



Author-newsman William Neubauer

—Staff Photo

'Pure Love Morality' Returns, Author Says

By DON WILSON

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BOULDER CREEK — The "old morality," where "pure love" was the ideal and nobody mentioned sex, is coming back, author William Neubauer says.

"I just got a check from my publishers for reprints of some old love stories I wrote back in the 1930s," Neubauer said, adding that reprint sales follow trends in morality just as clothing sales and other things do.

Neubauer, 59, said he started writing "pure" love novels in 1935 "because I wanted to sell books on the basis of my characterizations and the plots, and not on a curiosity factor of sex."

He admits that he wrote a few "sophisticated" novels in his early writing days (that means they had some sex in them) and one called "Blonde Venus," which he wrote under the pen name of Ralph Carter, inspired letters from soldiers and sailors all over the world.

But although he wrote a few books under his own name, Neubauer says he wrote mostly under the names of Joan Garrison, Rebecca Marsh and Norma Newcombe.

It was purely a practical matter getting the books to sell, Neubauer said.

"There was one librarian in Ohio," he said, "who re-

fused to put one of my books on her shelf because there was a passage in it that referred to a girl taking a bath—and that librarian said she'd have no book on her shelf about a thing like that, if it was written by a man."

Neubauer said he was "pleasantly surprised" the other day to walk into Woolworth's department store in Santa Cruz and find "a huge stack" of his old novels, along with an equally huge stack of old love stories written by Betty Blockfinger and Peggy Gaddis.

"Peggy and I were friends in the old days," said Neubauer, "and at one time we each had contracts to write two novels a month for two different publishers.

"That meant knocking one out every week."

He said that from 1935 when he began writing love novels until he finally quit altogether a couple of years ago he "turned out" 400 such books.

"Then," said Neubauer, "I decided that I was going to write a definitive history of polio."

Neubauer contracted polio in 1916, the year in which he was born. He has been crippled ever since.

"I see people today who have never known the fear of polio," said Neubauer, "and I think they ought to know it. I think they ought to know that the advances in conquering this thing could be wiped out by ignorance."

He said that when he was a child the only known method of treating the disease was to immobilize the victim—which resulted in the muscles of the legs withering away.

Then the Sister Kenny method was developed, a method in which the muscles were massaged and exercised so that some measure of their use could be resumed.

And, finally, the Salk polio vaccine was developed, "and the threat of the disease faded."

But, Neubauer said, most people don't know that it was "us victims of the disease" who served as the human guinea pigs on which the new techniques were tested and with whom the new methods were developed.

The much-printed author said he came to the San Lorenzo Valley to retire—but "inflation changed my plans."

Neubauer said he's not sure whether he approves or disapproves of what he sees as a trend back to the "old morality" of the days when signs and street cars warned ladies to be careful of their long skirts and to "watch your ankles; men do."

But, says Neubauer, the reprint check he just received will pay for a trip to Europe this summer for him and his wife "and that's a trend of which I do approve."