

# Did you ever want to become a writer in your spare time?

By ALICE COLLINS

Back in 1958 William (Bill) Drollinger was leading through his wife's copy of *Cosmopolitan* Magazine, his legal mind filled with thoughts of financial planning and taxes, when an article captured his attention.

"It was one about successful authors who produced their novels while

working at a full-time profession. I'd never thought of writing before, but when I read it I knew that's what I wanted to do," said the Orchard Lake resident, who's rapidly getting a taste of what it's like to be a top-selling author in the non-fiction field.

The second edition of his book for investors, "Tax Shelters and Tax-Free Income for Everyone," has just ar-



Top-selling author Bill Drollinger keeps a low profile (Staff photo by Tracy Baker)

rived in bookstores all over the country and is a main selection of Macmillan's Investors Book Club.

The book, first introduced in 1972, has sold more than 22,000 hardbound copies and is going into its sixth printing at Epic Publications, headquartered in Ann Arbor.

The first edition was also a book club selection with Macmillan's.

AFTER YEARS of writing fiction—"fitting it in whenever and wherever I could—evenings, weekends, vacations"—and once coming "within an eyelash" of being accepted by a major publishing house—the 47-year-old attorney for Connecticut General Life Insurance Co., based in Southfield, decided it was time to turn to non-fiction.

"I started doing research in 1969 and two years later Edward Wall, the president of Epic Publications came to me about writing a book."

"He'd heard through a mutual friend that I was gathering information on taxes and information for investors. We met. I agreed to do the book, and the first edition came out in 1972."

Its promotion has been low key and directed primarily to accountants, trust officers in banks and lawyers. But its author insists the book is written for a large cross-section of the population and has information to benefit everyone.

DROLLINGER DEFINES tax shelters as "a device whereby taxes may be eliminated or reduced or deferred until a later date."

The book analyzes numerous industries as potentials for investors, listing benefits and risks involved. The new edition highlights commodities, cable television and Chicago call options.

"As irksome as it is to me, and to

all of us, that many wealthy people are able to avoid paying taxes by using the shelters, we'll always have them," predicts the author.

"They're needed to help keep the economy alive, people simply won't take long term risks without them being there. Whatever part of the economy the government wants to promote gets a tax shelter."

Drollinger's book is currently being used as a text at the Harvard Business School, the University of Georgia, and in financial planning institutes across the country. It is on the shelves of most public and college libraries.

Drollinger hasn't joined the lecture circuit and travels only occasionally to promote his book.

HE'S BEEN IN New York negotiating with a "well known publishing company about a new financial planning book he's written, "Tax Shelters" was meant to touch every one, but for the new book, I'm redoubling my efforts to make it a book everybody can take advantage of. Drollinger didn't want to give the name of the publishing house until it's set. So many things can happen, an author never really knows if his book is going to be published until it's actually in print.

Macmillan advertises Drollinger's book as "a minor classic for investors."

Drollinger admits he's pleased with his success in the non-fiction field, but he hasn't given up his dream of publishing fiction.

While working on his new financial planning book, he's writing a novel about two men in a financial service business, starting out as friends and struggling to make it to the top.

"I don't envision ever leaving my job to become a full-time writer," he said. "My work is what provides me with the material to write from. He also recognizes that non-fiction

writing, even successful non-fiction writing, is not a terribly lucrative field. "It's about a draw," he said when asked about the financial success of his book. "Expenses of marketing a book like this make it difficult to make a lot of money."

DROLLINGER was 30 years old when he decided to sit down and start writing and he spends from 10 to 20 hours a week at it. "Every opportunity I get, it's my hobby, recreation and pastime."

His wife, Wilma, he says, is his very astute critic. "She's knowledgeable about literary matters in general and is very helpful."

He described his first novel, stored in a box at home as a "sort of prototype" to the popular tax school novel, *The Paper Chase*, but without the romantic twist.

That twist is probably what sold *The Paper Chase*, he said.

