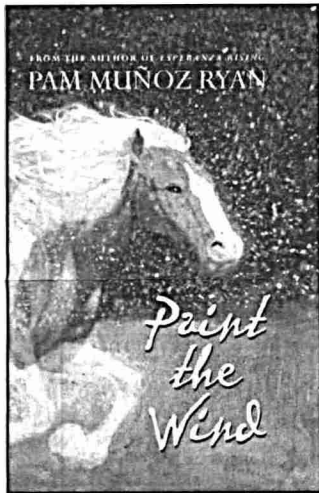


Local authors turn out children's books



NORTH COUNTY TIMES

Children's books come to the fore in this batch of recent books by local authors:

"Paint the Wind" (Scholastic, \$16.99) is the new book by Pam Munoz Ryan, an award-winning Leucadia author. "Paint the Wind" is the story of young Maya, a virtual captive in her watchful grandmother's California house, and at the same time, the story of a tobiano paint horse called Artemesia who is running free in the

Wyoming wilderness. How their lives intertwine is at the heart of this adventure.

Theresa Carter of Carmel Mountain has written "Abraham Lincoln and the Forest of Little Pigeon Creek" (AmeriTales Entertainment, \$19.95). For ages 4-9, the book follows young Abraham Lincoln on a series of adventures set in the-then forest of Indiana.

Merilee Kern of Poway has written "Making Healthy Choices — A Story to Inspire Fit, Weight-Wise Kids" (Starbound Books, \$11.95). The book, which comes in a boys and girls edition, is fiction that aims to inspire overweight kids to get on a healthy track. It also seeks to motivate others to better understand other children struggling with weight.

Penton Kids Press of Carlsbad has published "My Bag and Me." The book, in a large format with hard pages, hopes to inspire children to make "green" decisions and especially to reduce and reuse. The book includes a reusable shop-

ping bag made of recyclable Tyvek. The book is \$10.95 — and it's recyclable, too.

"The Chicano Bible: A Reason for Hope" (iUniverse, \$12.95) is by Frank Alvarez of Oceanside, about his life in Los Angeles County and how he faced life's trials and tribulations. Alvarez, founder of Barrio Arte in the student center of MiraCosta College, also added poetry and short stories to reach out to young people and turn them away from the alcoholism that claimed him for so long, and the gangs and self-destructive behavior he has seen destroy them.

"A Sweet-Sounding Place: A Civil War Story of the Black 54th Regiment" (DownEast Books, \$14.95) is by Nancy Johnson of Leucadia. Johnson, great-great-niece of two brothers who served in the Union Army, tells the story of a young apprentice baker from Boston who joins the famed 54th Massachusetts Regiment, the first black unit to fight in the Civil War.

