **Robert B. Parker**, spending some weeks researching in Tombstone, perfectly fills the bill.*

THE UNIQUE FLAVOR OF THE SOUTHWEST

by SUSAN WITTIG ALBERT

Geographically, the China Bayles series is set on the eastern fringe of the Southwest, in Pecan Springs, Texas, halfway between San Antonio and Austin. But much of Texas is pure southwest, with its longhorn cattle and south-of-the-border architecture, its fascination with the open range and fear of fences. And with food.

Ah, Tex-Mex. The American love affair with “Mexican” food began in Texas with chili, a Texas culinary creation. And chili begins with chiles, among which are some of the hottest things God ever created. Chiles range from the mild Anaheims (100 units on the Scoville Scale, the standard measurement of chile heat) to the in-your-face jalapeños (5000 units), to habaneros (200-300,000 units), the chiles from hell. The most punishing way to prove your machismo is to saunter into a border restaurant and order a melt-your-teeth dish of salsa de chile habanero, an uncooked sauce of onions, chopped tomatoes, cilantro, garlic, and habaneros.

But the chile isn't the only signature flavor of the Southwest. There's epazote (the socially correct herb that reduces the you-know-what produced by beans); spicy green cilantro; peppery Mexican oregano; and the large, sweet leaves of *hoya santa*, which I wrap around pieces of chicken and smother in a pungent tomato sauce made with onion, garlic, and peppers. And there's cumin and—

For the last couple of paragraphs, I've been doing what writers like to do: hook you into the story by offering tantalizing information, in this case, about native herbs of the Southwest. As a writer and as a reader, I am attracted to cuisines, clothes, lifestyles, and landscapes that are unique, distinctive, evocative. Characters seem more dimensional, more real when they belong to a place—when they eat the food of that place, wear its clothes, talk its talk.

But when it comes to the Southwest, I think the attraction goes deeper than that. I've lived in the Midwest, California, the deep South, and in none of

these places have I seen anything like the fierce insistence on personal freedom and independence that is the trademark attitude of the Southwest. It's a resistance against Big Government, a “don't-fence-me-in” feeling. It's a rifle in the window of the pickup, it's “Don't Mess with Texas” bumper stickers, it's Big Hair and Lone Star Longnecks and “up yours” to the corporation.

For a crime writer, these attitudes help to create memorable characters with a Southwest state of mind, living on the outskirts of a technocratic, mega-business world that is increasingly moving in the direction of greater and greater centralization. These fictional characters, like the real people of the Southwest, often have an ambivalent attitude toward the law. Law is good when it protects our rights, our property, our lives. Law is bad when it represents government, centralization, the morality of the majority, and the disempowerment of the individual. For many people in the Southwest, being a law-breaker doesn't necessarily make you a criminal; you become a criminal when you violate somebody else's person or property, whether or not that violation is against the law. And if law enforcement doesn't respond, people are quick to take justice into their own hands.

The powerful opposition of the individual and the local culture against the justice dispensed by centralized, bureaucratized law is represented very clearly in the writing of Tony Hillerman and many other Southwest regional writers. It's one of the things I've tried to do with the character of China Bayles, who used to be a criminal defense lawyer before she left her career and moved to Pecan Springs to become an herbalist. China's experience of the law has given her a certain disrespect for it, teaching her how it is manipulated by lawyers and the legal system, showing her how not-guilty verdicts are commodities to be bought and sold.

When she is involved with the apprehension of a criminal, she has a cynical and realistic idea of what will happen when that person finally gets to court. When she knows someone is innocent, she has a clear-eyed understanding of what needs to be done to establish that innocence and a relentless commitment to protecting the individual's rights, both inside and outside of the legal system. Her experience with the law makes her powerfully ambivalent toward it, and that makes her (for me, anyway) an interesting central character in a crime series.

Are Southwestern mysteries here to stay? You bet! Readers everywhere have a great curiosity about other places, people, food, dress, speech, lifestyle. Once they have been introduced to the literature of a region, they want more of it. But more than that: what a Southwestern setting offers readers is a kind of metaphoric resonance with their *own* state of mind. All Americans are confronted every day with the conflict between individual rights and the law, and many are increasingly uncomfortable with the judicial system we have created. Stories that feature characters who insist on their own individuality and identity, who make us face our deep ambivalence with the nature of justice, who tap our nostalgic longing for remembered and imagined regions—these are the stories that will stay with us.






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THE SOUTHWEST AS SETTING

by DIANA GABALDON

Phoenix is a popular place in the winter: every other license plate you see reads “Saskatchewan” or “Minnesota.” At social gatherings, people make acquaintance by asking, “Where you from?” And more often than not, are surprised when I answer, “Here.”

I’m a rare beast; a fourth-generation native Arizonan. My great-grandfather emigrated from England in the late 1860’s and settled in Flagstaff, because he thought the mountain air would be good for his lungs. It must have been; he lived to be 92.

The other side of my family comes from New Mexico. We don’t know quite how long they’ve been there; family legend says the first Gabaldon to settle in Belen came over in the late 1500’s, leading a small group of exploring Spaniards. He was the leader, the legend goes, because he was the only one who had a horse.

At any rate, we’ve been here awhile.

(The mother of one of my daughter’s friends, newly moved here from California, asked me what I was making for our Christmas feast. Tamales, enchiladas, and green chili, I replied. “Oh, how interesting!” she exclaimed. “I’ve heard that a lot of people cook Mexican food for Christmas here; it’s really the new thing.” “Really?” I said. “We’ve always cooked Mexican food at Christmas—but then, we’re Mexicans.”)

I went to school in Flagstaff, getting a B.S. in Zoology and a Ph.D. in Ecology — roaming up and down the mountainsides of the San Francisco Peaks, and hunting Coppery-tailed Trogons in the Chiricahuas. Then I became a university professor and worked at ASU in Tempe for a dozen years, teaching classes like “The Natural History of Arizona,” and leading field trips to Walnut Canyon and Wupatki.

Yes, I know this place.

Still, I feel like something of an imposter, writing articles on what it’s like to use the Southwest

as a setting in a crime novel—because I never have. I have a mystery under contract with my publisher, Delacorte Press, but there are only bits and pieces of it on paper so far.

People always say, “Write what you know,” when talking about how one should write novels. So it would seem natural, given my family’s background and my mixed cultural heritage, that I should write novels set in the Southwest, weaving the rich threads of ethnic culture that exist here into the warp and woof of my story. And I’m sure I will.

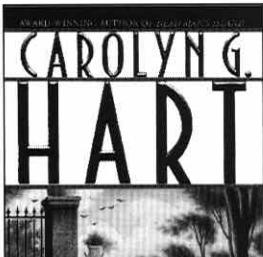
In the meantime, however, I began my writing career with a book set in 18th century Scotland—where I’d never been, and about which I knew nothing when I began. That book, *Outlander*, became a bestseller, and was succeeded by two more: *Dragonfly in Amber*, and *Voyager*. I have now been to Scotland, and know *rather a lot* about the 18th century, by this time.

While each of these books does include a minor murder mystery, they aren’t crime novels; it would be hard to describe just what they *are*, since they involve everything from historical adventure and time-travel to religious mysticism, botanical medicine, and the Loch Ness Monster. Oh, yes—and sex and violence.

There are two more books in this series, the fourth of which I’m working on now. *Then*, before turning to the fifth, I’ll write the first of what I hope will be a series of contemporary mystery novels, set in Arizona.

And we’ll see if I can write as well about settings I’ve seen as those I haven’t.

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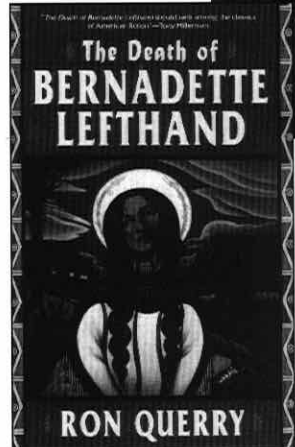


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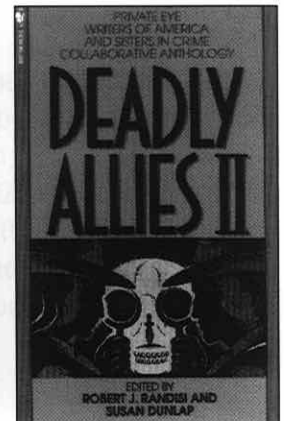
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SOUTHWEST AS SETTING

by JEAN HAGER

When I chose to write two mystery series' with Cherokee protagonists with some traditional Oklahoma Cherokee culture in the background, I pretty much limited my setting to northeast Oklahoma, particularly Cherokee County, which was and is the heart of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. I do not feel in any way confined by this.

I've lived in northeast Oklahoma most of my life and would not choose to live anywhere else. The place where you've spent many years of your life somehow gets into your bones. It feels like home in a way that no other place does. Using it as a setting made me take a fresh look at it, and served to remind me that northeast Oklahoma has its own special beauty, which I hope my readers experience as they read.

After writing several Cherokee mysteries, I realized that part of my fascination with the culture and desire to preserve some of it in my books is a way to connect with my quarter-Cherokee grandfather, whom I loved dearly.

Granddad was raised in the Cherokee culture — such as it was in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries — though he never talked about it. Most of the “Indians” of his generation, and even his children's generation, didn't talk about it. Many of them had the culture and the language brainwashed out of them in boarding schools or simply by the attitude of the dominant culture that surrounded them.

Fortunately, in recent years the Cherokees and other tribes are reclaiming their culture for their children.

My third series, the Iris House bed and breakfast mysteries featuring Tess Darcy, is set in extreme southwest Missouri, just beyond the northeast corner of Oklahoma, and the geography is very similar.

Victoria Springs, Missouri is a fictitious town which is patterned somewhat on the Ozark town of

Eureka Springs, Arkansas, where my husband and I have enjoyed staying in some of the town's wonderful bed and breakfast inns.

While I love writing about the Cherokees, I enjoy getting away from them for a time when I write an Iris House book. I then come back to the Cherokees as you come home after an enjoyable vacation.

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BI-BORDER PSYCHOCYBERNETICS

by J. A. JANCE

In my previous life, back when I was still wanting to find a way to sell life insurance at the Million Dollar Round Table level, I signed up for a self-improvement course based on the principles taught in Maxwell Maltz's book, *Psychocybernetics*. The course offered several different examples of how mental conditioning could, in some cases, take the place of and even out-perform physical activity. I was particularly impressed by the example of the basketball team that improved its goal-making activity by *imagining* that every single throw was perfect rather than by actually practicing on a court.

Maltz's take on the subject is that by practicing perfect shots every single time a player can improve his ability to shoot perfect shots. He contends that it is possible to trick the mind into believing that what the person merely visualized had actually happened.

I never tried this myself because making perfect basketball shots wasn't something that grabbed my interest—mentally or otherwise. And in terms of becoming a better life insurance salesman, the results of taking the Psychocybernetics class weren't that much better. Somehow I couldn't make my mind visualize conducting the perfect life insurance sales interview. But the one thing I could visualize was my long-held dream of becoming a writer. When it came to that, everything I learned from Maxwell Maltz stood me in good stead.

In those youthful imaginings — right up to and including age thirty-eight—writer was the only word I gave to that secret dream. I didn't much care what kind of writer. Mysteries were something I had always enjoyed reading, but writing mysteries *per se* wasn't something I saw in my own future. However, when I finally gave myself permission to live my dream, when I did finally sit down and put pen to paper in March of 1982, mysteries were what leaked out through my fingertips into the keyboard.

I know there are people who look down on

the world of "genre fiction." Even in written form, when certain arbiters of literary excellence and good taste use the term, it has a superior, italic sneer to it regardless of whether or not the pejorative emphasis shows up on the printed page. Fortunately for me, I've never felt boxed in or trapped in the world of "genre fiction", and a good part of the thanks for that should probably go to my good friend Maxwell Maltz.

The Demanding process of writing a book—any book, including "genre fiction"—is one that forces me to go live inside the story long enough to see what happens and then to write about it. I have to learn to be those characters—to walk in their shoes, hearing what they hear, seeing what they see, experiencing their triumphs and tragedies. It is an exhilaratingly and engrossing and sometimes frustrating process. I tend to get lost in those other people's lives at times. It's difficult to emerge from the story's reality and return to the present. I fall asleep with the murmured voices of my characters whispering in my ear, and I wake a few hours later to find them still chatting away.

Some writers are naturally bi-coastal. Their lives and consequently their works come with real roots in California and maybe New York. I happen to be bi-border. I have spent roughly half my life in the desert of southern Arizona and the other half in Washington State. My Detective Beaumont books continue to be set mostly in and around the Seattle area, but with the advent of *Hour of the Hunter* and now the Joanna Brady mysteries, I'm now free to write about Arizona as well.

So what does writing about the Southwest do for me? It gives me a chance to spend mental time there, even if I can't be there physically. Writing a book about Bisbee or the *Tohono O'otham* lands west of Tucson allows me the opportunity to remember how a freshly cooked red-chili popover tastes out on the reservation. It allows me to

experience once again the exuberantly blue sky that always rides high above the mountains when you burst through the north end of the Mule Mountain tunnel. It takes me back to the dusty mid-ways and the gritty cotton-candy of a dozen Chochise County Fairs.

And when the book is finally finished, when the manuscript is safely in the hands of air express and on its way to New York, I can emerge from the process and be surprised to find myself back in Bellevue, Washington, in the rain, because I could have sworn I was out on the High Lonesome east of Bisbee. In fact, my mind will be totally convinced that I've spent the last several months soaking up the Arizona sun.

Someday, when I grow up and finally do turn into a snowbird, I may have the opportunity to find out if the reverse is true—if it's possible to sit in Arizona during a stiflingly hot Tucson July and lose myself in the delights of a cool, rainy Seattle spring.

I suspect it will work like a charm. Maxwell Maltz could have told me so.

As a matter of fact, I believe he did.

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Other events include a family-style banquet, a tea, a history bowl competition, a croquet match, reenactments by members of the Society for Creative Anachronisms, and possibly a performance by the Colorado Shakespeare Society, a scene performed by the Central City Opera, a one act mystery play, a literary trial (Richard III?). Many of these events will take place Saturday, June 3, in the Chautauqua Auditorium. Edward Marston will act as our master of ceremonies. A Grand Master Award (voted by the writers) and a best novel of 1994 award (voted by the fans) will be awarded. Look in your packets for additional information.

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This ad was prepared in November 1994, so final plans for the conference, including guest of honor, had not been finalized but expect some unusual programming and a mystery cabaret. Check out the flyer in your registration packet. Conference Date: March 1, 2, & 3, 1996

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MY KINGDOM FOR AN AGENT

by
Maggie Allison

In a scant two inches, the November '94 issue of *Writer's Digest* mentioned name and address of my re-opened agency. I do not remember when the magazine reached the news stands, but the 19th of October is indelibly fixed in my memory: the mailbox overflowed with sevent-eight (78) pieces of mail.

It is now exactly two months later. The mail count is at two hundred ninety-two (292) pieces; though the volume is lower, more inquiries arrive every day. A friend opens each letter, logs it, and records it in a computer file. Here are her questions:

26 percent (76 of the 292) sent no SASE. Do I toss the letters or do you send them a post card?

37 percent are multiple inquiries by the same writer, most without SASE. Are you interested in extra terrestrials in the Bible, witches, or how to be a second wife?

3 writers want the agency's success record. What do you tell the one without SASE?

Deathrow inmates and felons with long sentences are reading *Writer's Digest*; they don't send SASE's. Are you interested in arresting stories?

Mr. X proudly disavows all concern with spelling and grammar; he only cares for syntax and has 100,000 words waiting for your appreciation. What now?

Legible, well-written letters point to several problem areas:

1. Many would-be writers never heard of SASE's.
2. Too many are seduced to self-publish and find no distributors.
3. Word processors are everywhere, but articulate, well-educated people who use them are not necessarily good writers.
4. Well-known, established agents accept few, if any, new clients.
5. Most publishers reject uncliented submissions out-of-hand.
6. Evidence of creative writing is pervasive; does it fill a need unmet in modern society? What is that need?

A few last words:

- ◆ I hear the fractured English of college freshmen every day. Don't ask me to edit your manuscripts and make them salable.
- ◆ If you flunked English 029, stay away from word processors; people will not remain kind forever.

