

Author Wilson talks about his best-selling novel

Continued from Page 8A

lations tours and meeting with writers' groups, "Crooked Tree" remains a favorite topic.

"THE IDEA CAME just a couple days before I took the bar exam," he said. "Any time I have an idea I'll jot it down. It was just one of my ideas, but it came at a good time."

He had just finished law school at Wayne State in June 1976 and had a few months to kill before the bar exam results were scheduled for release in November. He began researching "a reason for taking the bears out of their natural character," a motive for the normally tranquil black bear to attack humans.

He knew nothing about the bearwalk and the Algonquians of the region, but he was familiar with the transmigration of souls into animals. After the research, he secluded himself in Croyling

and came back with about 40 or 50 pages. By then he had the bearwalk documented.

It's called the bearwalk because the bear was the most respected of the animals. It looks so much like a man, especially when it walks upright, that the Ottawas consider it their cousin. To inhabit the body of a bear is like the highest sacrament of the art.

"I took liberty," said Wilson, "to the extent that the bearwalk never included a human being," which irritated a few traditionalists among native Americans who believe very strongly in the legend. That surprised Wilson, who's since "gone out of my way to meet with some of the people who feel that way."

BY FEBRUARY, he was working hard in the prosecutor's office and found little time to write.

"I didn't touch the book for about a year and a half," he said. "You've got characters taking on a life of their own, but you always have to concentrate on exactly what you're doing, while keeping the threads of the story in mind. I couldn't do it by picking it up once a week or once a year."

In 1978 he applied for a leave of absence and finished the first draft that fall with about a week to spare before he was scheduled to be back in court.

Using that time to compile a list of agents, he systematically began mailing them three chapters and chapter summaries. The first agent wasn't interested; the second was but didn't have room for a new client. She suggested another agent, who Wilson decided to try before returning to his list.

Diane Cleaver, a new agent but a 16-year veteran of the publishing business, was enthusiastic. When she wanted to see the whole novel, Wilson told her he only had a rough draft. That was enough. After one look she wanted to send it to publishers.

He wrote his second "draft and a half," as he called it, and began the tour of publishing houses in June 1979.

"As it turned out, they all wanted it," he said. He and Cleaver went with Putnam's and the president took on the line-editing, while Wilson distributed copies to friends and relatives.

LACKING MAJOR changes, the book was sent off, and seven months later the galleys came back for a "weekend review." Two days later, bleary-eyed but determined to get about 150 minor corrections made, he shipped the galleys back to New York to meet an April publication date.

Wilson's agent had the foresight to go over the standard contract to eliminate the usual items such as the 50-50 percentage on the paperback and book club rights and all the foreign and movie clauses.

"The first thing an agent does is crosses most of those off," said Wilson.

The rest is first-novel publishing history. Putnam was ready to sign Wilson for a second and third book, but he wasn't ready for that. He's not even sure there will be a third book.

He might go back to law or get more involved in a movie of "Crooked Tree" or try out one of the 101 different things he finds fascinating.

It's clear he doesn't intend to sit around and collect royalties.

"AND THIS whole movie business kind of breaks the monotony of writing, of being a solitary figure all the time. Writing every single day of the rest of my life isn't what I want to do. It's a lonely profession."

He wrote the "Crooked Tree" screenplay last summer for David Gentile, a documentary film director, and Sidney Glazier, a veteran producer. They got a nibble from Friedkin, who had just finished filming the controversial "Cruising," a dark portrait of the seamy gay dock life in New York.

Friedkin scouted locations in Michigan last summer but was lured away by United Artists to film Gay Talese's best-seller "Thy Neighbor's Wife."

Botsford gets AHA acclaim

Botsford General Hospital has received the American Hospital Association's Certificate of Recognition for its efforts in monitoring costs and productivity.

Hospital officials say participation in a management information program provided by Hospital Administrative Services (HAS), a division of the AHA, has enabled the hospital directors to compare cost and efficiency figures with other hospitals of comparable size.

"By using the HAS program, we are able to gauge our own effectiveness and keep costs down," said Gerson Cooper, vice-president of Botsford. "The program also provides a basis upon which future decisions can be made."

ZOTOS PERM
\$5 Smooth
\$25 Complete
REG. \$30

QUEEN HELENE
HOT OIL SPECIAL
16" REG. 18"

SENIOR CITIZENS SETS \$6.50

London Room of Hair Fashions
15430 Merriman • Livonia
427-4264

When you have something you'd like to exchange for cash, do as countless other people have done before you, advertise it for sale with a low-cost, quick-acting little ad in Classified.

classified ads

Wayne County 591-0900
Oakland County 644-1070
Rochester/Avon 852-3222

LIMITED TIME OFFER!
Pie Crust Lamp Table

Beautiful chair or sofa accompaniment. 24" Dia. 25" H.
Reg. \$269. Sale \$179.

