

# NEW COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

NEW COLLEGE, SARASOTA, FLORIDA  
FURMAN C. ARTHUR — INFORMATION

FOR RELEASE: SUNDAY, January 30, 1966

A Texas-born author, now living and writing in New York City, has been appointed a writer-in-residence at New College.

Mack Thomas, whose first novel, "Gumbo," was published last year and won acclaim from major critical publications, will live in a cottage on college property on Siesta Key while working on a new novel.

Thomas will spend one day each week on campus with students interested in creative writing.

The new writer-in-residence, first at New College, was born in Denison, Texas, 37 years ago. By his own description, he was born in "a town of few words almost on the highway between Waco and Hillsboro."

After several years of college and service with the Air Force, Thomas went through a series of jobs which included pitching professional baseball, playing a jazz saxophone in a Texas hotel, being a radio disc jockey, inventing a chrome-plated bug deflector for automobiles, and instructing in an Arthur Murray dance studio.

Several years ago Thomas turned seriously to writing and won considerable acclaim for his first novel, the story of seven years in the life of a Texas boy.

-more-

Published by Grove Press, the book was reprinted in part in the Saturday Evening Post, Saturday Review of Literature, New York Times, and a number of metropolitan newspaper critics gave very favorable reviews of the book.

Thomas' second novel is already about 100 pages underway and the author feels that it will run four times that long. He said that he hopes to finish it while in residence here.

The author said that he is anxious to talk to people both on and off campus. Conversation, he said, is his "laboratory."

President Elmendorf said that New College, by creating the writer-in-residence appointment, hopes both to help to stimulate creative writing and also to bring students in contact with a professional author.