

Computers changing literature, author says

By MIKE A'DAIR
TWN STAFF WRITER

San Leandro resident Joann Smith Ainsworth has a Willits connection and two new novels to her credit.

For eleven years, Ainsworth has been driving to Willits from the East Bay town of San Leandro to teach a writing class at the William F. Harrah Senior Center. Some of her students have helped to edit and make suggestions for her novels, which Ainsworth describes as romances.

In addition, Willits resident Nancy Ellis-Bell was influential in shifting Ainsworth from her previous career as a short story writer into a novelist.

“Because of Nancy Ellis, I’m a novelist,” said Ainsworth.

Samhain Publishing Company of

Macon, Georgia is the publisher of Ainsworth’s novels, which are titled *Matilda’s Song* and *Out of The Dark*. Ainsworth writes for her novels to be downloaded and to be read on computer screens.

During a recent visit to The Willits News office, Ainsworth explained how writing to be read on computers has changed her writing style.

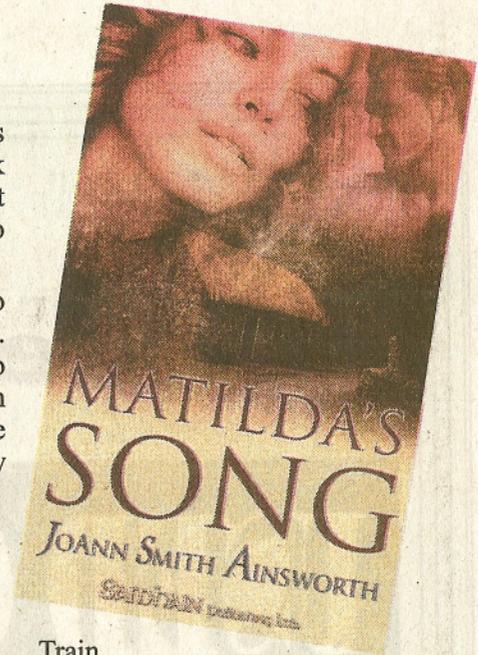
“You have to have lots of white space,” she said. “No more of those long, involved sentences. My sentences have to be a line or a line and a half at the most. Otherwise people can’t scan them right.”

Ainsworth added that, with computers and the internet, serialization is back. Stories have to be written so that the whole story, or most of it, can be

kept in one’s mind all the time. This is because it is quite difficult to scroll back on computers to review a previous part of the text. The technology of it tends to discourage doing it.

“You can do it. I mean, you can go back and look at earlier parts of the book. But it’s hard. It’s clunky. It’s bulky. So authors now have to write so that each scene of the story has a set-up,” she said. “You need to let your reader know who the characters are, what is the approximate time of the scene, what the setting is. And at the end, you have to have a “hook.”

Ainsworth will be present along with friend and author J. Hoyt Walker at Mendocinia Café on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 1 to 4 pm. They will be signing books. Entertainment will be provided by Skunk



Train
troubadour
Greg Schindel.