AGENTS, EDITORS, AND REVIEWERS

DOMINICK ABEL, between 1967 and 1975 worked successively at Henry Regnery Company (now Contemporary Books) as editorial assistant, editor, senior editor, and editor-in-chief and executive vice president. He has been President of Dominick Abel Literary Agency, Inc., in New York, since 1975. His agency represents a wide range of nonfiction writers (among them, Jon Franklin, double Pulitzer Prize winner) and novelists, with a special interest in mystery writers (representing such diverse mystery writers as Barbara Michaels and Elizabeth Peters, Sara Paretsky, Evan & Ann Maxwell, Judith van Gieson, Joan Hess, Susan Dunlap, Earl Emerson, Sister Carol Anne O'Marie). He is a member of the Association of Authors' Representatives. In addition to being an author of many magazine articles, he has written *Wines of the United States* and was a columnist for the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS.



RUTH CAVIN was born and raised in Pittsburgh and is a graduate of what was then Carnegie Tech, with the oxymoronic degree of Bachelor of Science in General Studies. She is still, after fifty years or more

in other climes, a Pirate fan (some people never learn). Before finding a niche in book publishing, she was variously a public relations writer, electronic engineering assistant, medical secretary—you name it. She is the author of several published books, none of them adult fiction. Having been lucky enough to work for two publishers who will consider the work of new, unagented authors, she has started a number of mystery writers on their way, from Aaron Elkins to Laurie R. King. She has all these plaques on her wall: The Ellery Queen Award from Mystery Writers of America; the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Midwest Mystery and Suspense convention; and the Mid-Atlantic Mystery and Book Fair Award. None of them authorize her to perform appendectomies, but she's proud of them anyhow.



DULCY BRAINARD having been a reviewer for twenty years, has been with *Publisher's Weekly* for eight of those years. She is presently their Forecast Reviewer for mystery, poetry, and the new Lifestyle "How To" Books. She holds an M.A. in English from

Northwestern University, and has been an avid mystery reader for forty years.



JANE CHELIUS, Senior Editor at Pocket Books, has "led a long and rewarding life of crime." She began her publishing career at Fawcett Gold Medal Books, publishers of such noted paperback writers as John D. McDonald and Lawrence Sanders, both of whose books she worked on as a fledgling editor. Chelius left there, after seven years, to start a family, renovate a brownstone, and freelance in publishing. Her next full time job was at NAL, where her first acquisition was Robert Campbell's Edgar winner, *The Junkyard Dog*. She came to Pocket in 1986 to found a mystery program, which has grown from

one paperback a month to twenty-four paperbacks and an average of twelve hardcovers a year. Chelius has since had several Edgar nominees and winners on her list, and she won the American Mystery Award for Best Book Editor in 1993. Currently, Jane edits about fifteen mysteries a year, as well as several other fiction and nonfiction titles.

SHAWN COYNE is the editor of St. Martin's Press new Dead Letter Paperback Mysteries launching in May.

SARAH ANN

FREED has been an editor since 1983. Her prior editing experience includes westerns, children's books, and religious publications. She has a B.A. from Goshen College in Indiana, and took some Library Science courses at the University of Pittsburgh. She has been mystery editor at Mysterious Press since 1986. Among the many authors she has edited are: Ellis Peters, Charlotte MacLeod, Aaron Elkins, Marcia Muller, Jack O'Connell, Abigail Padgett, Alan Russell, and Jean Hager.

BARRY GARDNER is a retired Chief Fire Officer after 31 years with the Dallas Fire Department. Having been a lifelong reader of crime fiction, he currently reviews and writes articles for most of the specialized mystery publications. He lives in Dallas, Texas and, along with reading and writing about mysteries, indulges in losing money in the stock market, playing with computers, and cheering the Dallas Cowboys from the couch.



ORINETTA A. HARDY-SAYLES

resides in Fremont, CA, where she is publications coordinator with TRW Avionics & Surveillance Group, and publishes and edits *The Magnifying Glass*, a mystery newsletter, which

provides a most comprehensive listing of events and information related to the mystery world. Now syndicated, it is available in some bookstores. She has sociology and psychology degrees. She founded

the California Crime Analysts organization and was instrumental in creating the Park Watch program now found across the U.S. Her special interests are in crime and police corruption, and in the special dynamics and problems created by the merging of electronic technologies with street-level police work. She is particularly interested in crimes that took place between 1880 and 1945. As a consequence, Orietta is working on an historical true crime book set at the turn of the century in the mining towns of California and Arizona, about the first woman legally convicted of murder in California and was sentenced to hang. Orietta is currently on the Shamus Best Short Story committee for Private Eye Writers of America.



SUSANNE KIRK is Executive Editor in charge of the crime list at Scribner which has now dropped its "s" in its new incarnation as part of Simon & Schuster. After 19 years with the company, Susanne is happy to be part of the new Scribner team (she feels like a newcomer

because she read in the S&S employee newsletter that someone has been there 55 years!!). She fled Manhattan for Mississippi four years ago, but makes very frequent trips to the Big Apple where she acquires and edits a crime list of about 24 titles per year.

BILL MALLOY has been with Mysterious Press since his editorial career began in 1985. Before that he worked in classical music publishing, and created proposals for book packaging. He became Editor-in-Chief for Mysterious Press in 1988, and has represented such notables as Ed McBain, Ross Thomas, Donald E. Westlake, Julian Symons, Ruth Rendell, Parnell Hall, Jerome Charyn, K. C. Constantine, James Ellroy, Joe Gores, Joe. R. Lansdale, James McClure, Stuart Kaminsky, Nicholas Freeling, and Peter Dickinson. He received a B.A. in Literary Theory from Yale University in 1982.

CAROLYN MARINO is currently an executive editor at HarperCollins Publishers, where she acquires a wide range of fiction, especially mysteries, and some nonfiction. Previously she was an editor at St. Martin's



JANET A. RUDOLPH is best known in the mystery community as the Director of Mystery Readers International, Editor of *The Mystery Readers Journal*, a teacher of mystery fiction, and a columnist for *Mystery Scene*, *The Armchair*

Detective, and *Deadly Pleasures*. She holds a Ph.D. in religion and literature specializing in mystery fiction. Janet is also the writer for **Murder on the Menu**,® an audience participation theater company. She writes customized mystery scripts for corporations, associations, and fundraisers. Each script is customized to reflect the research she does on the company — its corporate culture, new products, management and more. Janet Rudolph finds writing theatrical mystery events a challenging and interesting twist on the mystery genre. She lives in Oakland, CA, with her husband, Perry Marker, a cat, Dashiell Hammett, and a golden retriever, Sierra.

DON SANDSTROM, now of Indianapolis, a life long mystery fan, did a lot of non-fiction reviewing in his military career and segued into mystery where he writes for *The Criminal Record*, *Deadly Pleasures*, *Mystery News*, and the *MRI Journal*.

MICHAEL SEIDMAN is the mystery editor at Walker Books.



ROBIN H. SMILEY is a founder and the publisher of *Firsts: Collecting Modern First Editions*, a monthly magazine for bookcollectors. Now in its fifth year, *Firsts* has become a

source of information and entertainment for thousands of book lovers world-wide. *Firsts* was relocated from Los Angeles to Tucson, AZ this last summer. Robin Smiley received a degree in history from Pomona College, Claremont, CA, and his graduate work was in psychology and film at USC. He has been a teacher, writer, actor, and avocational photographer. Before founding *Firsts* he was a business man in LA for many years. He was recently an extra playing the bartender in the movie *Tombstone*.



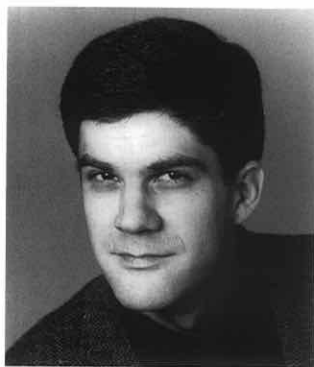
HARRIET STAY is the editor of *Mystery News*, a fourteen year old world-wide mystery review periodical. In 1973, along with her husband, Larry Stay, Harriet became the creator, writer, producer, and

director of murder mystery events and “mystery weekends” under the guise of **Murder By Invitation**. She plots her “murders” while overlooking Discovery Bay, from her mountainside home in Port Townsend, WA. Like most authors, she has kept her daytime job as Postmaster of Quilcene, WA. In college she majored in journalism and police science. She loves participatory theatre, so play writing is one of her goals. In the meantime, she directs sleight-of-hand distractions to confuse her “detective” guests, and finds places of interest to stage her mystery scenarios. She has used mountain resorts, a 1940s renovated train, historic hotels, a 1930s inn, a former speakeasy and bordello and a ranch.

AND NOW.....

the AUTHORS

Whenever possible, photos and biographies of LCC V participants have been provided. We regret that not all authors are so represented either because of our press deadline, or the lack of readily available material.



Jeff Abbott, was born in Dallas, grew up in Austin, and went to school in Houston, making him as Texas as humanly possible. His Texas-based series began with 1994's *Do Unto Others*, which introduced wisecracking librarian Jordan Poteet and the river town of Marabeau. Jordan returns in *The Only Good Yankee* (May 1995), a tale of interregional love, and real estate deals, and homemade bombs. Jeff has

two more Jordan Poteet novels under contract. When not writing, he works as a software designer in Austin.



Nancy Atherton

Nancy resides in Brooklyn, New York. She received a BA from the University of Chicago. She is a "doer" of free-lance editorial scutwork, as well as a mystery writer. Set in England, her first mystery, *Aunt Dimity's Death* (Viking, 1992) was nominated for the Macavity Award's Best First Mystery. Her second "feel good" mystery, *Aunt Dimity and the Duke*, followed in late 1994. Nancy is a national

member of SinC. Her special interest is "How to pay her bills", and her hobby is "Paying her bills".



Burl Barer is an Edgar Award winning author and Anthony Award nominee with extensive media experience. Garnering accolades for his creative contributions to radio, television, and print media, Barer's career has been highlighted in *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Variety*, *Broadcasting*, *Electronic Media*, and most recently on ABC's "Good Morning, America." As a follow-up to his book *The Saint: A Complete History* (1994, McFarland & Co., Inc.), 1994 Edgar Award Winner, he

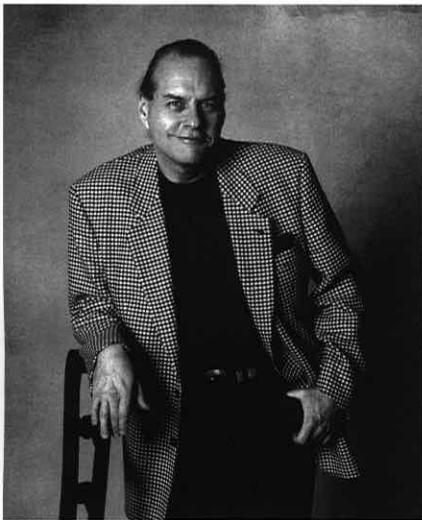
is currently writing the new adventures of Leslie Charteris' *The Saint*, soon to be a major motion picture from Robert Evans and Paramount Pictures. His other full-length books include *Maverick: The Making of the Movie/The Official Guide to the Television Series* (1994, Charles E. Tuttle, in cooperation with Warner Brothers World Wide Publishing), and *Man Overboard: The Counterfeit Resurrection of Phil Champagne* (Spring 1995, Northwest Publishing Inc./True Crime).



K. K. Beck has a B.A. from San Francisco State and has worked in radio, advertising and as a trade magazine editor. She now writes full time and lives with another writer and her three children in Seattle where she was born. She sold her first mystery novel, *Death in a Deck Chair*, a Twenties pastiche, in 1984 which was the first of three mysteries to feature Iris Cooper, a Stanford co-ed. *A Hopeless Case* (1992), *Amateur Night* (1993), and *Electric*

City (1994, all Mysterious Press) feature Jane da Silva, a failed lounge singer, set in Seattle in the present time. In addition, she has written five "one-offs" beginning with *Death of a Prom Queen* (as Marie Oliver) and ending with her last *The Body in the Cornflakes* (1992, Ballantine Ivy Books). Her forthcoming book is *Cold Smoked*.





Lawrence Block was born in Buffalo, New York in 1938. He attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, but dropped out to write full-time, and in his words, “has not had honest work since.”

Block has published over forty novels, almost all of them in the area of crime fiction. Among his popular mystery titles are *Eight Million Ways to Die*,

the Edgar Award-winning *A Dance at the Slaughterhouse*, and *The Devil Knows You're Dead*. Many of these feature his celebrated series characters Matthew Scudder (a hard-drinking—and more recently non-drinking-ex cop and unlicensed private detective) and Bernie Rhodenbarr (lighthearted, light-fingered and lovable, and urbane antiquarian bookseller who moonlights as a burglar). In May 1994, Block brought Bernie Rhodenbarr back after ten years for a new adventure in *The Burglar Who Traded Ted Williams*. Fans and critics rejoiced at the return of this “incorrigibly adorable” thief. The celebration continues with Dutton’s publication of the very first book in the Burglar series, *Burglars Can't Be Choosers* (February 13, 1995). This hardcover edition, out of print for more than fifteen years, allows fans to relive the birth of Bernie’s burglarious career and includes a new after word by Block. In 1994, he was named a Grandmaster by the Mystery Writers of America. He has taught crime writing at Hofstra University and Antioch College.



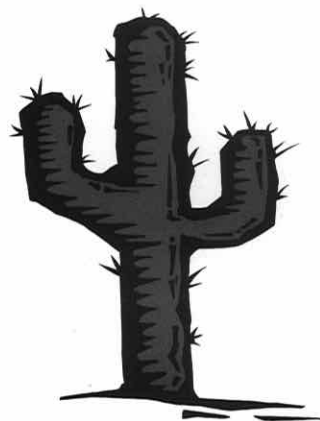
Steve Brewer resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico and holds a B.A. in journalism from the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. His book *Lonely Street* features P. I. Bubba Mabry and is set in Albuquerque. As a journalist and author he is a member of the Mystery Writers of America and the Southwest Writers Workshop. In addition, he reviews mysteries for the Albuquerque Journal. In his leisure time, he enjoys listening to the blues and reading.

Ernie Bulow lives in Gallup, New Mexico. He writes for the *Gallup Independent*. Becoming acquainted with the Navajos “as a small boy on my grandfather’s farm in southern Idaho”, he is the author of *Navajo Taboos* (1991, Buffalo Medicine Books), *Talking Mysteries* with Tony Hillerman (1991, University of New Mexico Press), and recently *Sleight of Hand: Conversations With Walter Satterthwait*.



Jan Burke was born in Houston, Texas, but has lived in Southern California most of her life. She received a B.A. in history at California State University, Long Beach. While doing graduate work at the university, she conducted oral histories with Rosie the Riveters as part of a grant team. Since the days when she started paying her rent, she has chosen life in coastal cities, including Seal Beach, Long Beach and Venice, California. These areas, and

other cities to the south, combine to make up the fictional Las Piernas where her Irene Kelly series is set. This Southern California newspaper reporter is featured in *Goodnight, Irene* (1993, Simon & Schuster, nominated for both the Anthony and the Agatha Awards for Best First Novel); *Sweet Dreams, Irene* (1994, Simon & Schuster) and the new release *Dear Irene*. *Goodnight, Irene* was recently optioned for television. Burke is a Sunday columnist for the *Long Beach Press-Telegram*. She is the author of several short stories and served as the editor of SinC’s guide to getting published, *Breaking and Entering*. Her novels and short stories have been published in Europe and Japan.



