

For trio of mystery authors Murder most foul is all in day's work

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Ever since that first butler gave in to temptation and did in his employer, mystery fans have been asking, "Whodunnit?"

Three persons who always know the answer to that question before anyone else — authors William Kienzle, Bob Wilson and William Coughlin appeared recently at the Farmington Hills library to expound on the art of scaring readers silly.

The trio explained that it's just as difficult to write a mystery tale as it is to guess the name of the culprit.

"I get to the point where I want to get the damn thing over with," said Coughlin, who has written, among other books, "The Day of Wrath."

He first tries to capture a story in his imagination, then he begins to put it down on paper, mindless of his typing and spelling, which he admits are poor.

"As I'm writing the first graph, I'm telling myself the story.

"It never occurred to me until I was giving a lecture that all my books have a legal background: It was always an axiom — write about things you know best," said Coughlin, a Wayne county judge.

By day, he can be found in court. By night, he enjoys a slightly related employment. He kills people — on paper.

THERE'S NOTHING he likes better after a rough day on the bench than to go home to the typewriter and kill off a few characters.

At the moment, he's trying something new — to write a novel in which none of the characters reach an untimely death. Luckily for Coughlin, he has an alternative.

"I write another series of paperback which by formula you have to kill a person every third page," he said.

Occasionally, his publishers will try to tone down the bloodbath.

"My publisher will tell me, 'You killed 147 people in here. Why don't you

spare X and Y. They're interesting characters."

"If Henry Kissinger had the tact my editor has, there'd be peace in the Midwest today."

When the project is finished, the authors admitted they were consumed by relief and happiness.

"It's terrible. Horrible. There are no words to describe how bad it is (to write)," said Kienzle, a former priest who broke into mystery writing with "The Rosary Murders."

But when a publisher expresses an interest in the book, the accompanying feeling combines "rainbows, sunshine and Easter."

"The only feeling that comes close is going to the library and looking me up," Kienzle joked.

"THE GLAMOUR of being a published author and having long conversations with the publisher never really came true for Wilson, an attorney. He went to New York to meet with

the publisher who had accepted his book, "Crooked Tree," expecting to gain about the art of writing and to gain great insights into the task.

Instead, the publisher's agent stepped into the New York restaurant "plopped the manuscript down (on the table) tipped the salad a little and said, 'The way you bring it back to me, that's the way it gets published,'" Wilson said.

That was the entire literary content of the conversation for the afternoon.

The publisher proceeded to speak with Wilson's agent about something else.

"I'm tired of arguing with authors," she explained.

Wilson's debut into the world of writing occurred in the seventh grade during a contest sponsored by the Archdiocesan Development Fund in his Catholic school.



ERWIN FARMS
CORNER NOVI RD. & TEN MILE RD.
NOVI - 349-2034

Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Year 'Round
"Apples, Our Specialty"

Made To Order **Holiday Fruit Baskets**
From **\$9.95**

Give apples for Christmas—make friends with the whole family!

—WE SHIP APPLES ANYWHERE—

LOVELY CHRISTMAS **POINSETTIAS**

SHELLED & IN-SHELL **NUTS**
Pecans, Walnuts, Almonds, Brazil Nuts, Filberts, Chestnuts




OASIS GOLF CENTER
3 PUTT PRO SHOP

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

SPALDING NEW RAM PRO TOUR 13 BALL DOZEN	\$13.95
XL \$14.50 WILSON "LADY BUG" and PGA "BUTTERFLY" BALLS	\$12.99
15 BALL DOZEN	<small>or dozen</small>
BROWNING NYLON "CARRY BAG" LIGHTWEIGHT	Reg. \$32.00 SALE \$23.95

\$2.00 Off all SALE PRICED **HEAD COVERS**
Vinyl and Knit \$10.00-\$17.95 LARGE SELECTION

20% OFF VELOURS SHIRTS SLACKS MEN'S WOMEN'S (\$13.95 & up) **GOLF "BAG" SALE**
250 BAGS IN STOCK HOT-Z - HAGEN - BROWNING

MONOGRAMMING AVAILABLE
on most items purchased at any store.

