Children's writing a special feature at writers' conference

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CHILDREN'S WRITING A SPECIAL FEATURE AT WRITERS' CONFERENCE

Greater emphasis than ever before will be put on writing for children at the Montana State University Writers' Conference, which runs from July 22-27, according to H. V. Larom, conference director.

A special feature will be a panel discussion on Monday night, July 22, examining all phases of the writing of juveniles. Dale White of Butte, who has published five novels for children; Larom, who has written five novels and was a Boys' Club of America award winner in 1949, and Richard L. Darling, assistant professor of education, who specializes in the teaching of children's literature at MSU, will be the speakers.

Although children's books must compete with comic books and television, they are now considered the second largest sellers in the trade book field, Larom pointed out, and many of America's best known authors are now writing for children. "Consequently, the standards of writing have gone up," Larom said. "Parents, teachers and the children themselves demand better writing, real characters, real settings and themes." Dale White and Larom will discuss these matters from the writer's point of view. Darling will discuss what the teacher wants, what librarians demand, and the trends in children's writing.

Dale White will read manuscripts during the week and hold personal conferences with all those interested in children's writing, Larom added.

Other members of the conference staff will include A. B. Guthrie, Jr., of Great Falls, Pulitzer Prize winning novelist; Eugene Burdick of the University of California, author of "The Ninth Wave" and innumerable articles; Robert O. Bowen of MSU, who has written three novels and been represented in Best American Short Stories twice; and Earle Birney, distinguished Canadian poet. Registration
is still open to Montanans, Larom said, and complete details are available by writing him at Montana State University, Missoula.

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