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REVIEW: Downhome: Dispatches from Dixie

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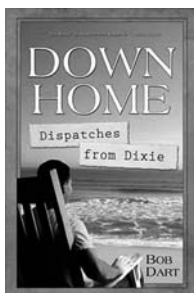
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NON-FICTION

Downhome: Dispatches from Dixie

by Bob Dart (Southern Lion Books, 2008; ISBN 978-0-9794-2033-7, \$30.00).

Bob Dart, the author of *Downhome: Dispatches from Dixie*, covered the South for the Atlanta Journal and Constitution before moving to the Washington, D.C., bureau of Cox Newspapers as a national correspondent. For four decades, he covered some of America's biggest stories, including the Vietnam War, the invasion of Iraq and the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy in New York City. However, his favorite stories have always come from the back roads and colorful characters of his native South. In *Downhome*, Dart has collected 50 of these stories, which paint a cultural portrait of 30 years in the South. Dart writes of sometimes funny, sometimes bizarre and sometimes dramatic people, places and events. He talks with survivors of Hurricane Katrina and tells us about interesting people, such as Georgia-born artist David Driskell, Junior Samples (television star of "Hee Haw") and Brownie Wise, creator of the Tupperware party. Dart takes the reader on visits to a North Carolina sanctuary for neurotic, injured and neglected birds; to a very small Virginia town memorializing the 21 young men it lost during the D-Day invasion of France; to South of the Border, a faux-Mexican tourist complex in South Carolina;



and to several Georgia cities, including Warrenton, Jesup and Brunswick. The author looks at unique events such as the World Invitational Half-rubber Tournament in Savannah and an all-night gospel sing in Waycross as well as horrific ones such as the shootings at Virginia Tech and West Virginia's Sago Mine disaster. This compilation of fascinating and always entertaining stories of the South is recommended for academic and public libraries.

— Reviewed by **Christine Zuger**
Georgia College & State University

The Historic Oakland Cemetery of Atlanta: Speaking Stones

by Cathy J. Kaemmerlen (The History Press, 2007; ISBN 978-1-59629-330-4, \$19.99).

Georgia's cemeteries are sometimes thought of as old, rarely visited places where stately magnolia trees provide shade for the generations who have come before. But to one observant visitor, the Oakland Cemetery provides a treasure trove of tragic history and enduring romance. Cathy Kaemmerlen has used her gift of storytelling just as a weaver would use her loom to weave together the rich textures of Atlanta's Southern history. In her book *The Historic Oakland Cemetery of Atlanta: Speaking Stones*, Kaemmerlen tells that from 1850 to 1884 almost everyone who died in Atlanta was buried in the Atlanta Cemetery, renamed the Oakland Cemetery in 1872. This Victorian garden cemetery was

