

Scouters Watching Mail; Mail Is Near

ns for house-to-house solici-
in the residential district
current Girl Scout annual
drive were revised when it
ed that it might not be nec-
it was learned this week
John S. Ruggles, commu-
n-
airman for the fund drive.
sponse was so good in the
ss district, and sufficient
s are coming in by mail so
ve feel confident of reach-
goal within a few days."
d. "Of course we have not
turns on all the mail that
ent out, and we are hoping
good many more replies. If
ome in as expected, we will
ed to solicit further."
asked that all those who re-
a mailed request, who have
et responded, please do so
er to help the Girl Scouts
e their quota for the year.
e watching the mail," he

Wildlife Club Holds Fish Fry At Aberdeen Lake

Some 100 or 150 members and
friends of the Sandhills Wildlife
club gathered beside Aberdeen
lake Wednesday evening to en-
joy a fish fry.
Cooked in sizzling grease over
the open fire was a mess of de-
licious spots taken by members
of the club off Shallotte last
weekend. They were served crisp,
brown and hot with slaw, hush
puppies and steaming coffee.
There was plenty for all from the
400-pound catch, and plates were
refilled time and again.
"Presiding at the grill were Wild-
life Club President Gene McDon-
ald, Ed Starnes, Lamar Smith,
Honey Harris and others. The
evening, with its touch of autumn
coolness, was just right for such
an occasion. Enjoying the event
were residents of Southern Pines,
Pinehurst, Aberdeen, Pinebluff
and other county communities,
many of them coming in family
groups. A considerable number
took out memberships in the
club.
The fishing party, headquar-
tering at Honey Harris' cottage
at Shallotte, consisted of Harris,
Stanley Dunn, Ed Starnes, Glen-
don Wicker and the Barber
brothers from near Carthage.

Tom Wicker's First Novel On Sale; "Get Out Of Town" Written Here

Young Author Now On Copy Desk Of Winston-Salem Paper

Tom Wicker, who served
as Chamber of Commerce
manager here during the year
1948, has broken into print
with his first novel—the in-
itial step, his friends here are
confident, toward future fame
and fortune as a writer. "Get
Out of Town," published this
month by Gold Medal books
(see story below) was writ-
ten during his year in South-
ern Pines, though it has since
been considerably revised.
Tom's mother, Mrs. D. D.
Wicker of Hamlet, is the for-
mer Miss Esta Cameron of
Moore county and he is wide-
ly related here. He is the
nephew of Misses Mary and
Rebecca Cameron and Clifton
Cameron of Southern Pines,
also of Miss Gussie Cameron,
who now lives in Raleigh.
Shields and Herbert Cameron
of Southern Pines and their
brother Gordon of Pinehurst,
chairman of county commis-
sioners, are his cousins.

By Walter Spearman
Professor of Journalism
University of North Carolina

A young North Carolina po-
liceman who fights organized
rackets in the State is the hero
of Winston-Salem Newspaperman
Tom Wicker's first novel, "Get
Out of Town," published this
month by Gold Medal Books in
New York.

Wicker, who is a native of Ham-
let and a former resident of
Southern Pines and Raleigh, has
not only discovered a new kind
of hero for this novel, but has also
ventured into a new publishing
field for a Carolina author. His
book will make its first appear-
ance in the Gold Medal 25-cent
edition, a format usually reserv-
ed for reprints of popular novels
already published. Gold Medal
Books has adopted a policy of
hunting out promising new au-
thors and publishing their work
in the pocket size and at a low
price. "Get Out of Town" will
appear under the pseudonym of
"Paul Connolly," which Wicker
intends to use for his original 25-
cent books, keeping the "Thomas
Wicker" for other more serious
and ambitious novels he wants to
write.

Writing is a day and night job
for Wicker, since he spends his
evenings on the copy desk of the
Winston-Salem Journal and most
of the day at his own home desk
writing novels. Not only has he
finished his first novel about the
policeman, but during the sum-
mer he completed a second one
entitled "The Second Grave,"
which is now under contract with
Gold Medal and is also a "thriller."

Bumped Off Seven
"I've bumped off seven people
in these two books," says the au-
thor, "so I am now ready to deal
with the living." He was refer-
ing to a new, serious novel which

he hopes to finish by next spring
and which now bears the working
title of "Another Darkness, An-
other Light." This will appear un-
der his own name.

