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REVIEW: Man Food: Recipes from the Iron Trade Forward

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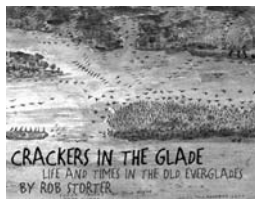
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Crackers in the Glade: Life and Times in the Old Everglades

by Rob Storter, edited by Betty Savidge Briggs (University of Georgia Press, 2007; ISBN 978-0-8203-3043-3, \$22.95).

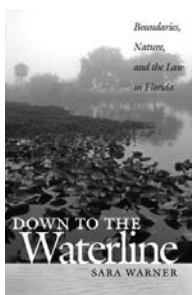


Robert Storter wrote *Crackers in the Glade: Life and Times in the Old Everglades* at the age of 91. His descriptions of the beautiful wonders of sea life are just as I remember them from growing up in Coden, Ala. This book reminded me of my dad, Leophas, who often scribbled on everything in sight to recall his experiences of fishing, storms and horseback riding. Storter describes coastal life as one filled with sand flies, ferryboats and mosquitoes. Folks burned rags to keep these “swamp angels” away, and rattlesnakes swam in the channel. Fathers allowed their young sons to be involved in working activities such as steering a boat, going on a mail route, riding a horse or going fishing. Late at night, the singing of “Amazing Grace” or another hymn could be heard as these were baptized, praying people. Every family had a sailboat. Weathering frequent “squalls” was often pure excitement, but Storter also talks about the awful destruction of tremendous hurricanes. School classes at the time were quite small; classes were made up mostly of family and the children of teachers. Shoes were worn only occasionally — to church — but not to school. School lunches consisted of great northern beans and biscuits, bananas and mayonnaise sandwiches every day. Storter’s view can best be summed up in his own words: “We are like little mangrove twigs and are drifting somewhere to find a lodging place. Let’s hope we will not stop on the mudflat or drift out to sea but will find the rock, and there we will be rooted to stay.” *Crackers in the Glade: Life and Times in the Old Everglades* is highly recommended to anyone interested in family oral history, traditions, rural coastal living, fishing, photography and art.

— Reviewed by **Regina W. Cannon**
UGA Griffin Research Facility Library

Down to the Waterline: Boundaries, Nature, and the Law in Florida by Sara Warner (University of Georgia Press, ISBN 0-8203-2703-4, \$24.95.)

Down to the Waterline is a comprehensive review of Florida’s water boundary ownership issues from the early days of statehood (1845) to the present. It includes extensive research of legislation, legal and municipal hearings, land records, first-person accounts and innumerable historical events



that have shaped the ongoing controversy. Warner, a lifelong Floridian, brings more than 20 years of experience to compiling, analyzing and interpreting the information collected in this book. The author’s quest to understand the struggle to preserve private ownership rights while preserving public access and maintenance of navigable bodies of water began in 1989 as a research project for her Ph.D. from Emory University, after hearing an NPR report on the channelizing of, and subsequent work to restore, the Kissimmee River. Several chapters are devoted to the Kissimmee debacle and the slow, painful lessons sometimes learned from overmanipulating nature. Runoff pollutants from the work on the Kissimmee contaminated agricultural acreage, while poisonous gases produced by organic decomposition in the oxygen-depleted water proved lethal to river inhabitants. In *Waterline*, Warner also discusses the definition of the “ordinary high water line (OHWL).” For hundreds of years, the OHWL was accepted as a line discernable “without scientific exploration” and was considered a protected property of the state, preserved for the use of all. Now it is a battle line, requiring frequent examination by both legal and technological means. Woven within the narrative of the struggle to clearly understand and define the OHWL are important ecological lessons. Warner’s reflections on the plight of indigenous wildlife, for example, misguided attempts to remove the alligator from the endangered species list, are particularly poignant and not easily dismissed. *Down to the Waterline* provides globally applicable perspectives of interest to ecologists, students in environmental studies at all levels and the general public.

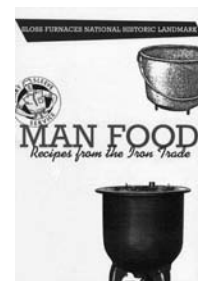
— Reviewed by **Lori Critz**
Georgia Institute of Technology

Man Food: Recipes from the Iron Trade

Forward by Karen R. Utz. (University of Alabama Press, 2007; ISBN 978-0-8173-5451-0, \$14.95).

