

‘The Great American Writer’ to Speak at Warren Library

by Gerald Scott

Warren is going Dutch, you might say, in November. That’s all because the one, the only, Elmore “Dutch” Leonard, and his son, Peter, also a novelist these days, will be visiting Warren on Thursday, Nov. 8, for a rare personal appearance in this area.

The Warren Public Library and Friends of the Warren Public Library together announced last week that Bloomfield Township writer Leonard and his son will be making an appearance at the Civic Center Library conference room 6-8 p.m. on Nov. 8.

A large turnout is expected, so those interested should call to register at 586-574-4564.

Leonard, of course, is wildly famous as most everybody’s favorite crime novelist and Hollywood screenwriter of choice.

His son Peter has followed in his 87-year-old father’s footsteps and is lately a book author of note himself. Together, father Elmore and son Peter figure to take the Warren Public Library by storm, so to speak.

Although Elmore “Dutch” Leonard (nicknamed Dutch after a baseball pitcher from the 1940s) is famous as a novelist and Hollywood screenplay writer. He once

worked on the Chevy Truck account as a copywriter circa 1949, back when ad agency Campbell-Ewald had its digs adjacent to the old GM Building in New Center.

Leonard is said to have written his first for-pay short stories for *Argosy* magazine and similar Western magazines on his lunch hour. Oh, how his career took off as he became the author of a whole series of books made into movies including, “Get Shorty,” “Mr. Majestyk,” “Out of Sight” and “3:10 to Yuma.”

According to one history, Leonard has been commended by critics for his gritty realism and strong dialogue. Leonard sometimes takes liberties with grammar in the interest of speeding along the story.

In his essay, “Elmore Leonard’s Ten Rules of Writing,” he says: “My most important rule is one that sums up the 10: If it sounds like writing, I rewrite it.” He also hints: “Try to leave out the part that readers tend to skip.”

Elmore Leonard has been called “the Dickens of Detroit” because of his intimate portraits of people from that city; however, Leonard has said, “If I lived in Buffalo, I’d write about Buffalo.”

His ear for dialogue has been

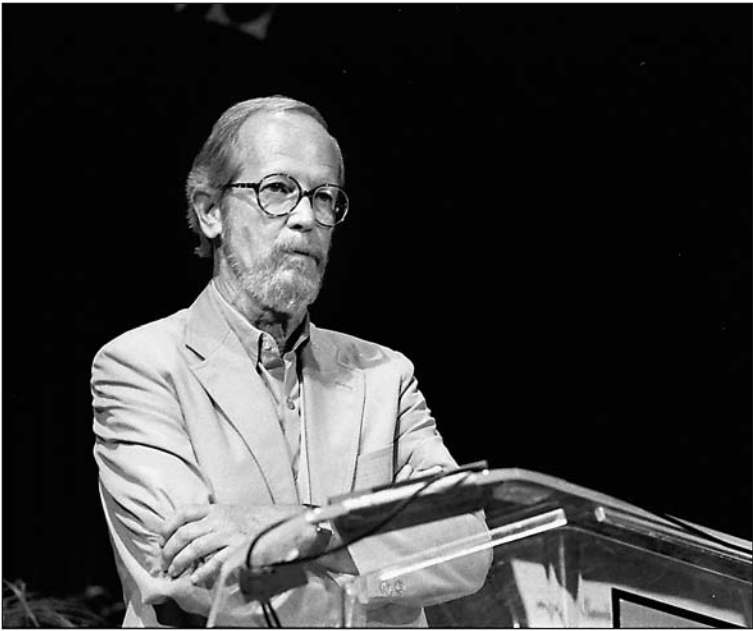
praised by writers such as Saul Bellow, Martin Amis, and Stephen King.

“Your prose makes Raymond Chandler look clumsy,” Amis told Leonard at a Writers Guild event in Beverly Hills in 1998. Stephen King has called him “the great American writer.”

Leonard has often cited Ernest

Hemingway as one of his most important influences but at the same time has criticized Hemingway for the latter’s lack of humor.

Anyway, if you see a large crowd starting to form outside of the Warren Civic Center Library conference room on the afternoon and evening of Nov. 8, well, now you know why.



The Warren Public Library announced that Elmore “Dutch” Leonard and his son Peter will be speaking at a library program in November.

China Sales Dip As Buyers Avoid Japanese Cars

By JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) – China’s auto sales shrank in September as a territorial dispute with Tokyo prompted buyers to avoid Japanese brands, hurting already weakening demand.