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Ransom for an Angel

A Jeremy Ransom/Emily Charters Mystery by *Fred Hunter*

Who in Hell is Wanda Fuca

A Leo Waterman Mystery by *G.M. Ford*



Harlen Campbell lives in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains in New Mexico. His first novel was *Monkey on a Chain* (1993, Doubleday). The book is the first of a series built around the character of Rainbow Porter, who has been described as a “throwback to the outlaw/heroes of the Old West.” In fact, Porter was inspired by a combination of

John D. MacDonald’s Travis McGee and television’s Paladin character, with more than a touch of the pirate thrown in. He is a man who lives on the edge, but who has enough intelligence and depth to make him memorable. Campbell has completed the second book in the series and is working on the third. Campbell attended New Mexico State University and has B.A.’s in English and Journalism and an M.A. in English Literature. Except for a brief stint as a journalist with the U.S. Army and an even briefer one teaching college English, he never used his degrees professionally. Before he started writing, most of his work was in construction, real estate and computer programming, but he has also tracked satellites, tended bar, and turned a dollar in an number of less likely ways. Campbell’s interests lie in the nature of the individual’s relationships to society and to the world, but he is willing to apologize if they show up in his writing. In fact, he believes that a writer’s primary obligation is to entertain, and that he should only be allowed to fool around with ideas if he does that superbly. Although he admits to no hobbies and energetically avoids most forms of exercise, Campbell enjoys an occasional solitary walk. He is married and has one daughter living at home.



Kate Charles

Despite having been born and bred in the heartland of America (Ohio & Illinois), Anglophile Kate Charles writes about England so convincingly that she even fools the Brits. Kate admits that it helps to live there; she and her husband moved to Bedford, 50 miles north of London, nearly nine years ago. Kate trained as a librarian at Illinois State and at Indiana University. She worked as a record librarian at a public radio station and later began using her trusty Macintosh computer to do free-lance desktop publishing. It wasn’t until she moved to England and began working as Parish Administrator in her local church that she finally had the inspiration she needed to start writing mysteries. Her first book, *A Drink of Deadly Wine*, was evidently a bit too inspired; its publication resulted in Kate losing her job. Since then, Kate has concentrated on writing; she has recently completed the fifth in her series set in the Church of England and featuring amateur sleuths David Middleton-Brown and Lucy Kingsley. Other titles currently available from Mysterious Press are *The Snares of Death* and *Appointed to Die; A Dead Man out of Mind* will be published late in 1995. Kate’s short story “Sheep’s Clothing” recently appeared in *EQMM*. Kate’s life continues to be rooted in the Church of England, where she still sings in the church choir and edits the parish magazine. She is fascinated by church architecture and loves exploring churches. Kate is also active in the British Crime Writers’ Association, serving on its executive committee, and enjoys an increasing number of speaking engagements, presenting a programme entitled *Corpses in the Cloister*.



Taffy Cannon resides in Carlsbad, CA. She received an B.A. in Political Science and a M.A.T. in Education/Social Studies from Duke University. She was nominated for an Academy Award in Best Live Action Short Subjects for *Doubletalk*. Her mystery series which premiered with *A Pocketful of Karma* (1993, Carroll & Graf; and Aug. 1995, Ivy) is based

in Los Angeles featuring Nan Robinson, an attorney-investigator for the California State Bar. Her second in the series, *Tangled Roots* (February, 1995, Carroll & Graf) is set in San Diego flower-growing country and involves her brother-in-law; accused of killing a lifelong friend, the heir to a Southern California floral dynasty. Taffy’s pseudonym is “Mom” and her spare time is in spent gardening and craft work.



Michael Collins is the author of the Dan Fortune novels, the longest-running detective series today. His most recent are *Cassandra in Red* and *Crime, Punishment and Resurrection* (novel with stories). His latest stories are in *Deadly Allies 2*, *Partners in Crime* and *EQMM* November 1994 and January 1995. He has won an Edgar, been nominated twice for

Edgar and Shamus awards, and holds a PWA lifetime Achievement Award. Michael has also written as Mark Sadler, John Crowe, William Arden and Carl Dekker. A short novel, *Talking to the World*, under his real name, Dennis Lynds, will be out in June 1995. His novels are set primarily in New York City and Santa Barbara with side trips to all books all across the country. He lives with his wife, novelist Gayle Hallenbeck Lynds, in Santa Barbara, CA. His special concerns are social justice, politics, history and literature and relaxes by indulging in wine, poker, fitness and reading.



Susan Rogers Cooper

Susan is a half fifth-generation Texan, half Yankee, raised mostly in Texas. Her first mystery, featured critically acclaimed small town Oklahoma deputy sheriff Milt Kovak, *The Man in the Green Chevy* (1988, St. Martin's Press, Inc.). Since then, Milt has appeared in

four more adventures, with more on the way. Romance writer/amateur sleuth E. J. Pugh came next with the publication in 1992/93 of *One, Two, What Did Daddy Do?*, which was named one of the best mysteries of 1993 by *Mystery News*. Kimmey Kruse, spunky stand-up comedian, hit the scene in *Funny as a Dead Comic* (1993, St. Martin's Press). Kimmey hit the trail again in October with *Funny as a Dead Relative* which is set in Port Arthur, Texas. Ms. Cooper is vice president of the Heart of Texas Chapter of SinC, and a member of the American Crime Writer's League. She is married and resides in Austin, Texas.



Robert Crais is the award-winning author of the best-selling Elvis Cole novels: *The Monkey's Raincoat*, *Stalking the Angel*, *Lullaby Town*, and *Free Fall*. Both *The Monkey's Raincoat* and *Free Fall* were nominees for the Edgar. Robert Crais, a native of Louisiana, grew up in a blue collar family of

oil refinery workers and police officers, and was trained as a mechanical engineer before abandoning that occupation to pursue his dream of becoming a writer. He literally 'ran away to join the circus' when, as a teenager, he joined *Bill Haines Century 21 Shows and Midway*, a motorized carnival touring the southeast. Robert Crais journeyed to Hollywood in 1976, where he quickly found work writing scripts for such major network television series as *Hill Street Blues*, *Cagney & Lacey*, *Quincy*, *Miami Vice*, and *L.A. Law*, as well as scripting numerous series pilots and movies-of-the-week for all four major networks. He received an Emmy nomination for his work on *Hill Street Blues*, but is most proud of his 4-hour NBC miniseries, *Cross of Fire*, which *The New York Times* declared, "A searing and powerful documentation of the Ku Klux Klan's rise to national prominence in the '20's." Currently, Crais lives in the Santa Monica Mountains with his family, two cats, and fourteen thousand books. His wife, Patricia, is a licensed Marriage, Family, and Child Counselor with the California Family Studies Center of Los Angeles; he credits her insights into the human condition with providing important contributions to many of his novels. Of these, *Mostly Murder*

declared, "Robert Crais is the best there is at the PI novel," and *Drood Review* proclaimed, "No one is writing more entertaining private eye fiction today than Robert Crais. Elvis Cole is the funniest, toughest, most sensitive and romantic private eye in the business." When not writing, Robert Crais is an active marksman, aerobatic pilot, gourmet cook and backpacker. His next novel, *Voodoo River*, will be published in June ('95, Hyperion).



Camilli T. Crespi (ex-Trella) is the author of *The Trouble with...* series, featuring amateur sleuth Simona Griffio, a food-loving native Italian who works in a New York advertising agency and has trouble with ...*A Small Raise* (1991), ...*Moonlighting* (1991), and ...*Too Much Sun* (1992). In January 1994, she made her hardcover debut with *The*

Trouble with Thin Ice, (Harper Collins), followed by *The Trouble with Going Home* in January, 1995. She includes a recipe at the end of each book. Born in Prague to an American mother and an Italian diplomat father, Crespi came to the U.S. as a teenager and returned to Italy when she graduated from Barnard College. Now, like her sleuth, she lives in Greenwich Village, NYC. While in Rome, she dubbed films for directors such as Fellini, Visconti, Germi, and Wertmuller. She received an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Columbia University in 1990, and used to work in advertising.



Deborah L. Crombie resides in Trophy Club, Texas. She holds a B.A. in biology from Austin College in Sherman, TX, and interrupted her Masters in Humanities at the University of Texas at Dallas to begin her British series featuring Scotland Yard Superintendent Duncan Kincaid and Sergeant Gemma James. Her first in the series, *A Share in Death* (Scribner),

was nominated for both the 1993 Agatha and Macavity Best First Novel Awards, and was set mostly in Yorkshire, England. It was followed by *All Shall Be Well* (1994, Scribner) in Hampstead, North London; and *Leave the Grave Green* (1995, Scribner) in London and the Chiltern Hills, near Henley. She loves to cook for fun, walk her Cocker Spaniel, talk about gardening (does not actually do it!), and get in her daily quota of reading to keep from getting grumpy. Would like someday to keep an illustrated nature journal.



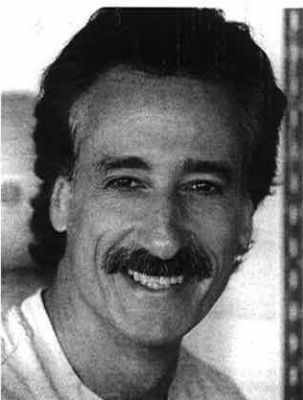
Catherine Dain was raised in Reno, Nevada, the setting for the Freddie O'Neal mystery series. She moved to Los Angeles in the Sixties, graduated from UCLA with a degree in theater arts, and worked for several years as a TV newscaster before going back to school. Her graduate degree is from USC. The first book starring private eye Freddie O'Neal, *Lay It On the Line* (1992,

Berkley/Jove), was nominated for a Shamus Award by the Private Eye Writers of America. It was followed by *Sing a Song of Death* (1993, Berkley/Jove), *Walk a Crooked Mile* (Berkley/Jove), *Lament For a Dead Cowboy* (1994), and the new *Bet Against the House* (Berkley Prime Crime). Catherine has been a freelance editor, has taught courses in leadership and motivation, organizational behavior, women in management, and social and ethical issues in business. She was editor of the short-lived magazine *Q*. She lives in Chatsworth with her two cats.



Janet Dawson lives in Alameda, CA, and works as a legal secretary at Safeway Inc. in Oakland. She has a B.S. degree in journalism from the University of Colorado, and a M.A. in history from CSU, Hayward. In past lives she has been a newspaper reporter, and an enlisted journalist and officer in the U.S. Navy. Her series features an Oakland private investigator Jeri Howard. Jeri's

first case *Kindred Crimes*, won the St. Martin's Press/Private Eye Writers of America contest for Best First Private Eye novel and was nominated for the Shamus, Macavity and Anthony. Janet followed with *Till the Old Men Die*, *Take a Number, Don't Turn Your Back On the Ocean*, and she just completed *Nobody's Child*. She enjoys gardening, old movies and the theatre.



David Debin lives in Santa Barbara, California. He is a screenwriter, producer and novelist. His Albie Marx mysteries, set in Los Angeles, include *Nice Guys Finish Dead*, *The Big O*, and *Murder Live At Five*, which is coming from Carroll & Graf in April '95. The Mysterious Bookshop, West Inc. writes "It's always a good feeling when a customer thanks us for recommending a book they enjoyed. It's even better when we get to

recommend an up and coming writer with the same confidence as we recommend the big names." David Debin enjoys playing his bass guitar and long distance running.



Denise Dietz has the philosophy of "Life is short, eat dessert first," that comes through in her fiction. Her first two mystery novels, *Throw Darts At a Cheesecake* and *Beat Up a Cookie*, both from Walker, will be followed by a romantic suspense, *Sleep, Little Angel*, plus an historical-romance-mystery, *Calliope Kelley*, set in an 1873 circus. Denise has worked as a newspaper reporter, a professional singer, and an extra for

Paramount. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin, she now lives in Colorado and gains inspiration from the majestic mountains, not to mention the win-lose perseverance of her favorite football team, the Denver Broncos.



James D. Doss is a resident of both Los Alamos and Taos, New Mexico. He is an engineer and writer with a B.S. in mathematics and physics and an M.S. in electrical engineering. His series beginning with *The Shaman Sings* (1994, St. Martin's Press) is set primarily in Colorado's Southern Ute Reservation, but also in New Mexico and the District of Columbia. His series characters

are Daisy Perika (Ute Shaman), Charlie Moon (Ute policeman), Scott Parris (policeman) and Nahum Yaciiti (Ute ghost shepherd). *Publisher's Weekly* picked *The Shaman Sings* as one of the best mysteries of 1994. The next in the series, *The Shaman Laughs*, is due to be published by St. Martin's in the autumn of 1995. James involves himself in archaeology and cosmology, and has a collection of Indian artifacts. He enjoys fishing and walking in the mountains.



Eileen Dreyer, known as Kathleen Korbel to her Silhouette readers, has published three suspense novels for Harper Paperbacks under her own name in addition to the twenty romances she's written since 1986. Her fourth suspense, *Bad Medicine*, due out this summer, is set in the

world of medicine Dreyer knows well after her sixteen year career in emergency nursing. Eileen has won many awards for her romances and is on the best-seller list for her third suspense, *Nothing Personal*. A lifelong resident of St. Louis, Missouri, Eileen has been married for twenty years to husband Rick, and has two children. An addicted traveler, she has sung in some of the best Irish pubs in the world, and enjoys the kind of book research that lets her talk to interesting people, many of whom she counts as friends.



Harris Dulany

Harris Dulany's first mystery, *One Kiss Led To Another* (1994, HarperCollins) debuts the Atlantic City P.I. Cornelius Leeds. The series is set in the South Jersey Pine Barrens. The *New York Times* heralds this first novel "...the cattail marshes, the pitch pine forests, the bodies buried in the cranberry bogs—such picturesque scenes,

with their eerie air of serenity, make a nice backdrop for the...action in this debut novel." Dulany is a graduate of Syracuse University and spent a year at the Writer's Workshop at the University of Iowa. He has been a newspaper reporter, book seller and television writer. He Lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he and his wife run a successful real estate agency.



Earlene Fowler is a native Californian. She grew up in the primarily Hispanic community of La Puente, CA. But, it was both her maternal Arkansas grandmother who turned 90 on Christmas day, and quilted up until the last few years, and her paternal Kansas grandma, who died two years ago

at age 92 and was an expert crocheter and embroiderer, that instilled a love for folkart in Earlene and inspired her series. Her series debuted with *Fool's Puzzle* (1994, Berkley) featuring Benni Harper, a 34-year old widowed rancher's wife, who moves to the town of San Celina on the Central California Coast to be curator of the local folkart museum. Next in the series will be *Irish Chain* (March 1995, Berkely) and *Kansas Troubles* (March 1996, Berkely).



Aaron Elkins, an ex-anthropology professor, has written a dozen mysteries, winning an Edgar in 1988 (*Old Bones*, Mysterious Press), and an Agatha (with his wife Charlotte, *Wicked Slice*, St. Martin's Press in 1992, and the Nero Wolfe Award in 1993). His two series feature forensic anthropologist Gideon Oliver in *Fellowship of Fear* (Warner, 1982), *The Dark*

Place (Warner, 1983), *Murder in the Queen's Arms* (Mysterious Press, 1985), *Old Bones* (Mysterious Press, 1988), *Curses!* (Mysterious Press, 1989), *Icy Clutches* (Mysterious Press, 1990), *Make No Bones* (Mysterious, 1991), and *Dead Men's Hearts* (Mysterious Press, 1994); and art curator Chris Norgren in *A Deceptive Clarity* (Walker, 1987), *A Glancing Light* (Scribner, 1991), and *Old Scores* (Scribner, 1993). They have been published in six languages and have been made into a major TV series. In another lifetime, Aaron dabbled in boxing.



Diana Gabaldon is the author of *Voyager*, recently released in paperback, which is the third book in the saga that started with *Outlander* and continued with *Dragonfly in Amber* (all Delacorte Press), both of which spent several weeks on the B.

Dalton's and Waldenbooks' best seller lists. The series chronicles the time-travel romance of twentieth-century Claire Randall and her eighteenth-century lover, Jamie Fraser. Diana holds two graduate degrees and spent a dozen years as a university professor before turning to writing fiction. In addition to her novels, she has written scientific articles and comic-book stories for Walt Disney. *Outlander* was first discovered on a computer network when Diana posted a portion of the unfinished novel to support an argument she was having with a fellow member of the network. Fellow writers urged her to contact a publisher. Diana Gabaldon lives in Scottsdale, Arizona, with her husband, three children, and way too many animals.

Charlotte Elkins

It was while Charlotte was working as the American Art Librarian at the M.H. de Young Museum in San Francisco that Aaron sold his first book. It did not take her long to see that writing was more fun than working, and since then the Elkins have collaborated on a mystery novel, *A Wicked Slice* (1989, St. Martin's Press), and *Nice Gorilla*, an Agatha-award winning short story. They are



now (more or less) happily at work on *Rotten Lies*, their second mystery featuring woman golfer Lee Ofsted. The Elkins live on Washington State's Olympic Peninsula.

