

# ired to the World

by Ralph Lee Scott

## North Carolina Authors

Lee Harrison Child writing about North Carolina in *Close to Home*<sup>1</sup> states that "one of the things I liked best about our house was the dirt road at the bottom of the hill. Forever gullied and rutted by hard Southern rains, the road was the object of much conflict within the town when I was young." Somehow "forever gullied and rutted" reminds me all too much of my experiences on the modern day Internet, especially when I get an e-mail, "Sorry to report a major fibre cable cut in the Triangle has stopped our traffic" In this column we will visit a number of North Carolina writers' sites on the Internet.

A good place to start is the "North Carolina Writers' Network" at <<http://www.ncwriters.org>> This peer network was started some fifteen years ago and has become a major factor in the encouragement of writers in North Carolina. Thanks to a recent grant, the North Carolina Writers' Network (NCWN) now has a home office in the 1933 White Cross School on NC 54 west of Chapel Hill. The Network's Motto, "Writing and Reading: Everybody's Art," provides a focus for individual level interaction among state writers. The site has links to membership information, writers' news, library and resource center, literary resource guide, competitions, workshops, conferences, calendars, critique service, readings, Hot Ink (a summer program for teens), press release archive, Center for Business and Technical Writing, the NC Literary Hall of Fame, North Carolina Writers' Network West, outreach programs, FAQ and directory, a history of NCWN, and Web links.

The link section offers a wealth of information. It is divided into general categories: comprehensive writers' organizations, reference works, libraries, funding, job listings, agents, publishers, presses, search engines, new services, e-zines and online journals, academic Web sites, and HTML/Web page design tools. Reference links include favorites such as Strunk & White's *The Elements of Style*, but also an interesting link to The Police Officer's Internet Directory. The library links go to British Library, Cornell, LC, Purdue, Oxford, Duke, and NC State University (but oddly not to UNC-Chapel Hill). The e-zines page offers access to *The Dead Mule*, *Lonzie's Fried Chicken Literary Magazine*, *TimBookTu*, and the *Voice of the Shuttle: Journals and Zines*.

Another interesting writer site is the North Carolina

Women Writers and Their Works home page <<http://odyssey.lib.duke.edu/women/ncwwtoc.html>>. While this is an old site, dating from a Women's Writers Conference in 1992, it appears to have been updated as recently as 1996. Here you will find an excellent essay on "Women and Literary Publishing in North Carolina," together with links to Duke Women's Studies Program pages. "Cities and Roads," a five-issue electronic journal of short fiction, has a homepage that features "short stories showcasing the best of established and emerging writers." At <<http://www.shopthenet.net/poetcorner/cities/>> neat pieces of fiction such as "Washing Dishes," "Uncle Daddy," "Face of Adversity," "Distant Sound of Sunshine," "Ice Storm," and "That Standing Man with the OK Sign" are short and very readable. Would-be authors can also submit stories to the editor, Tom Kealey. The main requirement for submission is that the author must be a resident or "visiting student" in North Carolina.

In addition to writers' organizations, online collections, and e-zines, North Carolina is noted for writers' workshops. An interesting one on the Web is the Wildacres Writers Workshop near Little Switzerland which takes place in in July <<http://www.wildacres.com>>. A residential writing workshop housing up to 100 writers "in our lovely lodge-type buildings," the workshop provides coaching in novels, short stories, poetry, and "creative nonfiction." Also this year there is a Wildacres Children's Writers Workshop for writers of Young Adult/Middle-Grade works. Four hundred sixty dollars per person gets you a double occupancy room, meals, a "15 page manuscript critique" [do they give you 15 pages of critique or do they look only at 15 pages of your stuff?], and "all programs." According to the home page, the last night of the workshop concludes with "the Gong Show, a Wildacres tradition of goofy skits and monologues." Sounds like just the cure for the 100+ degree North Carolina pavements of July to me! You might even come up with something for *Lonzie's Fried Chicken* up in Little Switzerland!

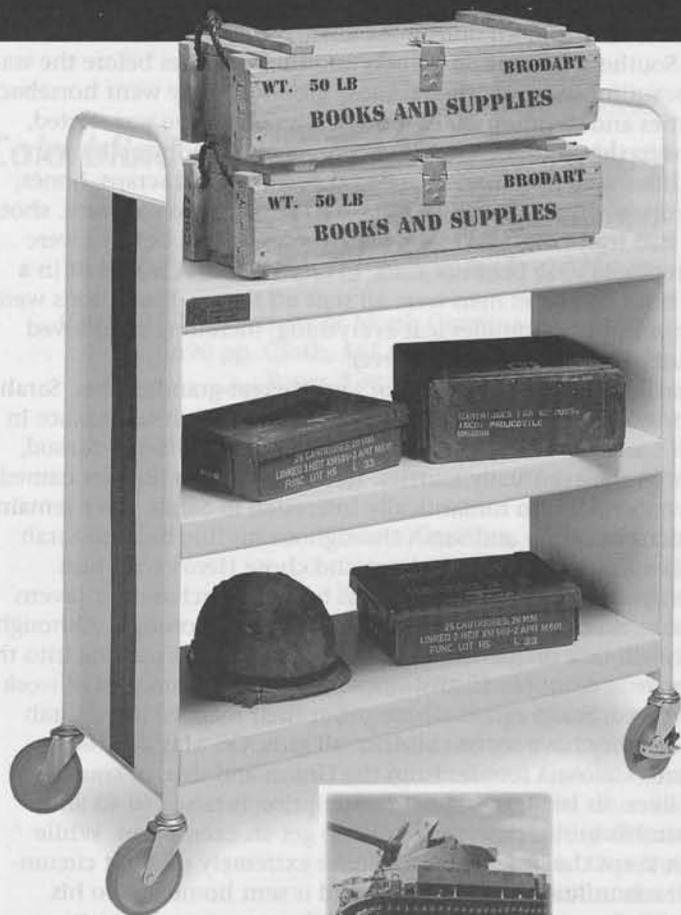
### Reference

<sup>1</sup> Lee Harrison Child, *Close to Home: Revelations and Reminiscences by North Carolina Authors* (Winston-Salem: Blair, 1996), x.

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