



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/SUZANNE KREITER

Personal file: Norman Bridwell

Born: Feb. 15, 1928, Kokomo, Ind.

The first book that left an impression on you: "Pinocchio. I loved the illustrations. I can't remember who that artist was, but the work stayed with me."

An author who inspired you: "Ruth Plumly Thompson," who succeeded L. Frank Baum as author of the "Oz" books. Her books "had more humor. To me, his were more message books. She didn't care; she just told a good story."

Do you have a hobby? "Photography, I guess."

A maxim of that hobby: "I just look for an interesting composition and textures, and I'm looking more for the abstract than anything like a real scene."

Your favorite art form: "I like ballet. I don't do it, but I like to look at it."

Someone you admire in ballet: "Jennifer Gelfand, who just retired from the [Boston Ballet]. We watched her go through the process of being discovered, becoming a star, and then leaving, for real estate, as I understand. I hope she's successful there."

Something you thought would have turned out better: "[A hearty laugh.]

My wife wants to know if she should leave the room. 'No dear, you can stay.' ... I have another book I wish they had continued to promote because I liked it even better than 'Clifford,' but the marketplace decides."

What was it? "The Witch Next Door."

Someone who should be more famous: "Christine Lavin, who writes and sings very funny songs."

Someone who should be less famous: "I've got to avoid politics. ... I

would think Eminem, the rap star."

The one thing you wish everyone would just get right: "Settling disputes without fighting. Boy, I'm so sick of the violent and confrontational tone of television shows these days. Nothing is ever done in a gentlemanly manner."

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