Noreen Gilpatrick's first novel *Piano Man* (1991, St. Martin's Press) was chosen Best First Traditional Mystery in the first Annual St. Martin's Press Malice Domestic Contest. She "has a degree in communications and has worked in both the print and broadcast media. From 1981 to 1984, she owned her own advertising agency in Seattle. In 1986, she moved to a small island in Puget Sound." The island itself was the setting for this haunting novel. Her second novel *Final Design* was published in 1993 by Mysterious. She is presently at work on a third.



Lee Goldberg

In addition to several books on television, Lee Goldberg has written *My Gun Has Bullets* (March 1995, St. Martin's Press) about an ex-cop's bizarre adventures in the television industry. His television writer-producer credits include *Cobra*, *Likely Suspects*, *She-Wolf of London*, *Love & Curses*, *Baywatch*, *Hunter*, *Murphy's Law*, and

Spenser: For Hire. He has lived his entire life in the San Francisco/Oakland/Walnut Creek areas of California. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from UCLA. His teleplay for *Likely Suspects—Smells Like Teen Spirit*—was nominated for an Edgar in 1993. As a college student, under the pseudonym Ian Ludlow, he wrote the four-book action-adventure series, *.357 Vigilante*, which was later optioned for the screen by New World Pictures.



Sam H. Gottlieb resides in both Scottsdale, AZ and Mill Valley, CA. He received a B. A. from the University of Buffalo, an MBA from Iona College, and a Juris Doctor from the University of San Francisco, School of Law. He worked as Public Defender in San Francisco County and practiced criminal defense law in California for several years. His book, *Overbooked In Arizona*, which

was self-published in 1994, has been through 5 printings, in paperback and hardcover, has sold over 14,000 copies in all 50 states, Mexico, Canada, Britain, France, Iceland and Japan. His second novel is in progress for 1995. He enjoys book collecting, chess and the restoration of vintage Porsche autos.



Jan Grape lives in Austin, TX where she and her husband, Elmer, own *Mysteries and More* bookstore. Jan specializes in the mystery short story. Her stories currently in print are *No Simple Solution*, *Partners In Crime* (Signet), *Scarlett Fever*, *Deadly Allies II* (Doubleday), *Neutral*

About Cats, *Cat Crimes 3* (Ivy), *Ruby Nell's Ordeal*, *Murder For Mother* (Signet), *The Man In the Red Flannel Suit*, *Santa Clues* (Signet; reprinted in *25 Finest Crime and Mystery Stories, 3rd ed.*, Carroll & Graf), and *Just An Alley Cat in Feline and Famous* (1994, Donald I. Fine). Upcoming stories include *A Front Row Seat in Vengeance Is Hers: Mickey Spillane Presents* (1995, Dutton), and *A One Day Job* in *Lethal Ladies* (1995, Berkley). She is also contributing editor to *Mystery Scene* for seven years, and editor of the *Reflections In a Private Eye* newsletter for The Private Eye Writers of America for four years.



Kate Green graduated from the University of Minnesota and received her M.A. from Boston University's Creative Writing Program. She has published two books of poetry and many books for children. She is best known to us for her series character, professional psychic Theresa Fortunato, who first appeared in

Shattered Moon (1986, Dell) which was nominated for an Edgar. She reappeared in *Black Dreams* (1993, HarperCollins), after Kate wrote two books that were not in that series: *Night Angel* (1988, Delacorte) and *Shooting Star* (1992, HarperCollins). She is hard at work on a novel-in-progress, *Angel Falls* (1996, HarperCollins). *Angel Falls* takes Theresa Fortunato to Arizona where she tracks one of her clients to the Sedona Area.



Jean Hager has published more than 40 novels, including romantic-suspense, children's mysteries and, more recently, three adult mystery series. She combines her love for her state of Oklahoma with her interest in Cherokee Indian culture (Jean is 1/16 Cherokee) in her Mitch Bushyhead books *Grandfather Medicine* (1989, Worldwide & 1990 Tepee Award from Oklahoma Writers Federation), *Night Walker* (1990, St. Martin's), *Ghostland* (1992, St. Martin's), and

The Fire Carrier (early 1996, Mysterious Press). Her Molly Bearpaw series, published by Mysterious Press, includes *Ravenmocker* (1992, 1993 Tepee Award), *The Redbird's Cry* (1994), and *Seven Black Stones* (April, 1995). Her departure bed-and-breakfast series featuring Tess Darcy opened with *Blooming Murder* (1994, Avon) and will be followed in May, 1995 with *Dead and Buried*.



Parnell Hall

Edgar and Shamus nominee, Parnell Hall is the author of the Stanley Hastings novels *Detective* (1987), *Murder* (1988), *Favor* (1988), *Strangler* (1989), *Client* (1990), *Juror* (1990), *Shot* (1991), all published by Donald I. Fine, and *Actor* (1993), *Blackmail* (1994), *Movie* (March, 1995) and *Trial* (February, 1996) all

published by Mysterious Press. Under the pseudonym J. P. Hailey, Parnell is the author of the Steve Winslow courtroom dramas published by Donald I. Fine: *The Baxter Trust* (1988), *The Anonymous Client* (1989), *The Underground Man* (1990), *The Naked Typist* (1990), and *The Wrong Gun* (1992). Actor, screenwriter and former field agent for a NYC private detective agency, Parnell Hall lives in New York City with his wife and two sons.



Donna Burke Harper is a new novelist whose first published work, *Turn A Blind Eye* (Southwest Publishing Co.) is set in Orange County and teams accidental sleuth, Anne Cummings, widowed mother of five, with Santa Ana Detective Ray Cortez. A member of MWA, NWA and SinC, Harper has recently finished the second of her

Orange County thrillers, and is working on the third. She resides in Garden Grove with her husband, two of their ten children, and

a dog named Beast. Donna is formerly a full-time mother and volunteer worker for Special Olympics, Girl Scouts of America, The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Little League, American Girls Softball, and Bobby Sox Softball. She has travelled extensively. She was awarded Third Prize in NWA's 1988 Novel contest for *The Fallen*, a suspense story set in Saudi Arabia.



Carolyn G. Hart

Agatha, Anthony and Macavity Award winner Carolyn Hart resides in Oklahoma City, OK, has a B.A. in journalism, and is best known for her Annie Lawrance Darling and Max Darling series where Annie hosts authors at her mystery bookstore on Broward's Rock Island, No. Carolina. These include *Death On Demand*, *Design For*

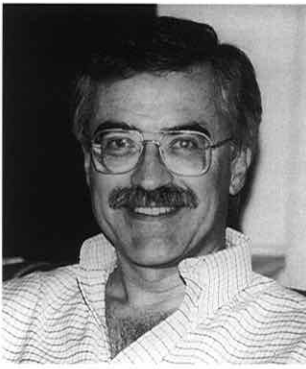
Murder, *Something Wicked*, *Honeymoon With Murder*, *A Little Class on Murder*, *Deadly Valentine*, *The Christie Caper*, *Southern Ghost* and her ninth in the series, *Mint Julep Murder*, due in September. Her new series stars Henrietta O'Dwyer Collins (Henry O), a retired newspaperwoman, who teaches journalism at a small college in southern Missouri. This series begins with *Dead Man's Island* and *Scandal In Fairhaven*. Both series are published by Bantam.



Gar Anthony Haywood

resides in Venice, California and is the recipient of the Shamus Award for Best First Private Eye Novel 1988 for *Fear Of the Dark* (St. Martins' Press), the opener in his Aaron Gunner series. A black private investigator, Aaron is initially coaxed out of retirement at the point of a

gun to continue in *Not Long For This World* (1990, St. Martin's Press) and *You Can Die Trying* (1993, St. Martin's Press). Gar Anthony began a new series in August, 1994 with *Going Nowhere Fast* (G. P. Putnam) introducing Joe and Dottie Loudermilk, and ex-cop and ex-teacher, who head into early retirement by buying a pickup truck and Airstream trailer and hitting the American road, leaving their five annoying adult children behind. Joe and Dottie visit the Grand Canyon, where they're immediately confronted by a corpse in their bathroom and their reprehensible son Bad Dog.



Jeremiah F. Healy III is a graduate of Rutgers College and Harvard Law School. A professor at the New England School of Law, he is creator of John Francis Cuddy, a Boston-based private investigator. Healy's first novel, *Blunt Darts*, was selected by *The New York Times* as one of the seven best mysteries of 1984. His second work, *The Staked Goat*, received

the Shamus Award for the Best Private Eye Novel of 1986. Nominated for the Shamus a total of nine times, Healy's later books include *So Like Sleep*, *Swan Dive*, *Yesterday's News*, *Right To Die*, and *Shallow Graves*. His mystery *Foursome* was just nominated for Best Novel of 1993. *Act Of God*, was published in May, 1994. *Look For Rescue*, will be released during LCC5.



Susan Holtzer spent most of her life in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the setting of *Something To Kill For*, which won the St. Martin's Press manuscript award for Best First Domestic Mystery, and gave her the opportunity to write about a broad combination of her favorite interests, including computers, NFL and

Michigan Wolverines football, and garage sales. And yes, she really does buy everything she owns at garage sales. (Ask her about the Rolex.) She currently lives in San Francisco with her husband, where they run a small education publishing company. The second book in the Anneke Haagen-Karl Genesko series, *Curly Smoke*, will be published by St. Martin's in September 1995.



Joan Hess is a fifth-generation resident of Fayetteville, Arkansas. She received a B.A. in art from the University of Arkansas in 1971 and a M.A. in education from Long Island University in 1974. Joan Hess began writing in 1984. *Strangled Prose* (1986, St. Martin's Press) was her first Claire Malloy

mystery and was nominated for the Anthony Award. Following (from Ballantine) were: *The Murder At the Murder At the Mimosa Inn*, *Dear Miss Demeanor*, *A Really Cute Corpse*, *A Diet To Die For* (American Mystery Award for best traditional novel of 1989), *Roll Over And Play Dead*, *Death By the Light Of the Moon* and *Tickled To Death*. Interspersed with this series are the **Maggody** books featuring Arkansas Chief-of-Police Arly Hanks in (from Onyx): *Malice In Maggody*, *Mischief In...*, *Much Ado In...*, *Madness In...*, and (from Dutton) *Mortal Remains In Maggody*, *Maggody In Manhattan*, *Old Little Of Maggody* (nominated for Agatha and Anthony Awards. 1993) and *Martians In Maggody*.



Wendy Hornsby is a resident of Long Beach, CA and holds graduate degrees in Ancient and Medieval History from UCLA and CSULB. She is a professor of History at Long Beach City College and is the author of two Southern CA mystery series. Her first is the Kate Teague and police Lt. Roger Tejada series with *No Harm* (1987, Dodd, Mead)

and *Half A Mind* (1990, New American Library). Her second series broke onto the scene with Edgar Award winning *Telling Lies* (1992, Dutton), followed by *Midnight Baby* (1993, Dutton) and *Bad Intent* (1994, Dutton) and features investigative filmmaker Maggie McGowen. Wendy has also received the American Mystery Award, a nomination for the Anthony Boucher Award and twice the Orange Coast Fiction Award.



Melodie Johnson Howe was born in Los Angeles and attended Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri and the University of Southern California. One of the "last starlets," she appeared in films such as *Coogan's Bluff*, *Gaily*, *Gaily*, *Rabbit Run*, and *Moonshine War*. In television she appeared in everything from *Bewitched* to *Lou Grant* and many commercials selling automobiles, shampoo, soft

drinks and beer. In 1980 she wrote a play titled *The Lady Of the House* which was produced by the Los Angeles Theatre Center. *The Mother Shadow*, her first novel, features Claire Conrad and

Maggie Hill — the female answer to Archie Goodwin and Nero Wolfe. It was nominated for an Edgar, an Agatha, and an Anthony. Published by Viking, it is currently available in Penguin paperback. *Beauty Dies*, released this fall by Viking Penguin, is the second Claire Conrad/Maggie Hill mystery. A story, *Dirty Blonde*, is published in Sisters in Crime 4.

Angela P. Irvine is the author of several short stories which have appeared in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*. As an aerospace engineer, she worked on the Apollo Project and the Voyager and Galileo missions for NASA. At present, she is working on a series of "high-tech" mystery novels.

Robert Irvine, born and raised in Utah and descended from Mormon pioneers, is the author of 15 novels, two of which were nominated for the Edgar Allan Poe Award by the Mystery Writers of America. His latest novel, *The Hosanna Shout*, (1994, St. Martin's Press) is the seventh in a series featuring private investigator Moroni Traveler who "is in a kind of dubious battle with Mormon Salt Lake City." Moroni Traveler's next appearance will be in *The Pillar Of Fire* (1995, St. Martin's Press). His other books in the series are *Baptism For the Dead*, *The Angel's Share*, *Gone to Glory*, *Called Home*, *The Spoken Word*, and *The Great Reminder*. He is a graduate of the U of CA at Berkeley and served as an Army Counterintelligence Agent.



Jonnie Jacobs is the author of *Murder Among Neighbors*, a tale of murder, mayhem and motherhood in modern suburbia. Set near San Francisco, the book introduces soon-to-be divorced mom and amateur sleuth Kate Austen. The second in the series, *Murder Among Friends*, will be published in August 1995.

Jonnie has a second series, featuring attorney Kali O'Brien, which will debut with *Shadow Of Doubt* in early 1996. Jonnie is a graduate of the U of CA at Berkeley and of UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law. She also holds graduate degrees in English, from the University of Michigan, and in counseling, from San Jose State. She has been a high school teacher, counselor, and most recently, an attorney with a large San Francisco law firm. An active member of both MWA and SinC, she lives in Piedmont with her husband and two sons.



Maxim Jakubowski is a publisher turned poacher, who now shares his time between writing, editing anthologies and running the world's largest mystery bookstore, London's Murder One. He is responsible for 35 books so far, and still shows no sign of slowing down. He edits the annual *New Crimes* series, now in its 7th year, and won the Anthony Award for non-fiction at the

Toronto Bouchercon. In addition to crime collections *London Noir*, *More Murders For the Fireside*, *Royal Crimes* and *Crime Yellow*, 1994 saw him also publish his first-ever bestseller, *The Mammoth Book Of Erotica*. He lives in London with family, books and records, never having recovered from a bad spell of rock and roll.



Elizabeth James aka Beverly Hastings

Her first book published in 1975, Elizabeth James is the author of more than 40 published books. Her psychological suspense novels for young adults under the pseudonym of Beverly Hastings (written jointly with Carol Barkin) include *Home Before Dark*, *Don't Walk Home*

Alone, and *No Way Out*, published by Berkley YA. *Don't Talk To Strangers* comes out in February, 1995. Ms. James writes children's nonfiction books under her own name. As a screenwriter she has written films and training videos, has worked as educational/creative consultant for numerous companies, and was director of an educational firm. She is actively involved with various professional associations and teaches a variety of courses. She has a degree in mathematics from the Colorado College in Colorado Springs and now lives in Beverly Hills. Her office is located in the home she shares with a large, unruly Doberman named Baron and two rescued cats, Rex and Lucky Lugano.



J. A. Jance divides her time between residences in Arizona and Washington state. A former teacher, school librarian, and life insurance agent, she has been a full-time writer since 1984. Her publication credits include twelve Detective Beaumont novels, which take place in Seattle, the latest of which is *Lying*

In Wait (1994, Morrow). She also has four Arizona books, *Hour Of the Hunter* (1991, Morrow) set on the *Tohono O'otham* west of Tucson and two Joanna Brady books set in Cochise County, *Desert Heat* (1993, Avon) and *Tombstone Courage* (1994, Morrow) which is due in paperback by Avon in April, 1995. A third Joanna Brady, *Shoot/Don't Shoot*, is due in hardback by Morrow in July. Her short story *Death of a Snowbird* appears in *The Mysterious West*, edited by Tony Hillerman (1994, HarperCollins).



