

BookScene

Tulsa twins get catty with alphabet book

Tulsa twins Andrea Burris and Anna Schad, who have written and illustrated their first book, "The Kitty Cat Alphabet Book" (A&D Books, \$14.95), will sign copies from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at Steve's Sundries, Books and Magazines, 2612 S. Harvard Ave.

book NOTES The book is colorfully illustrated by someone who obviously enjoys cats. Each letter is accompanied by delightful, easy-to-read poems:

B is for bathing, a horrible fate. While birds find it fun, it's what kit-ty-cats hate . . .

In fact, both twins "are allowed to cohabitate" in their houses by their cats. Anna's cats Sunny and Holly tolerate four boys and two miniature schnauzers, while Andrea's cat, F.O.T. (Full of the) Dickens, keeps her Great Dane, Heidi, in line.

Both women hold degrees in fine arts from the University of Tulsa.

Tales of Tulsa's historic homes enjoys third installment

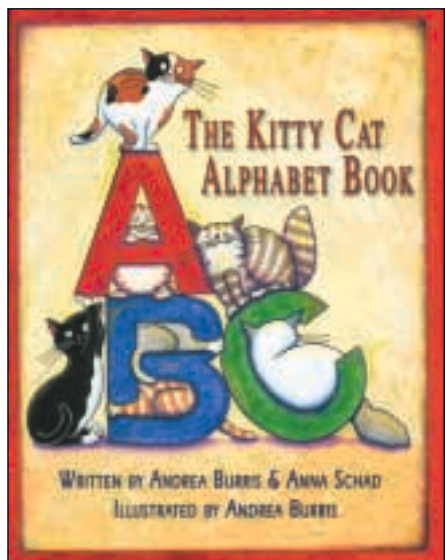
Tulsa architect and historian John Brooks Walton has come out with the third book in his collection of historic Tulsa homes.

This one, called "Many More Historic Tulsa Homes" (HCE Publications \$29.95), is probably his last, Walton says, but "who knows."

In it he takes readers on another ramble into local neighborhoods to hear tales about houses built in years gone by as well as those being built today.

Walton has scheduled two signings this week:

► Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. he will appear at Miss Jackson's in Utica



Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m., he will be at Steve's Sundries, Books and Magazines, 2612 S. Harvard Ave.

Walton's first book was organized by neighborhood districts — Owen Park, Brady Heights, Reservoir Hill and others — before ending with 31st Street and beyond.

The second book was organized by era, from Tulsa's early years from 1901 to 1920 through 2001.

In his preface, he writes, "I will also tell the story of Tulsa's Art Deco movement and about the people who created various Tulsa commercial institutions such as Oklahoma Tire & Supply Company, the Tulsa World, Tulsa Tribune and Bama Pie Company — and the houses they lived in."

"The homes and stories in 'Many More Historic Tulsa Homes,' are not grouped geographically or historically but as you might encounter them while taking a series of pleasant and leisurely rambles around our Tulsa



Town." He wrote that he'd had to omit over 30 homes from the second book to keep it the same length as the first.

"These stories did not go away gracefully; they kept asking to be told," he said. In addition, as he drove through neighborhoods he found houses he felt had a story to tell.

So as he offers his third book, he follows the advice to "never say never" about the future.

Like the others, this book is filled with black-and-white and sepia-toned photos, often from family albums, and the stories are history not to be missed.

Steve's Sundries is selling a specially made cover to hold all three books for \$12.95. A three-volume set with cover included is \$99.95.

Library of Congress Writing Contest

Write a letter to your favorite au-

thor, and you might win an expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for yourself, your parents, and your teacher.

The trip to our nation's capital is the national prize in Letters About Literature, a writing contest for readers in grades four through 12, sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Corp.

To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Young readers can select authors from any genre — fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic.

The Oklahoma Center for the Book will select the top essayists in the state on each of the three competition levels: Level I for children in grades four through six; Level II for grades seven and eight; and Level III, grades nine through 12.

Deadline for entries is Dec. 6, 2003. To obtain the required entry coupon, call the Oklahoma Center for the Book at (405) 522-3575 or visit the Center for the Book Web site at www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook.

State winners advance to national competition and receive cash prizes plus a \$50 Target gift card. Six national winners will each receive an expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital to read their letters during the National Book Festival in the fall of 2004. In addition, they will receive a \$500 Target gift card redeemable at any Target store or target.com. Target Corp. is the presenting sponsor of Letters About Literature.

