

Author Advises Writers Not To Follow Example

NEW YORK (UPI) — Erskine Caldwell may be the world's best-selling novelist, but he considers himself a poor example for writers to emulate.

Caldwell's short stories and novels about the lives and loves of Southern poor whites have sold upwards of 40,000,000 copies. His "God's Little Acre" considered the world's best-selling novel, recently passed the 8,500,000-copy mark in the paperback editions. Total "G.L.A." sales, including 17 foreign language translations, are around 9,300,000. And, of course, there's the movie.

During a recent brief visit to New York — Caldwell lives in San Francisco now and most of his Coweta County, Ga., accent has vanished — he discussed his work and some of his experiences with publishers.

Caldwell is a rare kind who can indulge in the luxury of thinking before speaking and still voice honest fresh opinions.

"No," he said. "No writer should model his life after mine. I've been hard-headed. Can't afford to be that way today. Writers today have to listen to agents, publishers, talk about movie rights, foreign rights, TV, plays, paperbacks. I'm not interested. I'm a writer, so a writer just coming along who listens to me is going to get in trouble in five minutes on Madison Avenue."

Caldwell still answers to the nickname of "Skinny," acquired in part because he once weighed 90 pounds as a six-footer (present weight: 190) and partly because his first name contains the seeds of the nickname.

His face at 35, is ruddy and lined and he peers out at the world

from intense-type light blue eyes that belie the axes of his mind. Caldwell keeps his close-cropped silver-blond hair brushed forward. An example of his maverickism:

"I write a book every year, but it's limited to 300 pages. My point of view is, I say it in 300 pages

or I'm not going to do it at all. The publishers want you to do a big book — 700, 900 pages. But somehow, I've been able to be independent. I've made a lot of enemies, though, just by telling them I'm a 300-page boy. If they want them longer, I tell them to find another boy.

"I've got nothing against the big book writers. You know how it is. The publishers get you in their conference room — the Green Room, or Red Room, or Blue Room — and give you a lesson on the economics of publishing.

"They say it costs as much to do a 200 or 300-page book as a big one, only they can make more on the big ones, selling for \$6 or \$7. I'm not interested in their economics. I'm a writer."

Caldwell's newest novel, "Claudelle Inglish," will be published in January and, needless to add, it's not a "big one." He writes one book in eight or nine months, working an eight-hour day, and devotes the remainder of the year to travel with his lovely wife, Virginia.

"I got used to working eight hours a day when I was a reporter and I never saw any reason to change," he explained.

He doesn't get down to specifics in discussing contemporary literature. "I haven't read a book in 10 years. I know what everybody is writing, so why read them? Everybody writes the same. We just use different titles."

This last comment was punctuated with a chuckle and a teasing glance sideways to where his agent sat. The agent paled, recovered quickly, and slowly shook his head.

JOINS HIS LIBERATORS

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (UPI) — Hendrick Janssen was only nine years old when he and his father stood on the front porch of their home in Holland and watched American troops of the 82nd Airborne Division land by parachute and glider during World War II. Today, at the age of 23, Hendrick is a private first class, a paratrooper in that same division.

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2 New Bases Planned By USSR In Antarctica

LITTLE AMERICA V, Antarctica (UPI) — Russia's increasing activity in Antarctica will be featured during the first months of 1959 by attempts to establish two new bases in remote parts of the frozen continent.

Paul Astapenko, a prominent Soviet meteorologist, who spent the Antarctic winter at this U.S. Science Headquarters for the International Geophysical Year, told United Press International that Russia is planning to set up scientific outposts at Queen Maud Land, at the bottom of the South Atlantic, and on the Bellinghousen Coast below South America.

Both regions, largely unexplored, are almost twice the size of the United States. They are among the most rugged ice-covered lands on the map.

If established the two small outposts would bring to seven the number of Soviet bases on this continent and would extend Russian scientific investigation and occupation to all sides of Antarctica.

As the IGY period came to an end, the U.S. was withdrawing from Little America and turning over Ellsworth Base to Argentina. Wilkes Station to Australia and maintaining three bases at the South Pole: Marie Byrd Land, McMurdo Sound and one base jointly operated with New Zealand.