Christine J. Jorgensen writes a humorous mystery series featuring Stella the Stargazer, author of an astrological column for the lovelorn in a weekly paper, *The Denver Daily Orion*, and her pet chameleon, Fluffy (actually a green anole). Series titles include *A Love To Die For* (Aug., 1994) and *You Bet Your Life* (Fall, 1995). Ms. Jorgensen is the

Assistant Director of Clinical Social work at The Children's Hospital, Denver, where she has been Co-Director of the Child Advocacy and Protection Team and a hospital social worker and supervisor since 1978. She holds a B.A. in English literature from Roosevelt University, Chicago, Illinois and a Masters of Social Work from the University of Denver. She lives in a penthouse overlooking Denver and the Rocky Mountains with her husband and a pair of green anoles, Fluffy and Lips.



Rochelle Majer Krich made her writing debut with *Where's Mommy Now?* (Pinnacle/Zebra), a novel of psychological suspense which won the Anthony Award for Best Paperback Original Mystery of 1990. The book has just been filmed, retitled *Perfect Alibi*, and stars Teri Garr, Hector Elizondo, and Kathleen

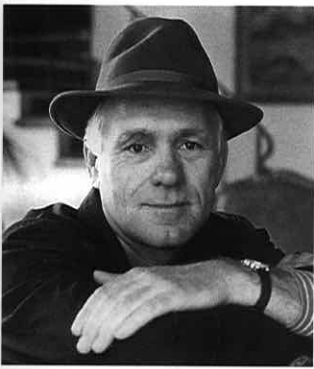
Quinlan. Zebra will reissue the book with the retitled novel to coincide with the film's release. Her other novels are *Till Death Do Us Part* (1992, Avon), *Fair Game* (1993, Mysterious Press), *Nowhere To Run* (Avon), *Angel Of Death* (Mysterious Press), and *Speak No Evil* (Jan, 1996, Mysterious Press). The daughter of Holocaust survivors, Ms. Krich was born in Germany and lived in New Jersey and New York before she moved to Los Angeles where she lives with her husband and their six children.



Ronnie Klaskin has been a teacher and a speech therapist, and has worked briefly as a stand-up comic. She has an M.F.A. in fiction writing from Vermont College and has won an award for a non-mystery short story, *The Swan* from *The West Side Spirit* and other awards for a limerick and a poem. Her mystery short stories are

Scared In New Jersey and *Completing Relationships*, in *EQMM*, *Subway Story* in *Detective Story Magazine*, *Heart Attack*, in *Whittle Communication's Special Report*, and *Rest, Peace, Quit*, *New Mystery*. She is at present working on a novel. She belongs to MWA, PWA, SinC (of which she was Midlantic Chapter president for two years), Association of International Crime Writers, and American Crime Writers League. She lives in New York with her husband, one of her two daughters and two dogs. She is an avid reader and fan, although she cannot be counted on to remember what she's read.





Ken Kuhlken earned degrees in Literature and Fiction Writing from San Diego State University and The University of Iowa. His first novel, *Midheaven*, (chosen as a finalist for the Ernest Hemingway Prize for best first fiction book of 1980). His second novel, *The Loud Adios*, became the St. Martin's Press Best First PI Novel of 1990. *The Venus Deal* (1992, St. Martin's)

is a prequel to *The Loud Adios* and book two of a Tom Hickey trilogy that is set during the 1940's in San Diego, Tijuana, Los Angeles, Denver and Incline Village on the shore of Lake Tahoe. The final book is *The Angel Gang* (1994, St. Martin's). Ken is presently finishing a Clifford Hickey (Tom Hickey's son) novel, set in contemporary San Diego, Tijuana and Incline Village. Ken writes feature articles for *The San Diego Reader* and is a professor and advisor at San Diego State University. He lives in La Mesa, CA with his two children.



Marvin Lachman has read mysteries for over 50 years and has written about them in *The Armchair Detective* since it began in 1967. He also writes columns for *Deadly Pleasures* and *Hard-boiled*. He was co-author/co-editor of *Detectionary* (paperback, 1972; 1980, hardcover reprint, 1977). He was

co-author/ co-editor (with Otto Penzler, Chris Steinbrunner, and Charles Shibuk) of *Encyclopedia of Mystery and Detection* (1976; paperback reprint, 1984.) Each won MWA's first Edgar in the Biography - Literary Criticism category. He has also written articles for many other mystery reference books, including *20th Century Crime and Mystery Writers* and *1001 Midnights*. His solo book, *A Reader's Guide to the American Novel of Detection* (1993, G.K. Hall/MacMillan) was nominated for the Edgar, Anthony, Agatha, and Macavity awards.



Janet Laurence

Residing in Somerset, England, Janet Laurence is the author of the culinary series featuring Darina Lisle, a Cordon Bleu cook, plus her detective boy friend William Pigram. Her series includes *A Deepe Coffyn*, *A Tasty Way to Die*, *Hotel Morgue*, *Recipe for Death*, *Death and the*

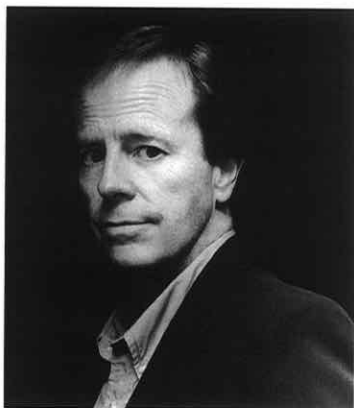
Epicure, and *Death at the Table*. Many of them are set in Somerset and southwest England. Her new suspense novel *To Kill the Past* (Feb., 1995, St. Martin's Press) is set in Devon and southwest England in a large, rather spooky, country house. Her pseudonym for her general novels (*The Changing Years*) is Julia Lisle. Janet has also written various cookery books including *The Craft of Food and Cookery Writing* and loves to travel, especially through France, entertain and read.

Ronald Levitsky received a B.A. from Northern Illinois University and a M.A. from George Williams University (now Concordia) in Montreal, Quebec. He has taught in several north suburban Chicagoland school districts, and two years in the Dominican Republic. His series features Nat Rosen, a civil liberties attorney, who travels a great deal; settings include Virginia, Middle Tennessee, the Black Hills of South Dakota, and Chicago. Books included in the series are *The Love That Kills* (1991, Scribner), *The Wisdom of Serpents* (1992, Scribner) and *Stone Boy* (1993, Scribner). *The Innocence That Kills* is fourth in the series. Ronald Levitsky is a member of Amnesty International and, through Nat Rosen, writes about his personal concerns for human rights and educational reform. He loves reading and movies, and lives with his wife and daughters, along with their dogs, cats and horses.



Gayle Lynds resides in Santa Barbara, California. She has a B.A. in journalism for the University of Iowa. She has been a reporter for *The Arizona Republic*, editor for *The Santa Barbara Magazine* and *Prime Magazine*, and a writing teacher for various universities and colleges. Her *Three Investigators* young-adult mysteries, published by Knopf under the pseudonym G. H.

Stone, are *Rough Stuff*, *Reel Trouble*, and *Fatal Error*. Before that, she wrote one nonfiction book (Dell) about relationships, and eight adventure/suspense novels. Her books are set all over the world. Gayle will have a new international thriller published by Doubleday in late '95 or early '96. Her special concerns are human rights, children, women, minorities, white men, the environment, and a level playing field. As most authors would agree, she says, "I write. Who needs hobbies?"

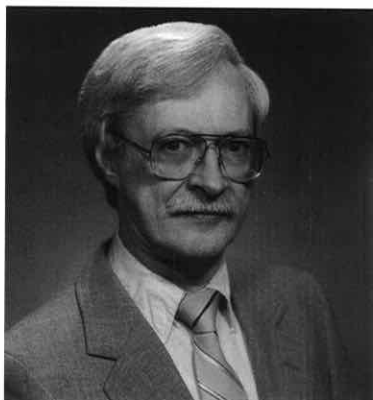


Edward Marston was born and brought up in Wales. He read Modern History at Oxford, and was a lecturer for three years. He is a full-time writer of over 40 plays for radio, television and the theatre, and over 600 episodes of radio and TV drama serials. Work as an actor, director and playwright is reflected in

the Nicholas Bracewell series, featuring an Elizabethan theater company in the 1590's. The most recent title is *The Silent Woman* (St. Martin's Press). The 7th book in the series, *The Roaring Boy*, is due soon. He also writes the Domesday series set around the compilation of the Domesday Book in 1086. This includes *The Wolves of Savernake*, *Ravens of Blackwater* and *Dragons of Archenfield* (Fall, 1995). As Keith Miles, his real name, he wrote four Alan Saxon golf mysteries, with *Double Eagle* set in the San Fernando Valley; under the pseudonym Martin Inigo, he wrote *Stone Dead*, a golf mystery set during a Ryder Cup Match featuring a villain from Arizona, and *Foul Play*.



Lise McClendon's first mystery *The Bluejay Shaman* (1994, Walker), features art forgery expert Alix Thorssen in her native Montana, mixed up with her brother-in-law's problems with the law, his Salish Indian friends, his New Age enemies, and University of Montana anthropology colleagues. The second in the series, *Painted Truths* (1995, Walker), involves the death of a wunderkind artist who dies in a fire on the town square in Jackson, Wyoming, just as he is making a comeback. Before turning to fiction writing, Lise McClendon was a college journalism instructor, a film reviewer, and owner of a public relations agency. She attended college in Nebraska and Missouri and has lived in the Rockies for the last 15 years. She teaches creative writing for the Writer's Voice Project in Billings and helped found the statewide writing group, Montana Authors Coalition. In 1995 her essay will appear in an anthology called *Embarrassment of Riches: Essays on Montana Literature*, published by the Montana Center for the Book.



James R. McCahery resides in Union, New Jersey, and has been a teacher of Romance Languages at Xavier High School, in New York City, for 35 years. He holds a B. A. from Manhattan College, NY; a M.A. in French from Fordham University, NY, and was a Fulbright Scholar, Université de

Poitiers, France. His series stars Lavina London, a widowed septuagenarian and former radio actress, and is set in Hemlock Lake, Boulder, the Catskill Mountains of New York, and New York City. Titles include *Grave Undertaking* (1990, Knightsbridge; Anthony Award for Best Paperback Original), *What Evil Lurks* (1995, Kensington), *Planted Deep* (1996, Kensington), and *Altered Script* (1997, Kensington). He reads mysteries, biographies and spiritual books.



Sharyn McCrumb, a native of North Carolina, Sharyn McCrumb now lives in the Virginia Blue Ridge with her husband, David, and their three children. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with an M.A. in English from Virginia Tech, she has taught journalism and Appalachian Studies at Virginia Tech. She has written nearly 20 short stories and three mystery

series that explore the politics of culture and reflect her love for Celtic-Appalachian folklore and music. Her *Ballad Series* includes *If Ever I Return*, *Pretty Peggy-O* (1990, Scribner; Macavity Award), *The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter* (1992, Scribner), and *She Walks These Hills* (1994, Scribner). Her other two series' feature forensic anthropologist Elizabeth MacPherson, set in Appalachia and Great Britain; and Dr. James Owen Mega "Jay Omega," a respected engineering professor turned sci-fi superstar.



Annette Meyers is a senior vice-president with Michael King Associates, and executive search and management consulting firm specializing in Wall Street placements. She was formerly assistant to Broadway director-producer Hal Prince, working with him on such productions as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cabaret*, *A Little Night Music*, *Company*,

and *Follies*. Meyers, national secretary of SinC, is the author of five Smith and Wetzon mysteries: *The Big Killing*, *Tender Death*, *The Deadliest Option*, *Blood on the Street*, and *Murder: the Musical*. She is currently working on a psychological novel called *Tracing Rose*. The next Smith and Wetzon mystery will be *These Bones Were Made For Dancin'*. Her short story, *Mommy Would Have Loved It*, appeared in the Signet anthology *Murder For Mother* in 1994. With her husband, Martin Meyers, using the pseudonym Maan Meyers, she writes New York mysteries set in the 17th - 19th centuries.



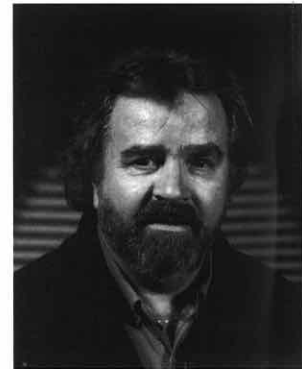
Miriam Grace Monfredo lives in Rochester, New York, with her attorney husband. She holds an undergraduate degree *cum laude* in history and sociology from Nazareth College, and a MLS in Library and Information Science from the State University of New York at Geneseo. She is the author of *Seneca Falls Inheritance*

(1992, St. Martin's Press), *North Star Conspiracy* (1993, St. Martin's Press), and *Blackwater Spirits* (February, 1995, St. Martin's Press). A fourth novel, *Through a Gold Eagle* (Berkley Prime Crime), has an anticipated release date of 1996. These historical mysteries are part of a planned body of work focusing on the evolution of women's and minorities' rights in the U.S. from the early 1800's to the present. The carefully researched novels revolve around Glynis Tryon, an unmarried, small-town librarian in western New York, and her forebearers and descendants. Each novel includes a supplementary chapter of Historical Notes.



Martin Meyers, who is also an actor, is the author of Popular Library's *Kiss and Kill*, *Spy and Die*, *Red is for Murder*, *Hung Up to Die*, and *Reunion for Death*, all featuring private detective Patrick Hardy. Meyers novelized the Cher movie, *Suspect*, for Bantam and wrote a young adult book for Scholastic Publications, *A Federal Case*. He also wrote lyrics for Captain

Kangaroo on CBS-TV. *The Dutchman* (1992, Doubleday), was the first novel in a series of history mysteries, written in collaboration with his wife Annette Meyers, and using the pseudonym Maan Meyers. Further titles are *The Kingsbridge Plot* (1993), *The High Constable* (1994), and *The Dutchman's Dilemma* (1995, Bantam). Martin is writing a suspense novel, *Rosemary, For Remembrance*.



Bill Moody is the author of *The Jazz Exiles: American Musicians Abroad* (University of Nevada Press), and *Solo Hand* (Walker), the first in a series featuring jazz pianist-detective Evan Horne. Moody makes his home in Las Vegas where he is a musician, Jazz DJ, and English teacher at the University of Las Vegas. His

second Evan Horne mystery, *Death of a Tenor Man*, will be published by Walker in 1995. From *Publisher's Weekly*: "Moody creates a tangle of clues and motives that Evan determinedly untangles despite his lack of PI experience. Jazz fans hoping for descriptions of artistry will find workaday musicians instead, but Moody's portrayals of the backstabbing music industry and a royalties scam ring true."



Marlys Millhiser lives in Boulder, Colorado and holds degrees in history — a B.A. from the University of Iowa and an M.A. from the University of Colorado. She is the current editor of *Deadlines*, the newsletter of the rocky Mountain Chapter of MWA. Her mystery series features Charlie Greene, an unwed mother, Hollywood literary agent, and reluctant sleuth. The first in the series,

Murder at Moot Point (1992, Doubleday) was followed by *Death of the Office Witch* (1993, Penzler). Her soon-to-be released *Murder in a Hot Flash* takes Charlie to a film location in the Canyonlands of Utah. Perhaps, best known for a previous novel, *The Mirror*, Marlys's other earlier titles include *The Threshold*, *Nightmare Country*, *Nella Waits*, and *Michael's Wife*. Another earlier title, *Willing Hostage*, long out of print, has been reissued in paperback. She has written articles for the Anthony winning *The Fine Art of Murder*, *The Armchair Detective*, and *Mystery Scene*.



Jill Morgan aka Jessica Pierce, Meg Griffin, J. M. Morgan, Morgan Fields, Meredith Morgan is contributing editor for *Mystery Scene* magazine, writing a column called *Sisters In Crime, Mysteries For Minors*. As Jessica Pierce, she has a new series for 8-12 yr. olds called *The*

Spider's Child (Kensington). Mr. Ambrose, the caretaker of Broadmore's Used Books and Antiquities, is the Spider. In 1995, her gothics for middle grade series, *Cobwebs* (Random House), and *Blood Brothers* (HarperCollins), also for middle grade, will be released. As Meg Griffin, her next adult suspense novel, *Cage of Shadows* will be published by Zebra in May. She lives in Southern California with her husband and three children.