This is a quirky but engaging book. The connection between the flourishing iron trade in Alabama and cooking was, at first, lost on this reviewer. The answer goes like this:

The iron industry emerged in the Birmingham area beginning in the late 19th century, built upon the proximity of ore, coal, railroads and entrepreneurs. In the late 1920s, a magazine was launched to bring technical developments to the widespread foundry trade. *Pig Iron Rough Notes* (from the adage, “rough as pig iron”) informed, educated and promoted. In 1939, editor Russell Hunt added “soft” journalism about iron trade people, their communities, their hobbies. And recipes. Pig iron,



Hunt explained, figured in the food industry from farm implements to cast-iron skillets. Hunt's readers were the source of most recipes. The opener is bean hole beans, a ritualistic preparation of baked beans in an underground fire pit. And the closer is your traditional fried green tomatoes accompanied by cornbread Southern-style. Hunt was a gregarious fellow, happiest when he was marketing iron and enjoying the hospitality of his clients. A day spent with Gus Tindall of Chattanooga gave us Tennessee Squirrel Stew (12 of the critters required), best enjoyed "under some giant oak or beech tree." Most of the recipes remain doable across the years, even to the clumsy-in-the-kitchen types. Each carries a chatty narrative echoing Hunt's on-the-road research. Karen R. Utz of the Sloss Furnace National Historic Landmark in Birmingham wrote an introduction that sets Hunt's magazine in the historical context of the industry. It's not clear who edited the selections, and we wished for more specific citations for individual segments, extracted from decades of issues. As it is, things just run together. That aside, we're getting ready to whip up some hobo stew (serves 10 hoboes and probably twice as many librarians) (p. 22) or maybe a spicy, one-dish meal, Jambalaya (p. 38.) Yummy.

— Reviewed by **Dr. Wally Eberhard**
University of Georgia (Emeritus)

When Elvis Meets the Dalai Lama

by Murray Silver (Bonaventure Books, 2003; ISBN 978-0-9724224-4-4, \$24.90).

Murray Silver, the author of *Great Balls of Fire: The Uncensored Story of Jerry Lee Lewis*, has now written an autobiography. A recollection of his varied career, the book spans his time as a teenage concert promoter in Atlanta in the 1960s through his job as tour manager for a group of Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery in the 1990s. Early chapters detail his years writing *Great Balls of Fire* and the development of that book into a movie. Silver reminisces about his work with Myra Lewis on the book, meetings with Jerry Lee Lewis and the torturous experience of the movie production. Not a fan of the resulting film, Silver provides numerous explanations for what went wrong in the movie adaptation. Other projects never came to fruition, including a book about the early days of professional wrestling, one on the porn industry and a book written with the assistance of Dr. George Nichopoulos, Elvis Presley's physician, about what really caused the King's death. During his work on the Presley project, Silver reports receiving death threats that drove him into hiding.

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MURRAY SILVER

These varied tales are interspersed with memories of his teenage years and his father's law career, sidetracks that tend to confuse the timeline and the reader. The final, and most interesting, part of Silver's autobiography deals with his introduction to Buddhism as well as his involvement with Tibetan monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery. He recounts the years he assisted the monks by selling Tibetan rugs, driving a truck for *The Mystical Arts of Tibet* exhibit and managing the U.S. tour of *Sacred Music, Sacred Dance*, which shares the Tibetan Buddhist culture through chant and dance. The book concludes with the author's return to his native Savannah and some reflections on his life. Included throughout the book are several of the author's personal photographs. Optional purchase for a public library.

— Reviewed by **Gretchen M. Smith**
Georgia Southwestern State University

The Body in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction: Computational Technique and Linguistic Voice

by Donald E. Hardy (University of South Carolina Press, 2007; ISBN 978-1-5700-3698-9, \$39.95).

The Body in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction: Computational Technique and Linguistic Voice by Donald E. Hardy is

a meticulously researched work that combines the study of Flannery O'Connor's fiction with statistical analysis and linguistics. Hardy's approach to the literary analysis of O'Connor's thematic representation of the relationship between man's physical and spiritual aspects includes using computer concordancing software to determine the frequency of words and phrases in O'Connor's work that refer to the physical body. Through detailed analysis of this data, along with attention to the grammatical category of the middle voice as described in the study of linguistics, Hardy conducts a "close examination of the interactions of grammatical voice and the body at both the macrolevel and the microlevel of the narrative." Hardy's central discussion deals with the way in which specific body parts as represented in O'Connor's fiction contain the spiritual within the physical. Hardy's opinions are supported by examples from the source material, and his microanalysis of the workings of O'Connor's sentences reveals a deep understanding of the way in which the author communicates incarnational themes at the most fundamental level. *The Body in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction: Computational Technique and Linguistic Voice* delves beyond O'Connor's work to include a varied account of different linguistic theories used to examine narrative techniques. Although the author states that his book "is written with a general educated audience in

