

SIXTH ANNUAL CUMBERLAND WRITERS' CONFERENCE

presented by

COOKEVILLE CREATIVE WRITERS' ASSOCIATION

Made possible in part by a Grant from the

Cookeville Arts Council and the generous support of the English Dept. at TTU

**

June 16, 2001

OVC Room

Tennessee Tech Student Center

Cookeville, Tennessee

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Date: June 16, 2001

8:00-8:15 Welcome by CCWA President, Janet Biery

8:15-9:15 LaVerne Cobb (member) *The Rocky Road to Publication*

9:30-10:30 Carol Davis - Writing for the Hometown Market

10:45-11:45 JoAnn Ross - Using Setting as Character in Your Novel

11:45-12:00 Award Presentations

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:15-2:15 Buddy Blackmon - *It Was Almost Like A Song*: Poetry Into Song

2:30-3:30 William Gay - Writing the Southern Novel

3:45-4:45 Sue Loper - The Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How of Getting an Agent

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

CAROL DAVIS - Carol is the National Editor for Publishing Group of America and *American Profile Magazine* located in Franklin, TN. Tied with Oprah Winfrey's *O* for most successful magazine launch of 2000, this weekly newspaper insert has grown to a circulation of over 3 million. Each edition has departments on gardening, the family, finances, and includes feature articles Hometown Spotlight, Hometown Hero, Around the Home, and Ask American Profile. In the last feature, readers ask a question of their favorite celebrity and the magazine tries to get them answered. With five regional editions, *American Profile* stretches from coast to coast. Carol will describe what she is looking for in these feature articles and from each writer.

JOANN ROSS - USA Today bestselling romance author, JoAnn Ross has written over seventy novels, been published in twenty-six countries and won more awards than can be listed here; her most recent nomination was for the Dorothy Parker Award of Excellence from RIO. "One of the best storytellers the genre has produced," boasts Amazon.com. Her stories are about more than love; they are about land, community, and family. Recent releases include *Fair Haven*, *Far Harbor*, *Homeplace*, and *A Woman's Heart*. She will tell us how to use setting as an important ingredient for your successful novel.

BUDDY BLACKMON - Buddy is a bluegrass banjo player, songwriter, and music producer. He wrote Randy Travis' first number one record and also wrote "The Hottest Ex in Texas" for singer Becky Hobbs the same year. He has cut songs for T. Graham Brown, Trace Adkins, LeeAnn Rimes, David Ball, Jeff Carson, Connie Smith and many others. Recently nominated for NSAI's Songwriter of the Year and for CMA's Song of the Year, he has produced projects for Sony/CBS Records and is currently working on several independent projects. Buddy will explore the differences between writing a poem and writing a song.

WILLIAM GAY- Author of *The Long Home* and *Provinces of Night*, William has been compared to that other William who wrote — Faulkner. His latest novel focuses on a backwoods family with a legacy of violence. Reviewers love his eloquent prose, his starkly drawn characters, and wild unforgiving settings. William who lives in Hohenwald and is a native working-class Tennessean, spent his first 50 years working at a variety of construction jobs and raising a family. He will read from his latest novel and share his perspective on writing the literary, southern novel.

SUE LOPER - Dr. Sue Loper is the founder of Loper Literary Agency in Pulaski, TN. She has degrees in library science and higher education and wants to get authors and publishers together to make more books. Technology has changed the face of publishing with email, E-books, E-zines but publishers still expect their first contact to be a well written letter of inquiry and most prefer working with an agent. She and her large staff of agents are ready to help the southern writer find the right market for their work. Sue will talk about her agency and help us answer those questions we have about agents.

LB COBB - In 1995, LB (LaVerne) Cobb, geologist and lawyer, decided to add, "write a novel," to her New Years resolution list, scratching off the "lose weight" resolution. Since then, she has penned four novels, all of which have received writing competition awards. She's also found an agent and a publisher. Her novel, *Splendor Bay*, is under contract with Write Way Publishing, a leading mystery press. LaVerne will share with us her "getting published" experiences, including some of the pitfalls along the path.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST

COOKEVILLE CREATIVE WRITERS' ASSOCIATION

The 2001 contest will be judged impartially by expert published writers and editors. Winners will be announced at the conference on June 16, 2001.

PRIZES: Special awards include **Fowler Best of Contest Award** (receive \$100 and Plaque) and **Woodland Award in Poetry** (Plaque) for best poet, in addition to awards in poetry category for best poem. Prizes for all categories are First \$50, Second \$25, Third \$10 and three honorable mentions.

CATEGORIES:

FICTION: stories of 3500 words or less

NONFICTION: article or essay of 3000 words or less

POETRY: One to three poems, rhymed or unrhymed, any length or theme

SHORT-SHORT STORY: Fiction of 1250 words or less

NOVEL: Opening fifteen pages and synopsis/proposal (total not to exceed 20 pages)

SONG: Any style or format, must include a written copy of the lyrics.

Deadline: All entries must be postmarked by April 30th and received by May 5, 2001.

Guidelines: All manuscripts must be typed on one side only, double spaced (except poetry) and must NOT bear the name of the contestant but only the Title and Category of the Work. Enclose a cover sheet that lists all entries and your name, address and phone number. Mail all entries in one envelope to CCWA Contest, 1337 Hillsdale Dr., Cookeville, TN 38506.

All manuscripts must be the original, unpublished work of the contestant. Enclose an SASE for list of winners.

ENTRY FEE: \$5 for each entry. **Note: 1 to 3 poems count as a single entry.** No limit on number of entries.

ABOUT COOKEVILLE CREATIVE WRITERS' ASSOCIATION

Our group was founded in 1982 to meet the needs of area writers. The group averages thirty to forty members, all drawn from the Upper Cumberland Area. We meet on the first and third Saturday of each month from 10:00 to 12:00 at the Putnam County Library. Membership is open to anyone interested in attending. We read and critique members work in progress and occasionally have a speaker. Dues of \$10 a year provide funds for our monthly newsletter and other activities.

The group has written and published six editions of *Town Spring*, a biannual anthology of members work. The group encourages members to improve their writing skills and to seek publication. One way the group does this is by the annual writing competition against writers across the state and now the country. Visitors are always welcome.

SIXTH ANNUAL CUMBERLAND WRITERS' CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION FORM

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State____Zip_____

Phone_____Other Phone or E-Mail_____

Published _____yes _____no

Writing Interest:_____

Topics or speaker that you might enjoy when there is another conference

Conference fee per person:

Pre-registered: Members \$45 _____ Non-Members \$50 _____

At the door: Members \$55 _____ Non-Members \$60 _____

Students (free, fee for lunch) \$10 _____

Additional Lunch Guests \$10 _____

Contest Entries at \$5 @ ____ = _____

Total Enclosed _____

Make check payable to Cookeville Creative Writers' Association and mail to CCWA, Janet Biery, 1337 Hillsdale Drive, Cookeville, TN 38506

If you have any questions, please email bieryj@usit.net or call after 5:00 at 931-526-2034.