Sharan Newman is a writer and medievalist who lives in southern California, although not by choice. She has been educated far beyond any usefulness to society. Her mysteries are *Death Comes As Epiphany* (1993, Tor), nominated for the Agatha and Anthony awards and winner of the Macavity for Best First Mystery, *The Devil's Door* (1994, Forge), and *The*

Wandering Arm (October, 1995, Forge). These books are a series set in twelfth century France featuring Catherine, who used to want to be a nun, and Edgar, who never really wanted to be a bishop. Sharan is a member of a number of many acronymic organisations, including MWA, ACWL, PEN, SFWA, SinC, AHA, as well as the Medieval Academy, which would never consider demeaning itself to a mere collection of upper-case letters.



Michael Newton lives in Nashville, Indiana, and has a B.A. in history and English from Cal State, Bakersfield; and did graduate work at UNLV while teaching in Nevada. He has a background in security and bodyguard work, and is a licensed firearms dealer. He wrote *Armed and Dangerous: A Writer's Guide* (1990, Writer's Digest Books). The most recent of his 124 books include

Hunting Humans, Raising Hell, Serial Slaughter, and Silent Rage. Forthcoming books include *Cat and Mouse* (June 1995, Pocket), and the non-fiction, *Daddy Was the Black Dahlia Killer* (Aug., 1995, Pocket). His fictional characters are Mack Bolan (*The Executioner*, Gold Eagle Books), Remo Williams (*Destroyer*, Gold Eagle), and FBI Agents Joseph Flynn and Martin Tanner (*VICAP*, Dell, 1990-91). Michael's special interests involve serial murder, cults, and extremist hate groups. He has also contributed to public safety with his fugitive chronicles.

Gary Warren Niebuhr is the Library Director for the Village of Greendale in Wisconsin. He holds a M. A. in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee. He is author of *A Reader's Guide to the Private Eye Novel* (1993, G. K. Hall), nominated for the 1994 Anthony Award. He is co-editor and co-publisher (with Orietta A. Hardy-Sayles) of *The Big Jacuzzi: A Collection of Shallow Short Stories* (1992) and *Farewell, My Lobby: A Collection of Shameless Short Stories* (1993) published by Bootleg Press and P.I.E.S. Each of these collections contains one short story by Niebuhr. He operates P.I.E.S. (Private Investigator Entertainment Service), a mail order catalogue of private eye fiction. In 1995, Niebuhr is the conference co-ordinator for the first ever conference to honor the Private Eye Writers of America, EYECON'95, to be held in Milwaukee.



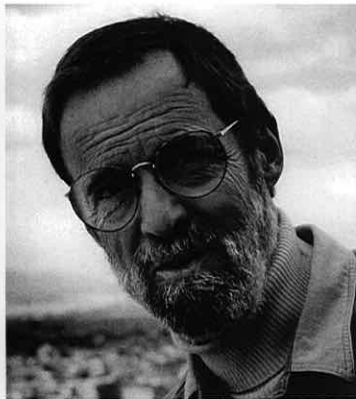
Maxine O'Callaghan's novels include a series featuring Orange County PI Delilah West, one of the mystery world's pioneering female private investigators, as well as novels of horror and dark suspense. The latest Delilah West, *Trade-Off*, was published by St. Martin's Press in June '94. *Set-Up* was published in paperback in May '94, and a short story featuring Delilah, *Bad News*, appears in **Deadly Allies II**.

O'Callaghan has just completed the first book in a new series for Putnam/Berkley to be set in Phoenix, featuring child psychologist Dr. Anne Menlo. O'Callaghan has been nominated for both the Anthony Award and the Bram Stoker Award given by Horror Writers of America. She is a member of MWA, SinC, ACWL and Horror Writers of America. O'Callaghan lives in Mission Viejo, CA where she writes full time. She reports (wistfully) that her hobbies once included painting and sewing. Now about all she has time for is gardening. She especially loves orchids and roses.



Abigail Padgett lives in San Diego, CA, and has a B.S. in English from Indiana University, an M.S. in Counseling from the University of Missouri, and an AB.D. in sociology from Washington University in St. Louis. Her first mystery *Child of Silence* (1993, Mysterious Press) introduces Bo Bradley, a child abuse investigator with San Diego's juvenile court system, who is struggling with manic depression. *Child of Silence* was nominated for the Agatha First

Best Mystery, the McCavity, and Anthony, and was followed by *Strawgirl* (1994, Mysterious Press). Each was one of the *Los Angeles Times* "Best 10 Mysteries". And recently released was *Turtle Baby* (Feb., 1995, Mysterious Press). Abigail's special concerns are psychiatric stigma, and exploitation of "anything." She is especially fond of quilts, hiking, dachshunds, and travel.



Jake Page

Before becoming a mystery writer, Jake Page was the Founder and Director of *Smithsonian Books*, Editor-in-Chief of Walker & Co., Editor of the *Natural History Press*, Doubleday, Editor of Doubleday Anchor Books, and Assistant Sales Promotion Manager of Doubleday & Co. His magazine publishing career boasts experience as Editorial Director

of *Natural History*, Science Editor of *Smithsonian*, Start-up Editor of *Smithsonian Air & Space*, and magazine consultant for the Denver Museum of Natural History. With his wife, photographer Susanne Page, he has written *Hopi* (1982, Harry N. Abrams) and recently *Navajo* (also Harry N. Abrams). He is under contract for *Wild Justice: The Chiricahua Apaches and the U.S. Indian Claims Commission*, with Michael Lieder (Orion Books, Crown). Add to this books on natural history, myths and legends, and the environment; books, chapters, and articles to numerous too list. Because of his anger "about the ugly trade in stolen Indian religious paraphernalia — particularly its impact on some of my Hopi Indian friends", it is only natural that he would begin his mystery series revolving around that subject. *Stolen Gods* (1993, Ballantine) introduces blind Santa Fe sculptor, T. Moore "Mo" Bowdre, and his half-Hopi "significant other" Connie Barnes. With strong supporting characters—the *New York Times* accused him of having too many—homicide detective, Sgt. Anthony Ramirez; Larry Collins, special BFBI agent; and Samantha Burgess, investigative reporter for the Santa Fe *New Mexican*, the series launches into the subject of the theft of Hopi sacred gods that actually occurred at the mesas here in AZ. His second "Mo Bowdre", *The Deadly Canyon* (1994,

Ballantine), involved the use of entomology as an indicator of time of death. Sequel to *The Deadly Canyon* is *The Knotted Strings* (1995, Ballantine) involving a film of the Pueblo Rebellion. Jake Page is working on the fourth book "with this noisome and persistent gang" of characters. He lives with his wife in Corrales, New Mexico, and owns an Arabian mare. Both are life-commitments. With an extending extended family (8 grandchildren), he has "a grievous concern over the rogue nature of the human species." He graduated from Princeton University in 1958 with a B.A. in American Civilization and an M.A. in Education from New York University.



Joanne Pence, a native of San Francisco, lives in Novato, CA, where she is a Social Security Administration Manager. She has a Master's Degree in journalism from the University of CA, Berkeley. Her series features the dynamic duo of Angelina Amalfi, gourmet cook, food

columnist, and underemployed journalist, and San Francisco Homicide Inspector Paavo Smith. Her titles include *Something's Cooking* (1993, Harper), *Too Many Cooks* (1994, Harper), and *Cooking Up Trouble* (May 1995, Harper). *Something's Cooking* was nominated for a RITA Award for "Best Romantic Suspense" by the Romance Writers of America. Her personal interests include the American West, sports and movies.





Audrey Peterson, like her character Claire Camden, was professor of English at California State University, going often to England to do research in her field of Victorian literature. After publishing a number of articles and a non-fiction book *Victorian Masters of Mystery: From Wilke Collins to Conan Doyle*, she turned to writing fiction. Her first, the “Jane and Andrew” series, featuring music professor Andrew Quentin and his one-time graduate student

Jane Winfield, include Pocket Books’ *The Nocturne Murder*, *Death in Wessex*, *Murder in Burgundy*, *Deadly Rehearsal*, *Elegy in a Country Graveyard*, and *Lament for Christabel*. Claire Camden is introduced in *Dartmoor Burial* (1992) and recently *Death Too Soon* (1994), both paperback originals. Audrey has a short story, The Bayville Killing, in *Crimes of the Heart*, ed. by Carolyn Hart.



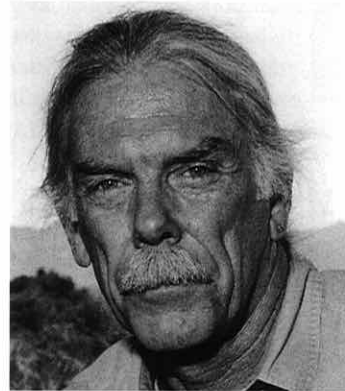
Sandra West Prowell has demonstrated her notable storytelling talents in two acclaimed mysteries featuring Phoebe Siegel, an independent, gutsy, Billings, Montana, private investigator who suffers from an extreme aversion to the month of March. She was introduced in *By Evil Means* (1993), followed by *The Killing of Monday Brown* (1994). Sandra who planned her writing career years

ago as a child, recently finished the third Phoebe adventure, *When Wallflowers Die* (1995), and is beginning the fourth, *An Accepted Sorrow* (1996), all published by Walker & Co. On her rare days of leisure, this great-granddaughter of early pioneers enjoys fishing, beading, and researching herbal and medicinal plants used by Native Americans in her region. Sandra inherited her family’s strong oral tradition which inspired an avid interest in genealogy. Sandra, born in Helena, now lives in Billings, Montana, with her husband, daughter, and son, and assorted dogs, cats, and hedgehogs.



Dianne G. Pugh, born and raised in Los Angeles, now resides in Pasadena, California. She is Marketing Manager for a medical software company, and has a B.A. in Philosophy and French, *Magna Cum Laude*, from UCLA. She spent a year studying in France. She also has an MBA in Marketing and Finance from UCLA. Her series

character is Iris Thorne, a 35 year-old Los Angeles Investment Counselor. The only female in an all-male financial firm she “runs with the wolves” in L.A.’s financial district. Iris is a working everywoman, because Dianne found women detectives of fiction “too hard-boiled”. She describes office life so familiar to many. Iris was introduced in *Cold Call* (1993, Pocketbooks) and appeared again in *Slow Squeeze* (1994, Pocketbooks).



Ron Querry resides in Tucson, Arizona. Of mixed ancestry, he is an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma — a descendant of the Sixtown Clan (*Okla Hannali*) — and so is especially interested in the relationships between and among the various tribal governments and the

federal government in this country. Besides his experience as a writer and university professor, he has worked variously as a ranch hand and wrangler, horse trainer and farrier (horseshoer), and served as a racing official for the American Quarter Horse Association. He edited a national Quarter Horse racing publication. His mystery, set principally on the Navajo Nation, *The Death of Bernadette Lefthand* (1993, Red Crane Literature Series), received both the Mountains & Plains Regional Book Award and the Border Regional Library Association Book Award. His next mystery, *Bad Medicine*, is to be published by Bantam in 1996. Ron has a B.A. and M.A. in English and Ph.D. in American Studies. His other titles include: *The Native American Struggle for Equality*, *I See By My Get-Up*, and *Growing Old at Willie Nelson’s Picnic*.

Lynda S. Robinson has a doctoral degree in anthropology with a specialty in the subdiscipline of archaeology from the University of Texas at Austin. She has done field work in both the Middle East and the US, as well as museum research and work in exhibits of ancient art. Her first mystery, *Murder in the Place of Anubis* (1994, Walker & Co.), is set in Egypt, and features Lord Meren, confidante of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun, during the fifth year of Tut’s reign. Next in the series will be *Murder at the God’s Gate* (February ‘95). The Lord Meren series will be published in paperback by Ballantine, beginning in January, 1995.



Peter Robinson was born in Yorkshire, England, and went to live in Canada in 1976. His Inspector Alan Banks novels begin with *Gallows View* (1987, Penguin), *A Dedicated Man* (1988), *A Necessary End* and *The Hanging Valley* (both in 1989). *Past Reason Hated* (1991) won the Crime Writers of Canada Arthur Ellis Award for best novel and recently won the TORGI Award for “talking

book” of the year. It was followed by *Wednesday’s Child* (1992) and *Final Account* (Oct., 1994). Peter is working on the eighth Inspector Banks, tentatively titled *Innocent Grave*. Inspector Banks is transplanted to Yorkshire from London and is a civilized detective with a fascination for opera, and Tudor history, and has a bright and beautiful wife. Robinson’s non-series suspense novels include *Caedmon’s Song* (1990) and the also tentatively titled *No Cure For Love* (Fall, ‘95, Penguin Canada). Peter now lives in Toronto with his wife, Sheila Halladay.



Marion Rosen received a B.S. in English from Kutztown State University in Pennsylvania. She then moved to Los Angeles and received her Master’s Degree from California State University. After twenty-one years of teaching English and Creative Writing, she was hired by Macmillan/McGraw Hill for several textbook projects. In 1993, Marion Rosen’s first mystery, *Death By Education*,

was published by St. Martin’s Press. The book has since been optioned by Simon Lewis Productions. Emmy Award-winning Lewis hopes to turn the novel into a Movie of the Week. Her second book, *Don’t Speak To Strangers*, was released August, 1993. It involves the abduction of a 10-year old. Most recently Marion has optioned a new thriller to Saban Productions in New York City.



Rebecca Rothenberg was raised in northern New York State and attended Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania. That year the entire graduating class tossed its hats in the air and left for communes in British Columbia—except for Rebecca, who somehow found herself writing songs in Nashville, Tennessee. In Hollywood, she found, after five years, that she

wasn’t destined to be a rock star. The landscape of So. CA seduced her to remain in L.A. and gave her the elements of a mystery series.

The first Claire Sharples mystery, *The Bulrush Murders* (1991, Carroll & Graf), was nominated for the Agatha and Anthony Awards for Best First Novel. Next came *The Dandelion Murders* (1994, Mysterious Press) and forthcoming is *The Shy Tulip Murders* (Mysterious Press). Rothenberg holds a Master’s Degree in Public Health and has worked as an epidemiologist for USC’s School of Medicine. She now divides her time between LA and the Southern Sierra, and is an active member of the CA Native Plant Society.

Alan Russell holds a B.A. in English and American Literature from the University of CA at San Diego. As a Gemini, his not yet published fifth novel, *Multiple Wounds*, deals with a multiple personality. April ‘95’s, *The Fat Innkeeper*, follows *The Hotel Detective*, and the second book in his comedic series set at a luxury resort in La Jolla, CA. Russell’s first two novels, *No Sign of Murder* and *The Forest Prime Evil*, featured P.I. Stuart Winter. Russell has periodically forsaken his sanity and done crazy things to soak in life’s experiences. He’s been a store Santa, run with the bulls, performed in a ballet (as Mother Ginger, no less), was Mr. June in the 1994 Men of Mystery Calendar, and recently tromped off in the middle of the night to homicide scenes. The 6’7” author still reflects his misspent youth by playing in several basketball leagues.



Walter Satterthwait has lived in New York City and in Portland, Oregon, and abroad in Africa, Thailand, Greece, England, and The Netherlands. He has worked as an encyclopedia salesman, a proofreader, a bartender, and a restaurant manager. His series featuring Santa Fe detectives Joshua Croft and Rita Mondragon are *Wall of Glass* (1987), nominated for

the Shamus, *At Ease With the Dead* (1990), *A Flower In the Desert* (1992), and *The Hanged Man* (1994). His “historical figure” series includes *Miss Lizzie* (1989) and *Wilde West* (1991) involving Oscar Wilde’s lecture tour of the American Southwest. It is currently under option to an independent film producer. Mr. Satterthwait, who now lives in Santa Fe, has recently completed *Escapade* (July, ‘95), a novel featuring Harry Houdini and Sir Conan Doyle. All titles are originally published by St. Martin’s Press.



Connie Shelton has been a mystery fan since childhood. When asked what she wanted to be when grown up, she replied, "Nancy Drew!" Now she sits in front of a computer screen masterminding spine-chilling novels; but that's only one facet of this woman. Since 1975, Shelton has been a commercial hot air balloon pilot and currently holds the women's world altitude record for a size AX-4 balloon.