Sales of passenger vehicles declined 0.3 percent from a year earlier to 1.32 million units, the state-sanctioned China Association of Automobile Manufacturers said last week.

The group blamed the tensions with Japan but the decline also reflects the impact of China’s deepest economic slowdown since the 2008 global crisis. Sales in some cities have been hurt by local measures to control congestion by limiting new registrations.

Sales growth in the world’s biggest auto market by vehicles sold has declined from June’s 15.8 percent to 11 percent in July and 3.7 percent in August.

In September, sales of Japanese vehicles plunged as the dispute between Beijing and Tokyo over a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea prompted buyers to avoid Japanese showrooms.

“The decline of Japanese brands is the most important factor in the downturn of the passenger car market this month,” said a CAAM statement.

Toyota Motor Corp. said its sales in China declined 48.9 percent from a year earlier. Nissan Motor Co. said sales slid 35.3 percent while Honda Motor Co.’s were down 40.5 percent.

That slump is hurting China as well, because many Japanese vehicles sold in this country are produced in local factories with components bought from Chinese suppliers. Japanese automakers temporarily closed some of their China factories and have reduced production after reopening.

‘No Relief in Sight’ for Europe Sales Slump – Peugeot CEO

By GREG KELLER
AP Business Writer

PARIS (AP) – The chief executive of PSA Peugeot Citroen, France’s largest carmaker, admits his company is “in the eye of the hurricane” as Europe’s car makers face an expected 6th straight year of falling sales in 2013.

And things aren’t expected to improve for years to come, says Philippe Varin.

In response, the two-century-old company is focused on taking its brands upscale and expanding globally, all while taking the difficult steps to shutter factories and shed workers in France’s famously cossetted labor market.

Varin, 60, discussed Europe’s difficulties and other topics at the Paris Auto Show in the French capital.

- Europe’s Distress: Sales in Europe have slumped 25 percent since 2007, and no relief is in sight, Varin said.

“We’re working on the assumption that the market has hit a plateau for the coming three years, so that 2015 is not going to look very different from 2012,” Varin said.

The market is currently worse than it was at the start of the year, with European sales forecast to be down 8 percent, including a 12 percent drop in France.

“What’s new is that the German market is also starting to weaken,” Varin said. Germany is Europe’s largest and strongest economy, so a downturn there bodes ill for the wider region.

- PSA Peugeot Citroen’s plan: The company is responding to Europe’s woes with a series of measures aimed at taking its brands

upscale and around the world.

“We’re really in the eye of the hurricane,” Varin said. “There are no miracle measures. We have to continue to move upscale to improve our pricing power.”

It’s also trying to shrink its dependence on the European car market, investing in two factories in China to boost sales in Asia. “The internationalization of the group is a critical imperative,” Varin said.

Meanwhile, it’s downsizing manufacturing in Europe. Peugeot announced earlier this year that it would close a major factory in France and cut 8,000 jobs – part of a plan to save (euro) 2.5 billion by 2015. An alliance with General Motors to share some procurement costs will also help save money. About (euro) 1 billion are promised for this year alone.

The plant closure makes Peugeot Citroen one of the first European car makers to address the continent’s critical problem of over-supply. Some analysts say up to 40 percent of Europe’s car plants are losing money and operating below capacity.

- Alliance with GM: Under the deal with GM, the American company became the French automaker’s second-largest shareholder with a 7 percent stake, behind the Peugeot family, whose stake dropped from 31 percent to

around 25 percent.

Peugeot says the deal will allow it to cope with tighter emissions targets in Europe and strengthen its position in emerging markets in a way not economically feasible on its own.

AutoNation’s Sales Up 23 Percent

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) – AutoNation, the country’s largest automotive retailer, says new vehicle sales climbed 23 percent in September, driven by strong sales of imported vehicles.

AutoNation Inc. said last week that it sold 22,982 vehicles last month.

Sales of imported vehicles increased 38 percent to 11,854, while sales of premium luxury vehicles rose 11 percent to 4,258. Domestic vehicle sales gained 10 percent to 6,870.

The Fort Lauderdale, Fla., company said that new vehicle sales climbed 22 percent in the third quarter, led by a 35 percent increase in sales of imported vehicles. Sales of domestic vehicles

rose 12 percent, while sales of premium luxury vehicles climbed 6 percent.

AutoNation anticipates reporting its October new vehicle sales results on Nov. 2. The company runs 261 new vehicle franchises in 15 states, selling 32 brands.

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