

The Anderson Traits

by Alan Sakarias

Verena Anderson has an ideal background for creative writing - she was a successful freelance writer of plays and short stories [sic] for 10 years prior to becoming a teacher.

Working during a period when she was also a housewife, she wrote and sold radio and stage plays and stories to numerous national magazines.

Now, nine years after she went back to San Diego State for her Masters, Mrs. Anderson is teaching one of two creative writing classes at Grossmont and helping students as the college's English tutor.

Mrs. Anderson's philosophy of teaching creative writing is to work with students for what they are aiming for. But her own love is writing for money and she will help anyone with that goal.

She does not believe in "prostituting" her writing. "Prostituting," being writing "slop" you hate but that can be sold.

She does believe "the main object in writing is to communicate," and that means somebody should read it. And that usually means selling it, she said, "Not to mention that satisfaction you get from selling your work."

Her first satisfaction came when she was teaching elementary school. She sold a "little Abe Lin-

coln play" to a PTA group for \$12. "It was thrilling," she said.

Mrs. Anderson finds her tutoring job enjoyable. She says she does not have enough people come in, but those who do come in to her she thinks she helps. "They're motivated," she says, "they want to learn when they come to me."

On grammar she says, "It's a tool, a useful tool; but you can teach somebody all the grammar in the world and he still might not be able to write."