Her debut, *Deadly Gamble*, is being released this month (February, '95). The book introduces female CPA-turned-unwilling-investigator, Charlie Parker. Her next book in the series, *Vacations Can Be Murder*, is set in the Hawaiian Islands. Connie is an award-winning essayist, columnist and co-owner of The Write Type, Inc. She lives in Angel Fire, NM with her husband.



Janet L. Smith was born and raised in Southern California, and relocated to Seattle in 1979. In 1978, she received a B.A. Degree *cum laude* in Modern History from Pomona college in Claremont, CA, and received a law degree from the University of Washington in 1983. Smith spent five years as an overworked trial attorney with a large regional law firm and three years as an administrative law judge for

a state agency. She has recently returned to private law practice on a part-time basis, specializing in worker's compensation. Janet is the author of the Annie MacPherson mystery series, set in the Pacific Northwest. Her first novel, *Sea of Troubles*, set on Orcas Island, was nominated for an Agatha Award for Best First Mystery in 1990. Her second in the series, *Practice to Deceive* is set in one of Seattle's most prestigious law firms. Third in the series, *A Vintage Murder* (1994) is set in Washington's Yakima Valley wine country.



Elizabeth Daniels Squire is a graduate of Vassar and has taken graduate courses at the University of North Carolina at Asheville and at the American Univeristy in Beirut. Her published books include *Fortune in Your Hand* (Fleet), *Kill the Messenger* (St. Martin's), and her Peaches Dann series beginning with *Who Killed What's-Her-Name?* (March, 1994) followed by *Remember*

the Alibi. The next in the series will be *Memory Can Be Murder*

(July, 1995). Peaches is an absent-minded sleuth who uses a few memory tricks and the new computer-assisted "World Memory" program to solve murder. Squire was a reporter for years and covered murders, floods, politicians, or what-have-you the old fashioned way—with her legs.



Veronica Stallwood lives in a 17th century stone cottage just outside Oxford, England. After London grammar school, she attended an American school in Athens and a French convent in Beirut. After many office jobs, and raising two children single-handed, she worked four years at the

Bodleian Library, Oxford University, followed by a couple of years at Lincoln College Library, Oxford. She is now an occasional academic librarian/cataloguer. Her series character, Kate Ivory, is a writer of historical romances and lives in Oxford. Titles include *Deathspell*, *Death and the Oxford Box*, *Oxford Exit*, and *Oxford Mourning* (1995) all published by Scribner. Her other characters include Leicester College, Oxford, an imaginary college, Andrew Grove, a pompous food expert who works at the Bodleian Library, and Paul Taylor, a Det. Sgt. in the Thames Valley Police.



Janice Steinberg's debut mystery, *Death of a Postmodernist* (Berkley Prime Crime), introduces Margo Simon, a San Diego public radio reporter, covering an art show at an ultra-contemporary gallery. *Death Crosses the Border* (November '95) finds Margo doing a story on Tijuana's *maquiladoras*, the mostly U.S.-owned factories just

south of the border. Now a San Diego resident, Janice grew up in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, a suburb of Milwaukee. She received a B.A. and M.A. from the University of CA-Irvine's Program in Social Ecology. She has worked as an urban and health planner, a technical editor, public relations, and as promotional director for the San Diego NPR station. As a freelance writer, she has covered dance and performance art for the *Los Angeles Times*, *High Performance* magazine, and other publications. She is attempting to learn Spanish.



Serita Deborah Stevens is a registered nurse and graduate of the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago, where she grew up. She specializes in psychiatric nursing, along with some medical surgery nursing. She has worked as an investigative reporter for CBS-WBBM-TV in Chicago uncovering an illicit hospital scheme. Serita has taught writing at USC, UCLA, Santa Monica

City College, Loyola Marymount, and Roosevelt University. She currently teaches for the Writer's Digest Novel Writing Program and authored their *Deadly Doses: A Writer's Guide to Poisons*, which was nominated for both the Anthony and Macavity Awards. Along with her young adult mystery series, and her "Healing" series, Serita is best known for her Fanny Zindel mysteries, written with Rayanne Moore. Titles include *Red Sea, Dead Sea* (1991), and *Bagels For Tea* (1993), both St. Martin's Press. *Writing the Jewish Mystery* appeared in *The Fine Art of Murder* (Carroll & Graf), ed. by Ed Gorman.

Elleston Trevor (Adam Hall), born Trevor Dudley Smith in Bromley, Kent, was educated at the Yardley Court Preparatory School and the Seven Oaks School, both in Kent. He spent several years in the Royal Air Force as a flight engineer. Having lived in France, he moved to the United States in 1973. He now resides in Cave Creek, Arizona. He has published 85 books, under some ten pseudonyms, many of which were written for children from the 1940s through the 1960s. He is most famous for his "Quiller" series. Quiller debuted in *The Berlin Memorandum* (1965, Collins), published in England under that title, and then in the U.S. as *The Quiller Memorandum* (1965, Simon & Schuster). It won the Edgar for that year. Quiller has often been compared to James Bond and Matt Helm. He was also responsible for the movie *The Flight of the Phoenix*.



Helen Hughes Vick is a writer of children's and young adult books. She has a B.A. in Speech/Drama from Southern Utah State University in Cedar City, Utah, and an M.A. in Special Education from Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona. She is a 6th grade Special Education teacher for the Prescott, AZ Unified School District, and part-time instructor

in Special Education at Northern Arizona University. Her "Walker" series is set in Walnut Canyon National Park, Arizona; Wupatki National Park, Arizona; and the Hopi Reservation. Her characters are Walker Talayesva and "Tag" (Trumount Abraham Grotewald). Her first in the series, *Walker of Time* (Harbinger House), made the 1994 ALA Best Books for Young Adults List. *Walker's Journey Home* is due out March 1995, also from Harbinger House.



Patricia Wallace, who lives in Nevada, has an A.A. in Police Science from Fullerton College, and a B.A. in Communications with an emphasis in film from California State University, Fullerton. She is the author of eleven horror novels and six published mystery novels. Her mystery series features San Diego P.I. Sydney

Bryant, and includes titles *Deadly Devotion*, *Blood Lies*, *Deadly Grounds*, and *Small Favors*. *Dark Intent* is due in August, 1995. *August Nights* is in progress. She is a literary agent with Estrada Literary Agency, a freelance story analyst, a technical/writer editor for *Biomedical Technology*, Quest Publishing, and a creative writing instructor. She has eleven years experience in the medical field. She is an avid film buff and voracious reader.



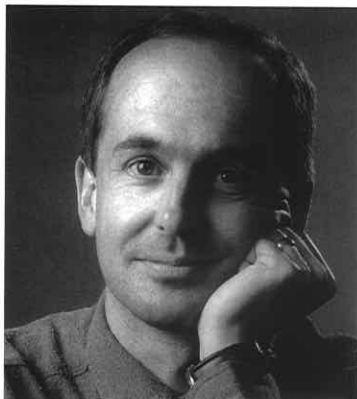
Gloria White is the author of the Ronnie Ventana series, a San Francisco P.I. who is the daughter of cat burglars (now deceased). She doesn't hesitate to call on her parent's trade to help her solve the murders she's constantly running into. Titles in the series are *Murder on the Run* (nominated for the

Anthony Award for Best First Novel of 1991, and chosen as one of *Publisher's Weekly's* Audio Best of the Year), *Money to Burn*, and *Charged With Guilt* (May, 1995). The series is available as an audio book and has been published in Germany, Japan and Great Britain, and soon will be available in Italy. Ms. White is a member of SinC, Private Eye Writers of America, Authors Guild, and serves on the regional board of Mystery Writers of America.



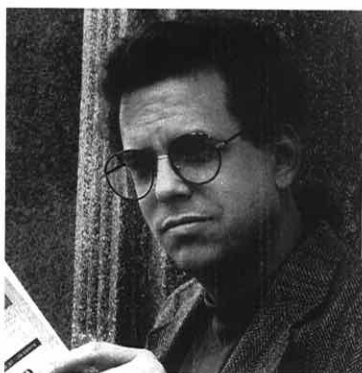
Stephen White is a clinical psychologist who brings a wealth of professional insight and accurate psychological detail to his Alan Gregory novels, *Privileged Information* (Viking, 1991; Zebra, 1992), *Private Practices* (Viking, 1993), and *Higher Authority* (Viking, 1994)

that involves the Mormon LDS Church in accusations of sexual harassment, career sabotage, and homosexuality. With the LDS Church increasingly in the nation's headlines, this is Stephen White's most timely and ambitious novel to date. A member of the American Psychological Association and the Colorado Psychological Association, he maintains a private practice in Boulder, and has been an Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and a clinical psychologist at The Children's Hospital in Denver.



Don Winslow, who lives with his wife Jean and his son Thomas, and their two dogs; Bud and Lou in northern Connecticut, is the creator of the Neal Carey series. His sleuth is a New York street kid turned private eye. Along with his one-armed mentor, Joe Graham, he leads the reader from California, to Yorkshire, London, Hong Kong, China, and back to Nevada, Texas, and Rhode Island, in such wonderful titles as: *A Cool*

Breeze On the Underground (1991 Edgar and Shamus nomination; Maltese Falcon Award), *The Trail To Buddha's Mirror* (1992), *Way Down On The High Lonely* (1993), and *A Long Walk Up the Water Slide* (1994), all St. Martin's Press. Winslow's special interests are African History and Shakespeare, and he is proficient in Tae Kwon Do. He received his Master's Degree from the University of Nebraska, was in the military, and is a consultant.



Steve Womack, a native of Nashville, Tennessee, is a graduate of Western Reserve Academy and Tulane University. He is an adjunct professor of English at Nashville State Technical Institute, where he teaches screenwriting. Womack writes two mystery series. His Jack Lynch series includes *Murphy's Fault* (1991, St. Martin's Press), *Smash Cut*

(1991, St. Martin's Press), and *Software Bomb* (1993, Ballantine). His "Nashville" Harry Denton series includes *Dead Folks' Blues* (1993, Ballantine, and 1994 Edgar winner for Best Original Paperback Novel), *Torch Down Boogie* (1993, Ballantine), and *Way Past Dead* (April '95, Ballantine). Womack also co-wrote the screenplay for *Proudheart*, an original made-for-cable movie (August, '93, nominated for the CableAce Award).



Fay Zachary, a native Pittsburger, combined creative writing and nursing studies at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Pennsylvania, which led her to deal with social/biomedical ethics concerns through her cautionary suspense novels *Fertility Rights* (1987, Zebra), *...Cradle and All* (1989, Pageant),

Blood Work (1994, Berkley), and *Poison in the Blood* (1994, Jove). She set her first three books in Philadelphia, where she lived for eight years. *A Poison in the Blood* moves *Blood Work's* characters, genealogist Zack James and family doctor Liz Broward, to Arizona, Fay's present home. Fay has also lived in Rockville, Maryland. A full time writer, Fay is married, has three children, and three grandchildren. She is a member SinC, MWA, and The Authors Guild. She serves as Section Leader of the SinC Section of Time Warner's Authors Forum (Go TWAUTHORS) on CompuServe. Besides having a consuming passion for online networking, she most enjoys walking outdoors.

At the time this program was going to press, several firefighters perished on the job in Seattle, Washington. Therefore, author Earl Emerson, who is physically unharmed will, regrettably, not be with us.

Our thoughts are with him and the families and friends of the deceased firemen, and we wish Earl all the best in his recuperation from the loss of his fellow-firefighters.

Janet Smith, a Seattle attorney and mystery author, will step in as moderator.

Warwick Downing, a Denver attorney and author of legal mystery thrillers, will join the panel.



**POCKET BOOKS
SALUTES
LEFT COAST CRIME**

AUTHOR

.....ANECDOTES

Nancy Atherton:

The first comment on my first book on my first tour during my first radio interview (with a live mike): The interviewer (who shall remain nameless) turns to me and says brightly, "I just *love* a good murder mystery, *especially* when it involves politics!" (This anecdote makes painful sense only if you're acquainted with my books, which have nothing whatsoever to do with murder *or* politics!) Moral: Read the press release, at the very least, if you're planning to do an interview with *anyone*.

K. K. Beck:

I always liked Dorothy Parker's review of *The House at Pooh Corner*: "Tonstant weader fwowed up".

Jan Burke:

There was a sensational buzz around Hollywood about his new script, so a friend of mine was told by his agent to stay near the phone. He took the agent at his word and carried a portable phone with him everywhere, including the bathroom. As will happen, the moment he made himself comfortable there, the phone rang. Knowing not to appear too anxious, he waited the requisite two rings before he answered.

It was the agent. "Great news!" he declared. "Are you sitting down?"

Taffy Cannon:

A Pocketful of Karma involves past-lives therapy and the publication party for the book was billed as a talk on reincarnation in the *San Diego Reader*, which brought out a lot of people who might not ordinarily attend a mystery signing.

During the discussion after my author talk, opinions on reincarnation were flying hard and fast around the room. In exasperation, one person said: "How can there be reincarnation when there are more people alive now than all the people who've ever lived before?" Without missing a beat, somebody shot back: "They're coming from other planets."

Ruth Cavin:

Norman Thomas was a very famous political figure in his day; not only did he perennially run for president on the Socialist ticket, which meant more in the 30s than it does now, but he was extremely active and a commanding presence and his picture was in the press very frequently. He was the author of several books, one of them with a man far less famous named Paul Blanchard. One day, Blanchard went into the Scribner's flagship bookstore on Fifth Avenue and asked for the book he had co-authored with Thomas. "I'm sorry, Mr. Blanchard," said the clerk. "We don't have it." "How did you know I was Mr. Blanchard?" he asked. "Well," she answered, "I know you're not Norman Thomas."

Deborah L. Crombie:

“There are three rules for writing a novel. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.”
W. Somerset Maugham

Catherine Dain:

“I never worry about plot. All my plots are the same. A murders B and C gets blamed for it.”
Erle Stanley Gardner

Janet Dawson:

Re: Tony Hillerman’s comment “writing oneself into a corner, then having to write oneself out of said corner.”
Works for me!

Aaron Elkins:

What Flannery O’Connor said when asked if she thought the that universities stifled writers. Her answer:
“My opinion is they don’t stifle enough of them.”

Earl Emerson:

Author sees autographed copy of one of his own books in a used bookstore, asks bookseller how much he is selling it for. Bookseller says, “Five dollars.” Author says, “But this is an autographed copy.” Bookseller says, “OK, you can have it for four bucks.”

Earlene Fowler:

“A book is a mirror: when a monkey looks in, no apostle can look out.”
George Lichtenberg

Kate Green:

From her favorite poem by Emily Dickinson: “I heard a fly buzz when I died.”

Parnell Hall:

Best joke concerning being an author: “my royalty statements.”

Jeremiah Healy:

Truman Capote, on returning to an aspiring writer a manuscript Capote had reviewed: “That’s not writing, that’s *typing*.”

Susan Holtzer:

“Wanting to meet a writer because you like his work is like wanting to meet a duck because you like paté.”

Wendy Hornsby:

I have looked to the advice of Somerset Maugham from the beginning of my career. He said, “There are three rules for writing a novel. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.” I keep trying to find out.

J. A. Jance:

Writing mysteries is no joke.

Rochell Majer Krich:

Having just returned from an extensive promotional tour, I awoke in the middle of the night, disoriented, thinking I was in a hotel room. It took me a few seconds to realize that I was in my own bedroom and that the man in the bed next to mine was my husband, not my media escort.

Ronnie Klaskin:

When a waiter at the National Arts Club heard that the MWA dinner was for mystery writers, he wanted to know whether Josephine Tey was there.

Ken Kuhlken:

Somebody asked the head of the Iowa Playwrighter's Workshop, "What should I do if I want to be a writer?" He said, "If you have a girlfriend/boyfriend, send her/him away. If you have a wife/husband, divorce her/him. If you have kids, drown them."

Marvin Lachman:

The late Robert Bloch once told an interviewer ... "he had the heart of a little boy — and he kept it in a bottle on his desk."