A novel with the lurid business as a setting came the closest of all his fiction to being accepted. It didn't get a final approval, but readers at a number of houses voted for it.

Then there was an adventure story about a nuclear submarine disaster and another about a murder trial patterned after the Dr. Shephard case.

Drollinger says his current fictional effort will include romance, but it won't be treated clinically as is done so much today.

The author was born and raised in Detroit. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1950 and his law degree in 1952, both from Wayne State University.

He's been an attorney working in the area of financial planning at Connecticut General for 15 years.

Drollinger is a member of the taxation, corporation, finance and business law, real estate and probate and trust law sections of the Michigan Bar.

He and his wife have two sons, ages 22 and 16.

## TAX SHELTERS AND TAX-FREE INCOME FOR EVERYONE

## Running out? Exploration for energy shortens reserves

Extensive and serious oil and natural gas shortages may descend on us in just 5 or 10 years, not 25 or 35 years in the future, as most experts predict.

These conclusions come from Michigan State University scientists. Dr. Herman Koenig, chairman and professor of electrical engineering, and Dr. Thomas Edens, assistant professor of agricultural economics.

Dr. Koenig and Dr. Edens came to a variety of upsetting conclusions after applying some of the most basic laws of physics and thermodynamics to economic and resource problems.

NORTH SLOPE OIL, soon to be tapped by the Alaskan pipeline, may produce a much smaller net energy gain than most experts predict, they said.

Raw materials—so necessary for our technically based society—will become increasingly scarce, more expensive and require more energy to extract.

Thermodynamic considerations can also affect the way we use our land and possibly the size of American cities, they added.

Simplified, the laws go like this:  
•It takes energy to get energy.  
•The accessibility of fossil fuel energy sources degrades with use.  
•Material resources become dispersed with use.

The rules sound simple, but their practical consequences are great. Dr. Koenig and Dr. Edens say.

We are running out of oil faster

than most people think, because oil is increasingly costly to extract, not only in dollars, but in the energy required for making special drilling rigs, pipelines, super tankers and for support of exploration and drilling crews.

Estimates of oil and gas reserves usually do not include estimates of the energy costs of recovering those reserves, they commented.

Extracting off-shore oil from beneath the North Sea costs about 15 times as much as recovering on-shore oil in the United States, they point out.

The Alaskan oil deposits are large. Dr. Koenig and Dr. Edens said, but no one really knows how much energy (in equipment, materials, housing, transportation and pipeline) will be burned to recover that oil.

The Koenig-Edens analysis of the energy woes also forecasts serious changes in our land use and population patterns.

Large cities may become impossible to maintain.  
Our cities grew up in a brief era of unlimited availability of fossil fuels. But other energy sources—solar, wind, geothermal, hydro—are more limited and may require decentralized living arrangements.

A SOLAR POWER plant large enough to support New York City might cover several hundred square miles. Where could it be located? If located in the more open areas of

the Midwest or west, efficiency of power transmission could be sacrificed because long transmission lines mean power losses.

Losses of energy using conventional generators and modern, relatively short, power lines amount to 20 per cent of the energy available in the coal or oil used to make electricity.

The laws of thermodynamics also apply to materials as well as energy.

Dr. Koenig and Dr. Edens say.

A technical society takes raw materials from concentrated deposits, refines and transforms them into exotic forms which eventually end up scattered in junk piles around the world.

The more dispersed materials become, the more energy it takes to recapture and use them.

TO EASE the strain of shortages, Dr. Koenig and Dr. Edens urge increased conservation and recycling measures.

Increased product durability and reduction of purely cosmetic style changes could go a long way toward maximizing resource use efficiency, they said.

Alteration of land use patterns could also conserve energy, the MSU scientists theorize. Medium sized cities mixed with agricultural and recreational lands might reduce transportation energy expenditures, make more effective use of alternative energy sources and avoid excessive concentrations of wastes.