Local writer Barbara Veillon
Goes ‘Strait’ to
the heart of
country music
fans in her first
romantic novel,
‘Love Child’

By Druann Domangue
Entertainment Editor

Have you ever dreamed of
writing the great Ameri-
can novel? Do you say to
yourself that one day you'll sit
down and put your ideas on
paper?
Well, local writer Barbara
Veillon has done more than
dream. She's made her dream
become a reality with the sale of
her first novel to Silhouette
Romances.

"Love Child", Silhouette No.
787, will be out in local
bookstores in the next few days.
The book is written under her
pseudonym, Kristin Morgan, and
deals with a country and western
singer out for revenge against his
childhood sweetheart.

Veillon has always
had
a
knack
for writing. Friends
would ask
her
for help in writing business let-
ters and references, but she
never took it any further than
that — until George Strait
gave her the inspiration to write
her first novel, and
she made him the hero in “Love
Child.” A large poster of Strait
now hangs over her computer
printer.

With three children, ages 24, 17
and 12, Veillon has little time for
writing. No longer working full-
time outside the home, she now
spends her mornings
at her com-
puter and her afternoons with
her children.

Veillon has always been a
voracious romance reader. After
studying other writers, she knew
she could come up with a new
twist. Joining a writer's group
which offered encouragement,
Veillon put ideas down on paper,
attended writers' conferences,
and began her first novel.

The conferences were a big
help. While attending one in
Beaumont in 1988, she met a Sil-
houette editor. She pitched her
story idea and was encouraged
to send it in. Veillon secured a New
York agent (which she said was
as difficult as selling her book)
and submitted “Love Child” to
Silhouette.

It took approximately one year
from the date of her Beaumont
experience to the date her book
sold. Rewrites were required,
and the publisher’s look at only
so many at a time. From the sell-
ing point, writers wait approxi-
mately one and one-half years to
see their book hit the stands.

Veillon was thrilled to hear her
first book was accepted. In fact,
when she received the call from
her agent, she was told to pick a
name immediately. The agent
was waiting to go into a meeting
and sign the contracts. Quickly,
Veillon grabbed a phone book
and a baby name book, looking
for an easily pronounced name
which would be readily recog-
nized. Although she's not crazy
about Kristin Morgan, she says
she wasn't about to hold up that
meeting.

Determination is what makes a
successful writer, says Veillon.
Plugging away, not accepting
rejection. She says when she first
told her husband she wanted to
write a book, he said, “That's
about like winning a lottery.”
Now, after she's won that so-
called lottery, he's very support-
ive.

"About 75 percent do not suc-
cceed. People simply give up. If
they do get published, they think,
can I do it again? It's a scary feel-
ing,” says Veillon.

She's not a stranger to rejec-
tion, herself. Her second novel for

THE ADVERTISER — P.C. Piazza
Barbara Veillon writes about romance under the pseudonym of Kristin Morgan.
Silhouette, a sequel to "Love Child", was rejected. She was told it didn't have the proper motivation. It's now been rewritten. It is the continuing story of the heroine's daughter, Alyse, and her lover, Nick Davenport.

She says she writes about what she knows, "my own reactions and feelings to situations." Her ideas sometimes come from unusual sources. "A title may pop into my head. I may not use it, but I keep the story idea," said Veillon.

Her third book was a winner, and has also been swept up by Silhouette. Entitled "Deal of a Lifetime," the book starts off with a terrific hook (opening line) — "He needed a pregnant female — and fast." Due out in January 1992, "Deal" is a lighter look at pregnancy and romance. The heroine is eight months pregnant throughout the book, has been married and divorced, and just wants to be desirable.

There are other books on Veillon's horizon. She has a notebook filled with ideas and plots. A mainstream novel which deals with the oil boom and bust is currently in the works entitled "Trumpets of Gold." It's on the back burner temporarily while Veillon concentrates on her romances.

For those who downplay her work because of its genre, Veillon says, "People say it's fantasy, that you are not facing reality. Romances are simply two people working out their problems and finding love. Many people have never read a romance, or at least a good one. I do the dishes and the laundry, but the reader wants an Alpha Man — a tall, blue-eyed, muscular man."

Veillon takes the reader away