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Dan Cushman joins 1960 Writers Conference

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FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, APRIL 28

Great Falls writer Dan Cushman will serve on the staff of the Montana State University Writers Conference, which will be in session on the campus May 25 through May 28, according to conference director Jack Barsness.

Cushman is the author of "Stay Away, Joe," a Book-of-the-Month Club selection for April 1955. Last year "Whoop-Up," the musical version of the novel, was a Broadway hit. His latest book is "The Silver Mountain," a story of the heyday of silver mining in Montana. He has also written several original paperback books and countless stories for popular magazines.

Although Cushman wrote his first novel when he was nine years old - an 800-word epic called "The Climbers of the Sagebrush Hills" - he didn't write for publication until he was 15, when he became a reporter for a Big Sandy weekly newspaper and a correspondent for the Great Falls Tribune. He has been writing ever since, and has also worked at various times as miner, assayer, house man in a poker game, and camp cook.

Cushman was born in Marion, Mich., but he has spent most of his time in the West. He now lives with his wife and four children in Great Falls.

This year's conference will emphasize regional writing and will be staffed by six Northwest writers, Barsness said. Persons interested in attending should write to him at Montana State University, Missoula, as soon as possible, he added.

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