Working on deadline for her third book to be published, Barbara Lantier Veillon, a Pine Prairie native, was on hand at the recent Biggy Bayou Festival to autograph copies of her first two books. The daughter of Benny and Emma Lee Lantier, Barbara now resides in Lafayette. She is the mother of three children: Julie, 25, Lance, 18, and Amy, 13.

Her first book, titled, "Love Child," was published in April 1991 and her second publication, "First Comes Baby," hit the book stores in February 1992. The international publisher for Barbara's books is a division of Silhouette (Romance) Books. Her second book was number two on Walden Books' Romance Best Sellers List and was distributed nationally.

"It's a full-time job," Barbara said looking up from the wood-top counter which held numerous copies of her two publications. "I started writing by entering a contest on the radio," she looked up and smiled. "That went well, so I decided to give it a try. I had a story in mind," she added after a brief pause.

Barbara then joined a writers group in Lafayette. "There I learned about the conferences. I attended one and it taught me how to be a good storyteller. It took me two years from the time I decided to write a book, to contacting this editor."

"Her first book "Love Child" was completed in about six months. She then went to an agent, who as she says "cleaned it up a little." It was then presented to the publisher. "In the meantime, it was time for another conference."

Almost a year later, she found out her book would be published. "From that time, it was another year and a half before I saw it in print."

The conferences Barbara attended helped her with some basic writing skills. "I also read books and spoke to several other writers," she mentioned. One in particular Barbara mentioned was a senior editor for Silhouette in New York. "Her name is Leslie Wagner and I met her in Beaumont, Texas at a conference. We became good friends. I couldn't get over the fact that someone from New York loved country music as much as I do," Barbara laughed.

Barbara's agent is based in New York. When asked what she planned for the future, Barbara quickly added, "To keep writing. I love it. I just hope the stories do keep coming," she grinned. "I've submitted an outline for my fourth book. It's a 15-page synopsis that I sent to the publisher. They've told me they want this book."

"My title for my third book that I am on deadline now for is "Her Kind of Guy," but they may not keep that title, I don't know," she paused. "Barbara has titled her fourth book "Daddy's Home" and she says the publishers definitely want to keep that title. "I have about four or five chapters of it already written."

"I have other ideas for future books but I haven't decided what I want to write," she said.}

(See Veillon - Page 2A)