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THE HOUSE IN THE MAIL

By Rosemary and Tom Wells

Illustrated by Dan Andreasen

2002, Viking Penguin, ISBN 0-670-035459 \$16.99

When Pa wrote a check to Sears for \$2500, life was forever changed for Homer and his sister Emily. Not only was there to be running water inside, there would be electric lights and a coal furnace, a stove and a refrigerator and a washing machine, not to mention the secret compartment the children found.

This handsome picture book by Rosemary Wells, renowned children's author, and her late husband, Tom Wells, an architect, brings to life the process of assembly of the classic kit houses that Sears & Roebuck sold in the early 1900s. In the style of a family scrapbook, this is the story of how a picture of a house in a catalog becomes a home for a family.

Gwynne Spencer is a full-time writer who lives in her old farmhouse by the Mancos River at the foot of Mesa Verde National Park. She invites your comments at gwynnespencer@aol.com