GIFT CERTIFICATES for LESSONS - MERCHANDISE
GOLF CLUBS DISCOUNT PRICED

39500 FIVE MILE ROAD (Between I-275 & Haggerty) 420-2228 HOURS: M-F 10-6 SAT. 10-5 SUN. 10-4

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS



WET/DRY VACUUM
\$48.50

For heavy-duty cleaning around the home, workshop, garage, patio or car. Comes complete. MM500-6



MECHANIC'S TOOL SET
\$49.95

Our most complete set ever includes 17 1/4-in. drive sockets from 5/32 to 3/4 in.; 3/8-in. drive sockets from 3/8 to 3/4 in.; engine tools, hacksaw frame; more. M771



Turco Coronado GRILL
\$209.99

Propane cylinder, brass burner assembly standard pencil tip, brass flame tip, chisel point soldering tip, flame spreader, spark lighter, case, MM99



Toyland
\$149.99

Features: 12" power tip guide bar and chain with automatic chain oiling. Displacement 1.6 cu. in. (26.2cc). Only 8 lbs. 9 oz. SL-2

FREE wood cutters
Kit. Value 15⁹⁵

LIVONIA HARDWARE
5 Mile at Farmington
GA2-1155 - 937-1611

HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 9-9, Sat. 9-7, Sun. 10-5

Tasting is Believing

Chargrilled swordfish? Mmmm
Broiled lake trout? Yummy.
Unexpected and unsurpassed for delicacy of flavor and firmness of texture
Taste and you'll believe!

Chuck Miner's Diggers

From 4 to 6:30 pm, Three Rivers Restaurant
Corner River at Farmington - 375-1800
Reservations are appreciated

BRAINER'S GARDENLAND GREENHOUSE AND NURSERY

51701 Grand River Wixom (Open 8-5:30) 7 DAYS

CHRISTMAS **Poinsettias**
From **\$1.99** to **\$19.99**
-Thousands to choose from-

(1 mile west of Wixom Rd. Exit 6 minutes from Twelve Oaks Mall) Brainer's Open Daily 8-6
349-9070



HOOVER SCISSOR SHARPENING CLINIC

Scissors Sharpened While You Shop!
All your scissors ground to a perfect uniform edge by experts with the finest commercial equipment available.

REGULAR 99¢	PINKING \$1.19	TIN SNIPS \$1.29
--------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------

HURRY...2 DAYS ONLY!
Friday, Dec. 12 - Saturday, Dec. 13

HOOVER'S BIG FALL SALE

Floor a Matic
Model #5019
the multi-purpose appliance

- Power scrubs floors, includes exclusive wet pick-up.
- Shampoos carpets with deep-foam cleaning action
- Polishes & Buffs floors
- Complete with Accessories

Reg. \$129.95 **NOW \$89.95**
SAVE \$40.00

Hoover Convertible Upright
Model #3105
Agilator Edge Cleaning Automatic Carpet Adjustment 18 Qt. Bag Capacity; Twin Lamp Headlight

Reg. \$229.95 **NOW \$199.95**
SAVE \$130.00

Hoover Self Propelled CONCEPT ONE
Model #3105
Custom Vacuum Cleaning w/ Powermatic Heavily Lift-Off Power Pedal Switch

Reg. \$229.95 **NOW \$199.95**
SAVE \$30.00

Bag Bonus
Buy two packages of Genuine Hoover bags and receive the third package **FREE!**
Buy bags by the carton and pay only 1/2 price!

NO THANKS

Please don't thank us. Let us thank you. We're grateful for the confidence Detroit-area families have shown in McCabe's for over eight decades.



McCABE funeral home
since 1893

31950 12 MILE RD., FARMINGTON, MICH.
Phone: 553-0120

DETROIT LOCATION:
18570 GRAND RIVER AVE. - Phone: 836-3752

L. DAVID McCABE, Director
EDWARD P. DEWAR, General Manager

LLOYD'S HARDWARE

21225 Orchard Lake at 10 Mile Farmington Hills 177-3676