

Published Writers of Rossmoor Featured Author for
September 2016 - Estelle Escott

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During the month of
September 2016
Published Writers of
Rossmoor (PWR) will
feature Esther Escott,
along with her coming-
of-age novel, "Plum
Bottom," with displays
in the Rossmoor library
and articles in the local
media. Her novel was
published in 2016 by
Create Space. This
book is now available
for purchase
through [Amazon](#).



Like many Rossmoor residents, Esther's protagonist, Laney Mahler, came of age during the 1940's and 1950's, an era dominated by challenging social issues, such as racial prejudice. Each chapter in the book is a stand-alone short story, depicting a different crisis in Laney's life, whether it is finding and then losing love, or landing and losing a summer job.

"PWR Newsletter" editor Dr. Paul Weisser, who edited Esther's book, says "Plum Bottom" may not be a novel in the conventional sense. In fact, the author herself describes her published book as "a cohesive set of short stories." Nevertheless, what makes these stories come together into one interconnected book, according to Dr. Weisser, is the book's central character, Laney Maher, who is in all eight stories, and who we see - as we read the book -

mature from the age of six to the age of 18. In all eight stories the reader begins to fully understand what is in the "heart" and "mind" of Laney Maher.

Interestingly, Esther's literary and musically inclined childhood started in Pennsylvania, where she wrote poems at five years of age and studied piano. Esther was the church organist in junior high and high school.

After high school, she went on to earn a BS degree in Art Education from the University of Pennsylvania. Esther also studied art at the University of Pittsburgh and at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, also in Pittsburgh. Esther met her future husband, Charles, when they were both art students at the Teachers' College.

The couple moved to California in 1960, where Esther taught art in a junior high school before retiring from teaching to raise two sons. While living in Grass Valley, she became a pastel painter and sold original and giclee (digital/inkjet) prints in Gallery 10, in Sutter Creek. She also started writing short stories and two unpublished novels.

Esther moved to Rossmoor in 2013. Esther says it was with the help and inspiration of the members of the PWR club, that she finally completed and self-published her first book, "Plum Bottom."