Book signing

Tulsa author Jodie Larsen will sign copies of her hardback thriller, "The Darkest Night" (Hawk Publishing, \$21.95), from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday at Borders-South, 8015 S. Yale Ave.

In this, her latest, featuring Kaycee Miller and Max Masterson, people are disappearing from our national parks for no reason. Investigators desperately search for connections between the victims — finding only a strange book.

As suspense builds, Kaycee needs all her skills as she wrestles with the unfathomable case, while continuing her ongoing battle with fading eyesight and inevitable blindness.

Larsen is known as a fiction chameleon as her stories appeal to a wide variety of readers. She and her husband and two children live in Tulsa where she is an avid jogger. Her Web site is: www.jodielarsen.com.

— Judy Randle, Book Editor

'First Light' eyes war's effects on youth

► The book is a true account of Geoffrey Wellum, who became a man over the war-torn skies of Britain.

By ARTHUR SHOEMAKER

"The whole fury and might of the enemy must be turned upon us. Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war."

These words were spoken by Winston Churchill in June 1940 when England stood alone to combat the threat of a German invasion.

Geoffrey Wellum joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 at the ripe old age of 17. After piloting Spitfires

First Light:
BY GEOFFREY WELLUM
(John Wiley and Sons, \$24.95)

during the Battle of Britain and flying more than 100 missions over occupied France, he was mentally and physically exhausted — an old man at 22. Streaking his Spitfire through the skies to repel the massive, brutal Nazi assaults took its toll on the young pilot who became known as "boy" to his comrades.

Drawing on notes he wrote at the time, Wellum recreates his wartime experiences. In great detail he vividly evokes the realities of wartime flying — the camaraderie, the scrambles, the dogfights, the night

flights, and the foul weather. This book gives us a moving and powerful portrait of a boy who anguishes over the loss of friends during training, broods over fears of failure — and survives to become a battle-hardened ace, injured by death but never unaffected by it. This story is written with wit, compassion, and a great deal of technical expertise.

Wellum recalls his grueling months of flight training, during which two of his classmates crashed and died. His vivid accounts of ferocious aerial combat contrast the mortal terror of an innocent teenager with the grim determination of a highly trained warrior.

A battle-hardened ace by the winter of 1941, though still not out of his teens, Wellum flew scores of

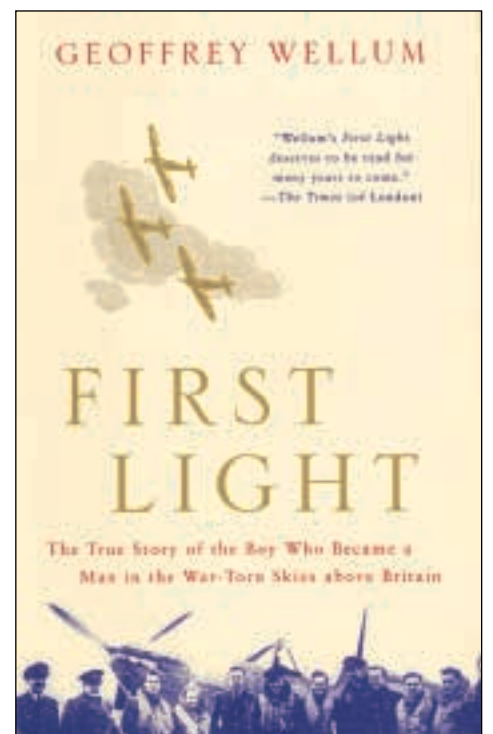
missions as fighter escort on bombing missions over France. Yet the constant life-or-death stress of murderous combat and anguish over the loss of his closest friends sapped his endurance.

Tortured by fierce headaches even in the midst of battle, he could not bear the thought of "not pulling your own weight," of letting other pilots risk their lives in his place.

Wellum's frank account of his long, losing bout with battle fatigue is both moving and enlightening.

Richly detailed, engagingly written, and emotionally resonant, "First Light" is a treat for military history buffs and anyone drawn to dramatic coming-of-age stories.

