

Chronicle Profile

Penn Rediscovered Writing Talent

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Jane Penn has yet to get a rejection letter from a publishing company and she probably won't be nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in literature anytime soon either -- but she does have high hopes.

Penn, a 32-year-old housewife and mother of four, may seem like ordinary folk to some, and she is. But on the dining room table of her home on Lomon Street are a few notable items of the writing trade neatly arranged among the usual items of dining.

Her favorite book, "The Color Purple" by Pulitzer Prize winning author Alice Walker, is about to be read for the second time because, she says, "I want to find out what I missed the first time." "On Writing Well" lies closed on top of notes she has jotted down in a writing class she is taking at Salem College. Everything seems to have its own place and not just in the dining area.

A poet and writer of children's books for her family, Penn is modest about her creativity and would rather refer to it as just a little something she does in her spare time.

"I did a little writing in high school, says Penn. "My English teacher would always return my paper with a note on it that said, 'Jane, you have a real flair for writing.' I didn't take it seriously because at the time I wanted to be a nurse or join the Peace Corps."

Penn did neither. In her senior year in high school, she married her beau, Waddell Penn, and the two started a family a year later.

It was Penn's family and a sister who teaches first grade who helped her surface the talent she left

behind in her high school English class to take on a more "serious" role in life.

"One day my son brought a picture of a turkey home from school and I got an idea," says Penn. "So I decided to write a story for him called 'Herman, The Smart Thanksgiving Turkey.'"

Penn's sister did the illustrations for the story and it, too, struck her that Jane was a little more than a creative mom when it came to bringing words to life.

"I think what really got me going was my sister Ann and when I heard people saying that you can make money from writing," says Penn. "This may sound a little corny, but I'm motivated to write by people and when I see little things like birds flying."

That was the spark of Penn's pursuit to become a writer for children. But before then, she says she had already begun compiling recipes for a cookbook she plans to write.

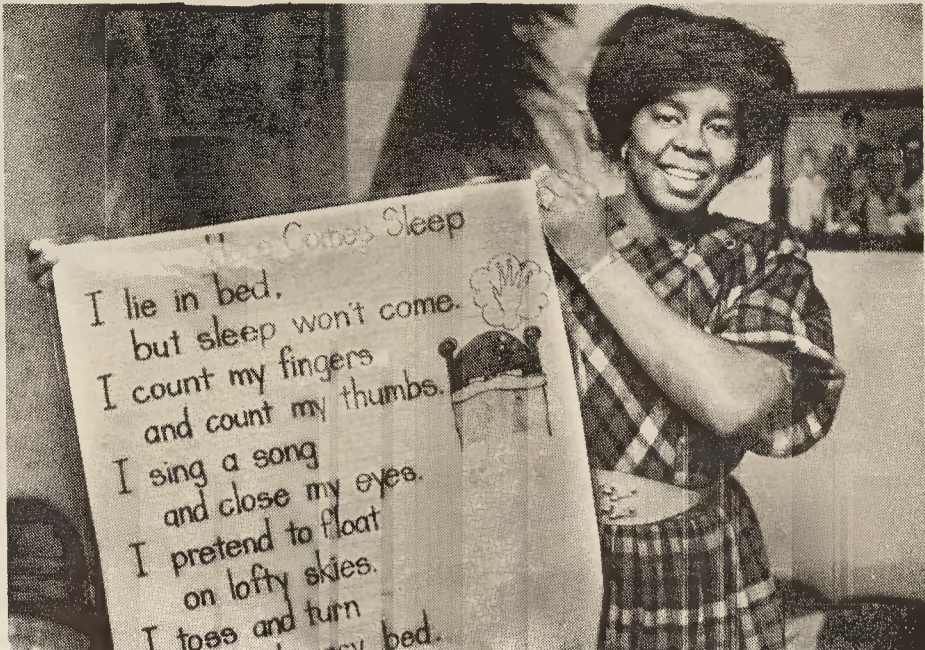
"Right now, though, I'm just working on my poems," says Penn.

One of her poems is called "Two Lost Shoes," a cute reminder to her children to put their belongings in the right place. Most of her works are geared toward children, since her sister uses many of them for class instruction to help her illustrate and explain various subjects to her first-graders.

Penn and her sister Ann are also making their debut in the area of greeting cards, designing each one of them differently. They send their own personalized greetings to relatives and friends.

She says she uses as many resources available to give her new ideas for her style of poetry.

"Sometimes I drain what I can from TV," says Penn, "or my kids may say something cute. I once



Jane Penn: A poet and children's book writer is beginning to take her talent seriously (photo by James Parker).

wrote a poem for one of my daughters because when she was little she used to get an attitude, and one day I wrote a poem about her and the pouting she did. When I would recite it, she couldn't help but laugh."

Penn says she's glad she rediscovered her talent as a writer and that one day she would like to devote more time to just writing, possibly novels. Since caring for a husband and children limits her writing time, she says she makes the best of both.

"I have God in my life and he balances everything out for me," she says. "I have a reason for everything and speaking for myself, the husband really helps make it good."

"If you're made to feel good, you don't mind doing things like the ironing and cleaning, things other people may find demeaning," she says. "The writing, my family -- all of it gives me joy."



Eddie Sauls

Sauls Is Awarded

Eddie Norwood Sauls, an all-conference linebacker for the Winston-Salem State University Rams for four seasons, has been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship for postgraduate study at the university or professional school of his choice. The award was announced by the NCAA postgraduate scholarship committee recently, whose members also extended congratulations to Sauls and the university, as the award is significant in light of the fact that all candidates are

from university's across the country.

Sauls is a political science major at WSSU and has maintained an academic average of 3.0 during his four years at WSSU. He is a graduate of Goldsboro High School in Goldsboro.

To maintain such a high academic average indicates the determination and commitment of the athlete to complete his college career at the highest level of achievement in his sport and also in his academic major.

Kappas Hold Meeting

The Phi Delta Kappa Sorority held its monthly meeting recently at the Masonic Hall.

Food and clothing were brought to the meeting by the members to be donated to Crisis Control Ministry Inc.

Plans were discussed for the March Zino's Conference by Eva Jeffries, chairperson of the conference.

A Christmas party for members and their husbands was held earlier at the home of Mattie Neal of New Walkertown Road.

Employee Receives Award

Mrs. Carrie Richardson was recently elected as the Triad Rehabilitation Center Employee of the Year at the annual staff party at the Oakwood Haven Trailer Park Community House in Clemmons.

for seven years and was voted Employee of the Month last year.

She received an engraved plaque and a four-day vacation for two.

Richardson has been employed in the housekeeping department at the center

Richardson is the wife of Mingo Lee Richardson. They have eight children and 10 grandchildren.

LINKS Entertain Senior Citizens

The Winston-Salem Chapter of LINKS Inc. enjoyed dinner at the Koyota Japanese Restaurant on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.

from University Place were the guests of the LINKS. Mrs. Beverly Spainhour, chairperson of the International Trends and Services facet, was responsible for the project. Each of the

four chinese chefs gave a skilled demonstration on preparing chicken, rice, onions, celery and bean sprouts.

dinner were Virginia Newell, Demerice Ervin, Mary Bruce, Louise Davis, Jean Quick, Lizzie Dee Brandon, Mattie Clarke, Clara Gaines and Toyoto Baitey.

Seventeen senior citizens

Members attending the

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