The story of North Carolina
crime rackets in "Get Out Of
Town" will probably be very fa-
miliar to readers who have fol-
lowed the rise of organized crime
in this State.

His hero tries almost single-
handedly to expose a racket
which no one else believes exist-
ing. After several beatings, getting
framed for a murder, and being
blackmailed into temporary sub-
mission by the racket bosses, the
hero finally manages to thwart
the villains, clean up the town,
and get the girl, an attractive war
widow who helps him in his fight
for justice.

"He does not save the world or
even redeem the town," Wicker
admits, "but he does live up to
his own capabilities and act ac-
cording to his strong sense of
justice."

Story Comes First
One of the things Wicker dis-
likes most about so many con-
temporary novels is that they try
too hard to put over a message
instead of tell a story. "I think
people and stories have to come
first," he maintains. "I have read
so many books in which I am sure
the author has a message he
wants to get over to the reader,
so he invented characters and
situations to illustrate his point.
I believe if the characters and
stories are good they will be
bound to make a point."

"Too many novelists have for-
gotten how to tell a story. As
much as anything, I think that
is responsible for the drop in
fiction sales. Characters always
seem to have to symbolize
something. Plots seem to have
some sort of significance, so-
cially or economically or psy-
chologically or medically or
sexually or scientifically."

Must Come Alive
"I have no quarrel with signifi-
cance or with symbolism. How-
ever, it seems to me that if a
writer can make real people
come alive on his pages, engage
them in some contest or situa-
tion involving what William
Faulkner calls the human verities,
and then allow them to work
their way through this situa-
tion in accordance with their
own natures and abilities, he
will have done two things—he
will have told a good story
and he will have achieved
real significance. Otherwise he
is likely to come out with a
set of wooden dolls moving
jerkily on the all-too-obvious
strings which attach them to
the author's hands—and moving
dully at that."

Wicker has had a fine oppor-
tunity to know the people and
the stories of North Carolina
for he has lived in various
sections of the State. He was
born 25 years ago in Hamlet,
where his parents, Mr. and Mrs.
D. D. Wicker, now live at 414
Hamlet avenue. After training
in the V-12 at the University
of North Carolina he served
in the Navy during the war, re-

turning to Chapel Hill in 1947 to
get his A. B. degree in journal-
ism. While in college he studied
creative writing with Professor
Phillips Russell and started writ-
ing in earnest.

Southern Pines Job
After graduation he spent the
year 1948 as manager of the
Southern Pines Chamber of Com-
merce, five months as editor of
the Sandhill Citizen in Aberdeen
while Editor Clifton Blue was
serving in the State Legislature,
then a year as sports and tele-
graph editor for the Daily Rob-
sonian at Lumberton. From June,
1950, to June, 1951, he was in-
formation director for the North
Carolina Board of Public Welfare
and made his home in Raleigh,
leaving for Winston-Salem last
Spring.

Wife Helps Author
Mrs. Wicker, who was Miss Ne-
va McLean of Rockingham, a
graduate of Woman's college in
Greensboro, not only helps her

husband by typing his manu-
scripts but is also interested in
art herself. This fall she is en-
rolled at Salem college for art
courses—and some of her oil
paintings are hanging on the liv-
ing room walls in their apart-
ment at the Mayflower on Glade
Street.
"I write in longhand," Wicker
says, "and Neva types off a rough
draft. They I go through the
rough with pen and ink and also
add in scenes or delete them as
seems necessary." Since Mrs.
Wicker is also interested in writ-
ing, they hope sometime to do a
novel together.

Mrs. S. E. McGowan Buried in Georgia

Mrs. S. E. McGowan, mother of
C. D. McGowan and Mrs. L. L.
Hallman of Aberdeen, died Tues-
day morning at Moore County
hospital following a short illness.

She was 69 years old, and had liv-
ed in Aberdeen five years, mak-
ing her home with her children.
Funeral services were held
Thursday afternoon at Valdosta,
Ga., with burial at Quitman, Ga.
Mrs. McGowan was a native of
Georgia. Surviving besides her
son and daughter in Aberdeen
are two other sons, W. McGowan,
of Valdosta, and S. E. McGowan,
Jr., of Americus, Ga.; one brother
and two sisters, all of Georgia.

Switzerland harvested a bump-
er crop of apples and pears last
year, but sharply smaller crops
are in prospect this year.

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