

Where would those writers be without us?

SOMETHING ELSE WE BOOK LOVERS DO (Part 2 of an occasional series):
 We "discover" writers. We discover them early in their careers, then we follow them with a proprietary watchfulness and call them by their nicknames until they either die or disgrace us by giving up on writing good books.

I discovered Pat Conroy, for example, back in 1972, when he wrote "The Water is Wide," the account of his days as a teacher in a slightly poor two-room schoolhouse on Yamocaraw Island, S. C. When he came out with "The Great Santini," you bet I was proud. And now his "Prince of Tides" is on the best-seller list and winning prizes all over the place and I could just bust my buttons.

Several of my "discoveries" have, in fact, won Pulitzers — E. L. Doctorow, Eudora Welty (actually, I discovered her early in my career), and, just last year, Larry McMurtry. (I discovered him with "The Last Picture Show," and hasn't he been doing great ever since!)

AND, CLOSER TO home (though I was far away at the time), I "found" Whitmore Lake's Loren D. Estleman. It was in Colby, Kan., at a Ramada Inn gift shop where I found his "Mister St. John." Since I'd met Estleman once and he couldn't have been an ace, and since the book was a western and I was sort of out west, I



book break Mona Grigg

plucked the paperback from the rack and bought it.

I finished it in Denver, where cows are cattle, and I couldn't have been prouder of my new discovery. Later, in Kearny, Neb. — the gateway to the real West — I found Estleman's novel "This Old Bill," a story about the sad, just days of wild Bill Hickok, and I was as thrilled as I was the day I bought my pal Larry McMurtry's "Lonesome Dove."

But I'm not always so quick on the uptake. I wasn't in on the discovery of Birmingham's Big Guy — Elmore Leonard. Several of my friends were, however, and now they get to call him "Dutch." And I don't mind telling you, I'm a little jealous.

NOW HERE'S WHAT'S NEW:
 Books Abound, billed as a "quality used book store," has moved from Royal Oak to downtown Farmington. Owners Skip Rosenthal and Alice McCoy say they searched for two years and finally found the "perfect spot" at 33336 Grand River. They opened Dec. 1 and there are still bare shelves to be filled, but the shop

is clean and well-lighted and soft chamber music wafts down from ceiling speakers to set the mood. Remains stretch across the front and fine prints line the walls.

Ask Rosenthal about two of his "gems," and he might show them to you: a signed limited-edition (one of only 1,000 copies) of "Skeleton Crew" by Stephen King, illustrated grandly and gorgeously by J. K. Potter, and, also illustrated grandly and gorgeously, a 1912 copy of "Anglo-Saxon Leechcraft, an Historical Sketch of Early English Medicine, put out by these rascals, the AMA.

Rosenthal has thousands of books still in a warehouse, so if you want something, he just might have it. Call Books Abound, 477-8777.

The 1987 Quadra-Project calendar, published by the Detroit Literary Workshop, is a sequential special work this year. Twelve Michigan poets selected Michigan themes — from Kathleen Ripley Leo's "Winner's Circle Bar, Northville" to Alice Price's "The Pokagon Hear Geologic Time" to Patrick O'Leary's "Grand Traverse Bay" and more.

Look for it at area bookstores or order by sending \$4.50 to Detroit Literary Workshop, 6960 N. Lafayette, Dearborn Heights 48127.

COMING UP:
 Sunday Feb. 1 — Joseph Heller reads fiction at the Power Center in Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$9.50, \$7.50 and \$5.50. Call ticket office, 763-8537.

Every Wednesday, 1 p.m. — Wayne State Colloquium Poetry Series. Room 400, State Hall. Next: Feb. 4, A Vinsopoulos and C. Crabtree. Feb. 11, H. Epstein and J. Mordenski.

Wednesday, Feb. 4 — Eight-week poetry workshop conducted by Henrietta Epstein begins. At Poetry Resource Center, Royal Oak. Call 399-6183.

CONTESTS:
 You have until Saturday to mail your entries for the 4th Annual Poet Hunt Poetry Contest sponsored by Schoolcraft College and "The MacGuffin." Entrants may submit up to five poems no longer than 50 lines each. Must be typed on 8 1/2-by-11-inch paper and accompanied by a 3-by-5-inch card with name, address and telephone number. No names on manuscript, please. Prizes will be \$100, \$30 and \$25 with all winners published in "MacGuffin." Send entries to Poet Hunt, Liberal Arts Building, Schoolcraft College, 18400 Haggerty Road, Livonia 48152.



Pianist Ruth Burczyk is orchestra's guest



Ruth Burczyk

Pianist Ruth Burczyk will be the guest artist for a concert with the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, at West Bloomfield High School. The orchestra's regular conductor, Felix Resnick, will be on the podium for this program, "An Evening of Musical Fantasies."

Burczyk will be the soloist in Beethoven's Choral Fantasy with the orchestra and the West Bloomfield High School Mixed Choir and the Maple Chorale from Seaborn High School of Birmingham. Rita J. Sears conducts the Mixed Choir and Tom Westcott is director of the Maple Chorale.

Mitchell, soprano, Rosemary Di Doniolo, contralto, Steven E. Krohnour, tenor, and James Gray III, bass, will be joined by two student soloists, Karla Manson, soprano, West Bloomfield High, and Alan Nealley, tenor, Seaborn.

Burczyk will perform the Hungarian Fantasy by Liszt and the orchestra will play Mendelssohn's Fingal's Cave Overture and Moussorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain." She was recently named Teacher of the Year by the Detroit Musicians League. She is on the staff of the Adjudicators of the National Guild of Piano Teachers and begins her 12th year of the Interlochen Center for the Arts this year.



James Gray III

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