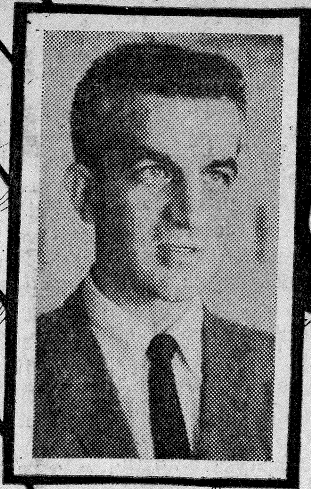


THE BIG HAND TO



George A. Vukelich

By JOHN PATRICK HUNTER
(Of The Capital Times Staff)

IN THE ENORMOUS room of our daily lives there seems to be such an infinitely small corner for the delicate language of poetry. Here, living in our midst, almost unnoticed, is a young man dedicated to spinning words into dreams.

He is George Andrew Vukelich, of 3934 Plymouth Circle, poet, novelist, and short story writer.

And curiously, in a town where so much of our culture is University-oriented, Vukelich is not a member of the U. W. faculty. He is one of the rare breed of homo sapiens known as a "free lance writer."

His short stories have appeared in nearly two dozen magazines
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including the Atlantic Monthly, which heralded their 1954 selection "The Scale Room," as "An Atlantic First."

The Atlantic selection also appeared in Martha Foley's anthology of the "Best American Short Stories of 1955."

Vukelich got material for the story while working at Oscar Mayer's meat packing plant here several years ago.

His poetry has appeared in the American Poetry Magazine, the Beloit Poetry Journal and in Pottoghe Oscura, an Italian anthology of verse that appears annually and has an international reputation.

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THESSE EARLIER publishing successes were but a prelude of Vukelich's present project. His 60,000 word novel "Fisherman's Beach" has been accepted by St. Martin's Press in New York City, and he is busy revising it for publication in 1961.

The most notable recent success of St. Martin's Press was Robert Travers "Anatomy of a Murder," and the publishing firm has also just released Prof. Paul MacKendrick's "The Mute Stones Speak," an account of the University classical scholar's archeological research in Italy.

F. Sherman Baker, editor and vice president of St. Martin's Press, in announcing acceptance of the Vukelich novel wrote, "there is some work to be done on 'Fisherman's Beach,' but it has vitality, intensity of feeling and a love of the Midwest lake country. I'm sure we shall have a book we can be proud of."

Born in South Milwaukee 33 years ago, Vukelich is the son of immigrant parents who fled the wars and political oppressions of their south-central European homeland. His parents now own and operate a summer resort at Three Lakes, Wis., on Big Stone Lake, across from Carl Marty's Northernaire resort.

And Vukelich's novel is laid in that lake country area and deals with the decline of the lake trout industry as a result of the onslaught of the lamprey eels and the effect of the industry's deterioration on a French-American family.

Vukelich is married to the former Helen Gutensohn Frisbie. The rambling stone and birch panelled split-level home located at the edge of a wood on Plymouth Circle above Sunset Point echoes to the laughter and laments of four youngsters—Susan 9, Martha Jane 3, Donna 2, and Jo Ann, 10 months.

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VUKELICH'S desk is in the living room that looks out into a wooded area, but when the children get rambunctious he retreats to his bedroom and closes the door to do his work.

Mrs. Vukelich's large hazel eyes sparkled with laughter when she described her husband's retreat to the bedroom.

The author tries to write every day and tries to finish a 2,000 word stint daily when he is working on a novel or short story.

Vukelich is a graduate of West Allis Central High School, attended the University of Wisconsin for three years and the Toronto Academy of Radio Arts for a year. He conducted a disk jockey program over a local radio station for a year, reading poetry, his own and others', and playing modern jazz records.

He received both training and encouragement for his writing from famed American novelist Mari Sandoz, who conducted creative writing classes at the University several years ago.

Vukelich intends to dedicate the novel to Miss Sandoz. "Without her and August Derleth the book would never have gotten off the ground," Vukelich asserts.

When he turns to poetry, Vukelich's voice takes on an eager animation. One can sense that he's happiest when he talks of the rich brocade of verse.

This fall Vukelich will join the staff of the University Extension Division to teach a course in creative writing. It would appear that the Extension Division has a good scouting crew. Vukelich is just the man to help others spin words into magic.