The 41-year-old Astapenko, who volunteered to come to the Antarctic and spend a year with the Americans, said he enjoyed his stay "very much" and that "it was very interesting work that will certainly have important results."

Astapenko worked as a forecaster at Little America's weather central with an international group consisting of four Americans, an Australian, an Argentinian and a Frenchman.

He said he got along with everybody and added, "They are all very good fellows."

Astapenko, who tugged at a short black beard during the interview, praised the work of Dr. Albert P. Cray of Canton, N.Y., the leader of the U.S. IGY scientists in Antarctica. He said his stay here helped his English and he even picked up some Navy slang — an achievement he did not enlarge upon except to say "it wasn't too hard because the vocabulary is limited."

He wasn't completely satisfied with the accommodations, though. Astapenko said the New Zealanders at Scott Base each had his own private living space and he felt this was a better system as men need some privacy for psychological reasons.

Astapenko said the food served at Little America contained too many sweets and he "couldn't understand how it was possible to eat jellies with meat." He said Russians are used to more fish, vegetables, cheeses and sausages in meal.

Astapenko, who arrived here aboard the icebreaker "Glacier" in March, 1958, expected to leave for his homeland early in January aboard the Russian ice-breaking cargo ship, "Lena."

"Lena" probably will sail around the Antarctic coastline in an attempt to locate a small base on Bellinghousen Coast where the Russians claim Fabian Von Bellinghousen was the first to sight the Antarctic continent in 1821.

If they are successful in locating two new bases, the Russians will have a substantial record at any conference that seeks to settle political claims.

REASSURANCE

NEW YORK (UPI) — A Greenwich Village butcher shop put up a special holiday window display that included two live turkeys and a tree stump with an ominous axe imbedded in it. Neighborhood children loved the turkeys but were so disturbed by the axe that they sent a delegation of their mothers to visit the butcher, after which this reassuring sign also appeared in the window. These birds are pets. They are NOT going to be killed.

TRIPPED UP BY RIBBON
HOBOKEN, N. J. (UPI) — Ribbon-cutting ceremonies to reopen a viaduct here were delayed a hour because nobody remembered to supply the ribbon. A member of the city council went to a store and bought some.

Unity Of Common Market Threatens West Europe

By CHARLES STAFFORD

AP Newsfeatures Writer

Trade barriers dividing Six European countries—members of the Common Market—have begun to crumble. But this desire for unity among the six threatens relations with their neighbors.

It could even touch off a nasty trade war among now friendly nations of Western Europe.

The Common Market embraces West Germany, Italy, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. These countries greeted the New Year with the first of a series of mutual tariff cuts that give preferential treatment to the goods from other member countries.

During the next 12 to 15 years, they will progressively eliminate tariffs among themselves while erecting a common tariff wall for all goods entering Common Market countries from outside countries.

Their goal is a tightly-knit, custom-free market with a concentrated population of 168 million. This self-reliant economic union would rival the United States, the British Commonwealth and the Soviet bloc.

But by giving preferential treatment to the goods of member countries, the Common Market discriminates against goods from outside countries. The outsiders, notably Great Britain, want to be included.

INSIDE SOURCE

HARTFORD, Conn. (UPI) — An Amherst College freshman visiting his parents election night supplied results by telephone to a Massachusetts radio station. He had little difficulty obtaining them — he's the son of Gov. Abraham A. Ribicoff who was reelected.

SALES INCREASE

CHICAGO (UPI) — Significant sales increases in 1959 for major appliances have been predicted by a leading sales executive. Forecasting a five to eight per cent rise in the coming year, John F. McDaniel, Hotpoint Company's general sales manager, said "the sales gain will be all across the board; no one product will stand out."

ODD NUMBERS

BOSTON (UPI) — A batch of \$3 bills recently turned up in an old vault at the county courthouse. Investigation revealed that the bills had been used during a bank reorganization case in 1882 at a time when banks were authorized to issue their own scrip or currency.