Arthur Shoemaker, Hominy, is a published writer.



our lively LANGUAGE

No home in homage

By SALLY BRIGHT

Mispronunciation of the week: When a radio commentator described "paying homage," he said HOME-ij. Instead, the "o" should sound like those in "mop" and "mom." And though some dictionaries say sounding the "h" is optional, Charles Harrington Elster calls HAHM-ij "de rigueur."

Where does the expression "neck of the woods" come from? — B.S., Tulsa.

American Heritage Dictionary says a "narrow stretch of forest" was called a neck. H.L. Mencken attributes that geographical use of "neck" to the Dutch. William Safire tracks the expression to the Algonquin "naiaak." Eric Partridge traces "neck" to Middle English from Old Norse, through the Dutch.

Finally, the best source for word history in any neck of the woods, the Oxford English Dictionary, says by 1871 the term was "applied to settlement made in the well-wooded parts of the Southwest especially."

An article about the new TV offering said, "There is funny stuff and heart-rendering drama." That must somehow relate to a national tendency toward obesity. — V.W., Bartlesville.

To render is to melt lard. To rend is to tear apart. Heartbreaking drama is, therefore, heartrending -- with or without the hyphen.

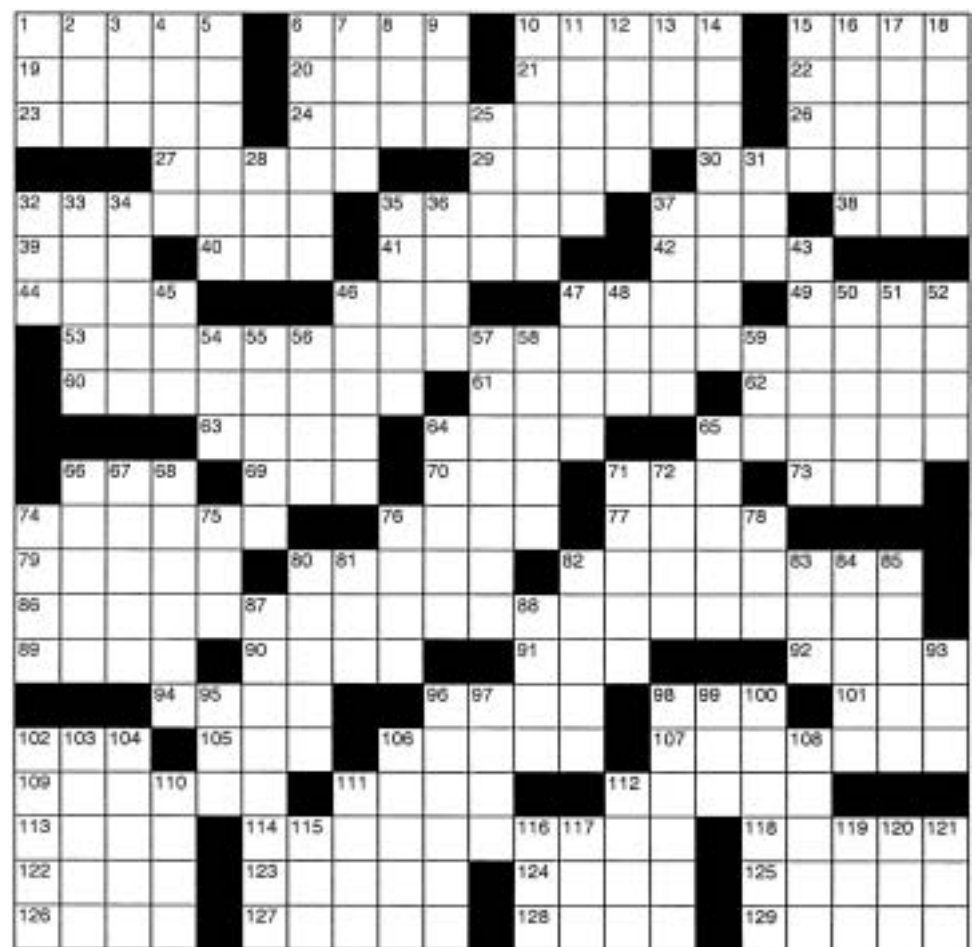
sbright3@cox.net

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11-23 CRYPTOQUIP
WV NSP UPPAXOZ SOJO TMWUHQ L DJPMQE
DII EDV, ZP H TMZN EOAHEOE NP ION
I ODUHQL EPLZ IHO.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals D.
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Belly Laugh



Answers on H-7