

# Puss 'n Books -- its cast has character

Photos and text by Jay Lurie

PUSS 'n Books, a used-book and record store in the University District, captivates most visitors because of its unusual character.

Owned by 70-year-old Beatrice T. Cutts, the store's name was derived from two of her primary loves—cats and books. In addition to being well stocked with books, the shop also serves as home for Miss Cutts' cat, Bananas.

He can usually be seen spread out napping atop books or records, waiting for some cat lover to come along and pet him. But if you're interested in thumbing through books that Bananas has converted into a bed, you may have to wait awhile before displacing him.

A University of Washington graduate in English, Miss Cutts worked in the City Comptroller's office 28 years before retiring in 1957.

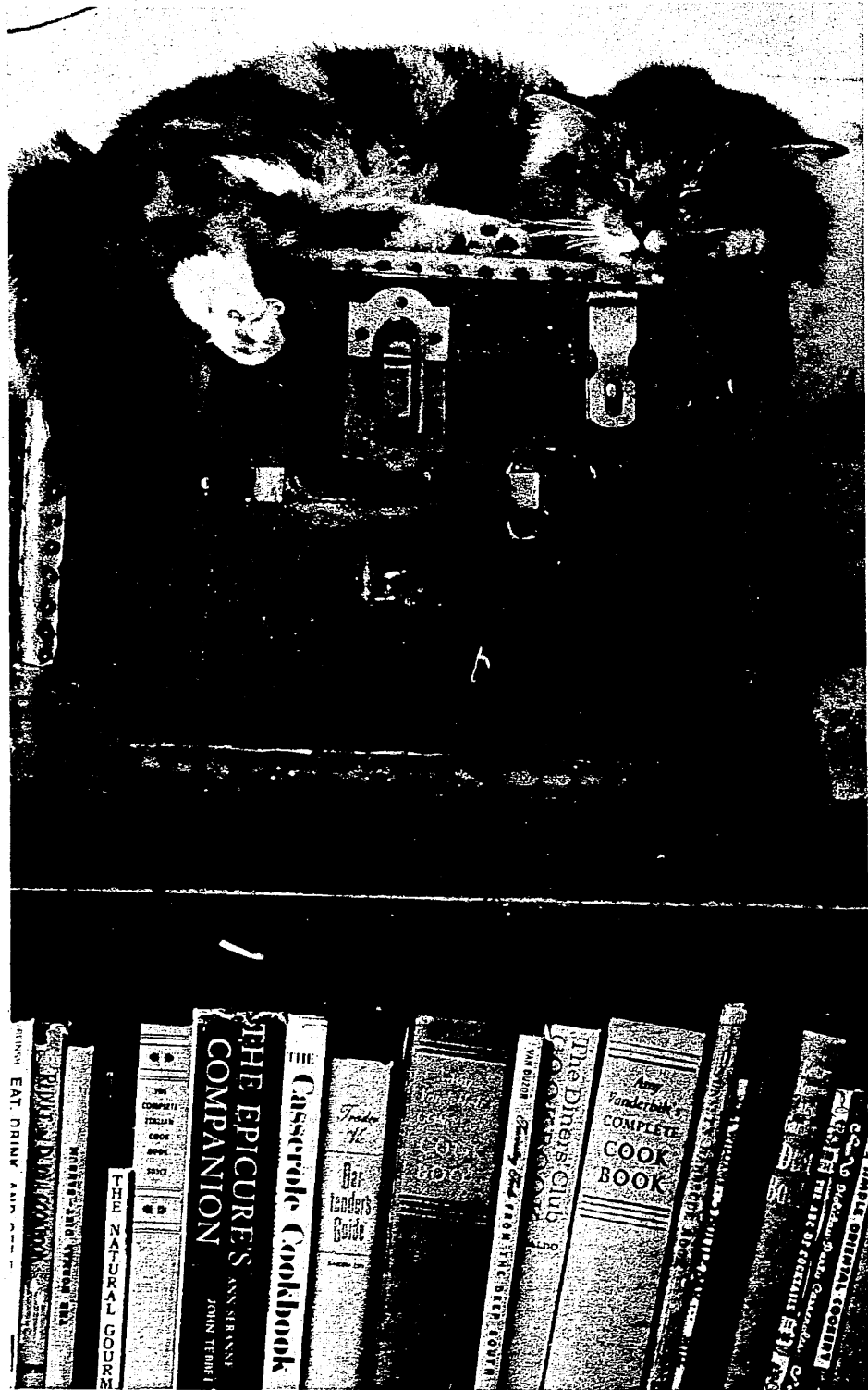
With the combination of accounting skills and a deep interest in literature, she opened her first bookstore in 1959 and the Puss 'n Books shop in 1966.

Attempting to create an atmosphere of simplicity in the shop, she has numerous chairs where visitors can relax and peruse books of interest. Occasionally, individuals will read an entire book while seated in a comfortable chair.

The knowledgeable Miss Cutts relates well to young adults, hence her successful business is located in the midst of a collegiate atmosphere along University Way.

This affinity for young people is reflected in the selection of her staff—three young men who respect her as a friend rather than an employer.

Art objects enhance the shop's appeal. Since she boasts a vast knowledge of artifacts, Miss Cutts frequently is able to spot rare and valuable items others would deem virtually worthless.



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Pictorial

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## The cover

RESEMBLING A plumber's nightmare, these capped oil wells on Alaska's North Slope are called "Christmas trees" by workers. But soon the wells will come alive with the construction of the Alaska pipeline.

This area, located near Prudhoe Bay and Deadhorse, is also developing into a tourist attraction, as you can see beginning on Page 12.

Although he's not a member of the sales staff, Bananas, the resident cat in the Puss 'n Books store in the University District, always attracts the attention of visitors.