Michigan's first Drexel Heritage store

Ray Interiors

33300 Slocum Dr., Farmington 476-7272
3601 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor 995-9095

SAVE YOUR FAVORITE CHAIR OR SOFA

- 10 Years Experience
- Fine Fabrics
- Furniture Repairs
- Expert Workmanship
- All Work Guaranteed
- Dependable Service

FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATES CALL 538-8098

DICK & LIPHOLSTERY SHOP
20435 MacArthur
Redford

MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL '81
A Non-Profit Cultural Program of Oakland University

SEPTEMBER 4
FRIDAY
8:30 P.M.

Phil Donahue
A Meadow Brook Town Hall Presentation

\$10 Pavilion \$5 Lawn

Where Nature Sets the Stage

TICKETS NOW ON SALE at MEADOW BROOK BOX OFFICE
Sears, Discount Records and CTC outlets
or CALL 377-2010 for Credit Card Orders.

Put on a New Face!
Facials—Makeup
Haircut & Styling

Hair Sanctuary

Hair & Makeup Salon
Call the Scissors Wizard at

477-5231

34827 Grand River Farmington
one of the Sanctuary Shops

REDKEN

St Charles Fashion Kitchens

2713 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills 334-4771

WOOD FORMICA METAL CABINETS

- Sub-Zero
- Jenn-Air
- Thermador
- G.E.
- Corian
- Kohler

All Appliances and Products Available

FREE! The one shopped escape. Kitchens Here Book of Ideas. As you in available in our showroom with the complete 114 and \$100 and we will mail one to you!

NAME _____ CITY _____
ADDRESS _____ STATE _____
COUNTY _____ ZIP _____
PH. _____

BOB CAGLE & SONS
CANNING TOMATOES ARE AVAILABLE—PLEASE CALL.

Many other vegetables now ready. Quantities will be available for canning.

- Home-grown sweet corn is now in.
- We're picking our own tomatoes.

* HONEYROCK MELONS

BOB CAGLE & SONS
36500 W. SEVEN MILE LIVONIA
(Between Farmington and Newburgh)
477-6175

Wayne County 591-0900
Oakland County 644-1070
Rochester/Avon 852-3222

NATALIE C. WILLENBERG, D.O.
Announces the association of
NANCY J. RANCOUR, D.O.
in the practice of Family Medicine, Obstetrics, Gynecology, Pediatrics and Surgery

at
24100 Drake Road
Farmington, Michigan 48024

OFFICE HOURS:
Mon, Fri 10-6
Tues. 8-4
Wed, Thurs 12-8
Sat. 9-12

Telephone: (313) 476-5330

Michigan Fine Arts Ballet Co.
Open auditions for company and Apprentice positions.

- Sept. 3, 1981
- 6:30-7:30 pm Open Class
- 7:30-8 pm Call Backs
- Classically based repertoire
- Ladies—Pointe Shoes

Applicants must be 12 years of age or older and at an intermediate or advanced level.

West Bloomfield School of Dance
2073 Hiller Road
(Across from K-Falls Restaurant)
For details call 698-2359

A NEW CONCEPT IN MEDICAL CARE

School & Sports Physicals

WALK-IN EMERGENCY

A Facility For Minor Emergencies

OPEN EVERY DAY
8 a.m. to Midnight
NO APPOINTMENTS NEEDED
X-RAY • LAB • EKG
Prompt • Economical • Convenient

29829 Telegraph Road between 12 & 13 Mile Roads
Call 357-0700
Gerald L. Lopez, M.D.

NOW REGISTERING FOR SEPTEMBER CLASSES IN BALLET, JAZZ, TAP, AEROBIC & BATON.

Map showing location of West Bloomfield School of Dance at Hiller Road, near K-Falls Restaurant.

Crowley's

ELIZABETH ARDEN

MEET ELIZABETH ARDEN'S "RED DOOR" BEAUTY EXPERTS FOR A SKIN CARE AND MAKEUP CLASS NEXT WEEK AT CROWLEY'S LIVONIA MALL STORE

Register for the 2-hour class of your choice:
Tuesday, Sept. 8: 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10: 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 9: 2 p.m. & 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11: 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Elizabeth Arden's "Red Door" Beauty Experts are coming to Crowley's to teach you to become a more beautiful you. You'll learn professional skin care and makeup ideas, plus personalized beauty tips custom designed for you. Call 476-6300 ex. 77 or stop by the Elizabeth Arden counter now to make reservations. Your 12.50 admission price includes your own well-stocked makeup kit and a \$5 credit toward any Elizabeth Arden purchase. In the Cosmetics department at Livonia Mall.

Shop daily 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. at Livonia Mall, 7 Mile & Middlebelt.

Logos for Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express.