Janet Laurence:

Concerning the perilous business of writing and publishing: After having failed to interest an established publisher in a book of articles, Edgar Wallace published it himself and sold some 30,000 copies. Emboldened by this experience, convinced that his book *The Four Just Men* was a good story, he decided to continue as publisher to establish his reputation as a story teller. He spent a bomb on advertising in newspapers, hoardings, and on tubes and buses. He sold 38,000 copies of the book, but lost £1,400 overall, a huge sum for those days! Lord Northcliffe rescued him from financial embarrassment and, in disgust, Wallace sold the remaining rights in *The Four Just Men* to George Newnes for £72. Wallace ended recounting this story in his 1926 autobiography by saying, "I don't know how many hundreds of thousands of copies George Newnes have so--which is really a very good story." *Plus ça change, c'est la même chose.*

Ronald Levitsky:

I like Mickey Spillane's line: "Mike Hammer drinks beer and not *cognac*, because I can't spell *cognac*".

Edward Marston:

"When I get a little money, I buy books; and if any is left, I buy food and clothes."
Erasmus

Sharyn McCrumb:

"One must find patterns in order to tell stories."
Stephen Jay Gould

Martin Meyers:

From the works of Snoopy: "As he turned to leave he paused and said 'Toodl-oo, Caribou! In awhile, Crocodile! Stay loose, Mongoose! It's been neat, Parakeet! 'Please,' she said, 'Just leave!'"

Sharan Newman:

"There are three rules for writing the novel; unfortunately, no one knows what they are."
W. Somerset Maugham

Joanne Pence:

"The only professional that gets more rejection than a writer, is a panhandler."

Dianne G. Pugh:

"Nature fits all her children with something to do. He who would write and can't write, can surely review."
James Russell Lowell

Ron Querry:

My friend William Eastlake tells the story about a meeting between William Faulkner and Clark Gable when the author was in Hollywood doing screen-writing work. When they were introduced, the famous actor reportedly said, "And what do you do, Mr. Faulkner?" to which the Nobel Prize laureate is said to have replied, "I was just about to ask you the same thing, Mr. Gable."

(Eastlake has another great story about Malcolm Lowry in Italy that deserves retelling, but space is limited. Later maybe?...over drinks in Scottsdale?)

Elizabeth Daniels Squire:

The man who wrote the inscription on my great grandfather's tombstone made a mistake all writers should avoid. He forgot to consider how the first things he wrote were going to sound when he made an addition. First he put the name of the deceased and a Bible verse. He left a space for the name of the deceased's wife when her time came. But because he forgot to think ahead the final inscription read:

Here lies Robert Rufus Bridgers
He rests from his labors
and his wife Mary Elizabeth.

I have lifted this inscription for a graveyard scene at the beginning of *Remember the Alibi*. Because another thing my ancestors left me was a motto: Waste not, want not.

Serita Stevens:

The best writing is rewriting.

Don Winslow:

Did you hear about the naive young actress? She slept with the *writer*!

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The rest of the line-up as of November 1, 1994 includes: Harold Adams, Neil Albert, Terry Beatty, Lawrence Block, Max Allan Collins, Bill Crider, Catherine Dain, Janet Dawson, Earl Emerson, Paul Engleman, David Everson, Graeme Flanagan, Parnell Hall, Jeremiah Healy, Wendi Lee, John Lutz, Thomas McCall, Walter Mosley, Warren Murphy, Maxine O'Callaghan, Robert Randisi, S.J. Rozan, Sharon Gwyn Short, and David J. Walker. Take this opportunity to meet the men and women behind the books!

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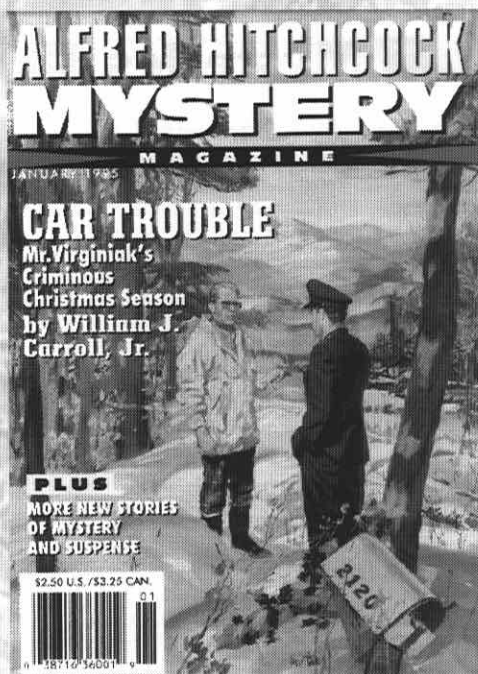
Registration includes
the **PWA** Luncheon on Friday and
the Octoberfest Banquet on Saturday.

Daily registration will be
\$75. per day - no meals included.

Programming will run from 4pm on Thursday, June 15th, until Sunday, June 18th, at noon. Programming will feature author presentations, author signings, fan panels, and special events. The first **PWA** Writers Conference designed for new writers has been scheduled for Sunday afternoon; a separate registration fee is required for this and information will follow. The **PWA** Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented at the **PWA** Luncheon on Friday, June 16th. **PWA** Shamus Awards will be presented at the Octoberfest Banquet on Saturday, June 17th. A book dealers' room, sponsored by **MYSTERY ONE** bookstore of Milwaukee, will open at 4pm on Thursday and operate throughout the conference.

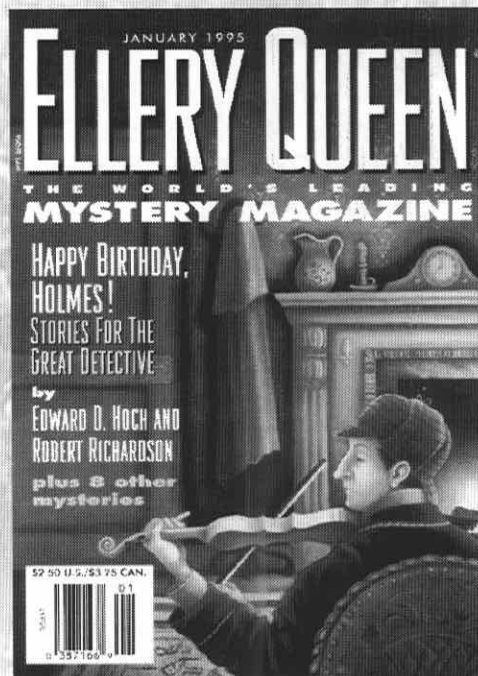
For additional information/registration forms, please write **EyeCon'95**, P.O. Box 341218, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53234. A team of high-level investigators will get on it right away!!

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IN MEMORIAM — MARY BOWEN HALL

DEFAULTING TO OPTIMISM

by SARAH ANDREWS

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It's a pleasure to write a pentimento about Mary Bowen Hall, author of the Emma Chizzit mysteries, who died March 28, 1994 in Santa Rosa, California. Mary is one of those people we remember as much for her influence on other writers as for her writings. Notice I say *is*: that's because Mary lives on, quite actively, in the the minds of others, her spark of inspiration glowing brightly.

Mary was an unquenchable campaigner, and made no bones about the fact that she wrote mysteries in order to advance a passionately-held agenda. This included fostering the rights and advancement of women, and ending discrimination against the aged. Her sentiments were presented with gusto in what she termed her "California Cozies" which star Emma Chizzit, a robust woman of advanced years who stands up for the rights of others as she scrapes a living as a salvage specialist. Mary published four Emma Chizzit mystery novels (*Emma Chizzit and the Queen Anne Killer*, *Emma Chizzit and the Sacramento Stalker*, *Emma Chizzit and the Napa Nemesis*, *Emma Chizzit and the Mother Lode Marauder*) and several short stories. At the time of her death, Mary was putting the finishing touches on a mystery set in 1930's Folsom Prison, presenting a young woman protagonist trying to make a decent living as clerical help in that forbidding atmosphere, and had nearly completed a fifth novel in the Emma Chizzit series.

Mary pressed hard to foster and promote the work of her colleagues. Her often mischievous schemes ranged from forming critique groups to organizing promotional events and a massive survey on the subject of women protagonists in mystery

fiction. The results of her survey, which was co-sponsored by Sisters in Crime and the National Women's History Project, was presented with delicious fanfare in a ceremony at Mills College in 1992, and is archived at the National Women's History Project in Santa Rosa, California. Wherever Mary traveled to promote her novels, she pulled less strong, experienced, or knowledgeable people along in her wake.

I first met Mary a few months after she was diagnosed with breast cancer. "You're not squeamish," she informed me, "so we can talk about this." Talk we did. From those conversations, and from the professional association and friendship that quickly grew in such candor, I learned that the beginning of an illness is not the end of a life. "I have too much to do still," she'd tell me. "I'm having too good a time."

Certainly it took unusual physical hardiness to carry her through four years of life-extending cancer treatments, but a body alone does not survive such hardship. Mary was blessed with a characteristic which never failed. She stated it again and again as an affirmation and mantra: "I default to optimism."

I didn't have to pry to find out where she learned such a positive outlook. Mary was raised by loving parents on a dairy ranch north of San Francisco, where hard work and good humor were valued. She told me about picking hops to make money to purchase her school clothes, and spoke often and fondly of her mother, who set the example of enjoying life even as her eyesight faded to almost

nothing.

Mary said her mother had taught her how to die, a skill she found entirely useful in her own life. Rather than settling back and conserving her energies, Mary used the fact of her dying to campaign for self-assertion and dignity in death, as embodied in the philosophies of the Neptune Society. She'd phoned up saying "I'm waiting for such-and-such a reporter to come by with her camera crew. She's featuring me on the evening news as a world-famous dying person."

Living with dying wasn't all beer and skittles. Mary wasn't afraid to ask for a "piddiditwah". This was a physically affectionate there-there she was pleased to teach me, dishing out the sympathy while standing on a chair or up a couple of steps from her living room to accommodate the disintegrating effects of cancer on her once-proud stature. After one particularly debasing round of chemotherapy, Mary phoned to ask if I would cut her hair short, "so that dratted wig won't be so warm." When I arrived, she whipped off her scarf, handed me a pair of scissors, and took me into the bathroom, where I trimmed short what few strands of hair were left to her. I fought to keep the waves of nausea from showing on my face, but then noticed that she was staring fiercely into her own eyes in the mirror, forbidding her mood to falter. When I was done, Mary squared her shoulders, took a deep breath, and gave her mirror image a rich barrage of Bronx cheers, urging me to join in.

Mary was Mary until the end. While waiting in the hospital for this therapy or that, she tapped away at a notebook computer, and when she was too incapacitated to even type, she closed her eyes and auditioned plots on the backs of her eyelids. Mary's "wicked step-daughter," Ann McGinley, hurried to her bedside when doctors informed her that there was no further treatment for her illness. Ann reported that Mary spent little time in sadness, instead cheerfully turning her remaining energies toward planning her own memorial service. She told Ann she wanted her friends to write short remembrances of her for a bound collection to be distributed at the service.

"And do you want to edit this collection?" Ann quipped.


Ann says Mary grinned and replied, "Sure, I can do that."

Sarah Andrews
December 31, 1994

*Sarah Andrews is the author of **Tensleep**, published by Otto Penzler Books. Sleuth Em Hansen, a geologist, finds herself ankle deep in death on a Wyoming drill rig. Sarah's second Em Hansen mystery, **A Fall in Denver**, will be published in December, 1995, to coincide with the release of **Tensleep** in paperback.*

Thank you Sarah.

Thank you Mary.



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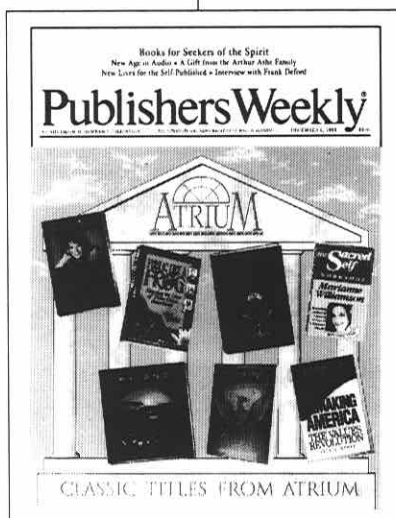
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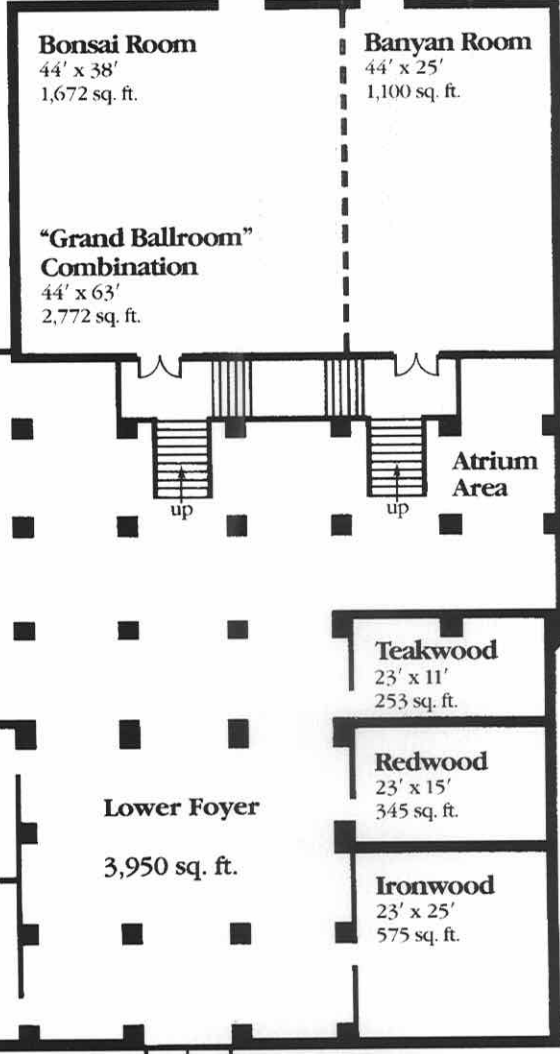
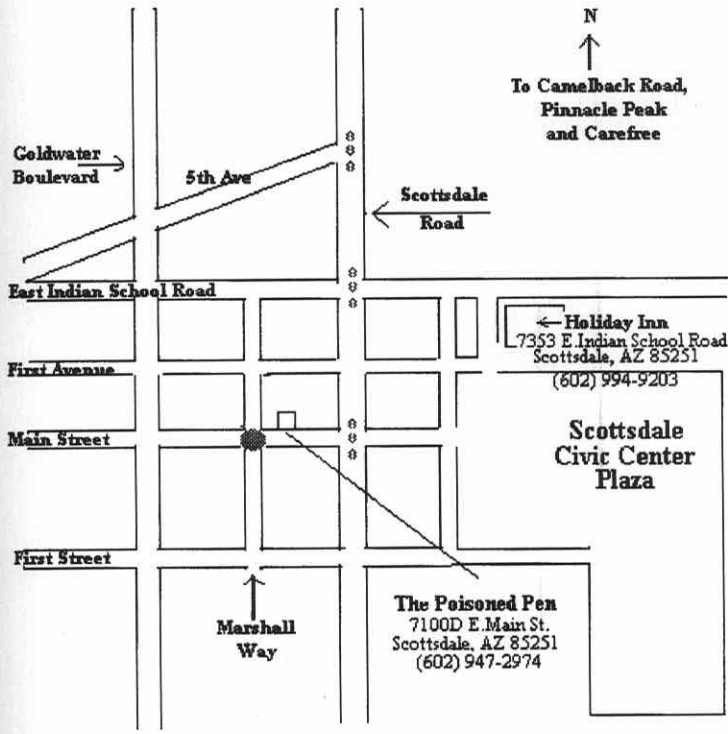
**March 1,2, and 3,
1996**

IT'S TIME TO PASS THE BOOK:

This past year has been a wonderful experience for all of us involved in making LCC 5 possible. We have all worked very hard to make it a success, and to continue in the fine tradition began by LCC 1 & LCC 2 (San Francisco), and LCC 3 & LCC 4 (Anaheim). We certainly appreciate all the tireless efforts that the organizers and their volunteer staffs must have put forth.

We hope that all of the conference attendees have had a wonderful visit here in Scottsdale and the Grand Canyon State. We certainly have had a grand time having all of you here.

**Jean Hanus, Chairman, LCC5
and all the LCC5 Volunteers**



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