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### *Victorian Florida: America's Last Frontier* by Floyd and Marion Rinhart

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Reaver presents the selections in five chapters: "International Folktales," subdivided into animal tales, ordinary tales, and jokes and anecdotes, following the standard form of the Aarne-Thompson index reference; "Legends"; "Tall Tales and Trickster Stories"; "Ghost Tales and Horror Stories"; "Urban Belief Tales." The folkloric items thus range from traditional tales with widespread analogues on other continents and considerable antiquity to contemporary urban tales familiar to most readers. The author's notes are extensive and give information about the informants, circumstances of the recording and comparisons of tale type and motifs. Indices summarizing tale types and motifs will be welcomed by those interested in comparative scholarship, and the bibliography will be useful to all who wish to do further reading.

This volume is a major contribution to our literature on Florida folklore and should stand on the shelf beside the works of Zora Neale Hurston, Alton Morris and Stetson Kennedy. The University Presses of Florida are to be congratulated on making Reaver's valuable materials available to both public and academic audiences.

*Patricia H. Waterman*

*Victorian Florida: America's Last Frontier.* By Floyd and Marion Reinhart. Atlanta, 1986. Peachtree Publishers. Introduction. Photographs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth. \$29.95.

Two texts, narrative and photographic, produce this cultural history of Victorian Florida, showing how the state was seen by wealthy and middle class white tourists during the second half of the nineteenth century. To these innocents, Florida was an idyllic winter playground, where one might find adventure, relaxation and good health. Travelling first by steamer and later in trains, aptly known as "travelling hotels," the Florida-bound tourists entered the state in luxury. In resorts they enjoyed bicycling, gambling and golf. In the wilderness, men donned impractical but proper camping dress, such as "white flannel trousers, white rowing jersey, and a straw hat" (p. 75). Unless men were rowing, peajackets were appropriate wear. Female vacationers sported simpler versions of their uncomfortable (and hot) everyday clothes, wearing high collars and long sleeves, long skirts, corsets, bustles and elaborate hats – even when they were fishing, hunting or riding in rowboats and hoping for "no ill luck" (p. 143). According to Palm Beach gossip, one woman created controversy when she "disported herself in a man's bathing attire to the amazement of onlookers" (p. 168). That is, she appeared in tight above-the-knee shorts and a tank top.

The incongruity between these tourists and the natural Florida landscape is startling. With stubborn specificity, photographs by artists, amateurs and commercial photographers reveal details of the natural beaches, lakes and rivers – settings which today are polluted and/or dwarfed by civilization. Prominent landscape photographers, most notably Charles Bierstadt, recorded the impressionist effects of the rivers and the swampland. But most of the illustrations of rivers, peaceful beaches and isolated private resorts which dazzle the reader are the work of lesser known commercial photographers, many of them from Florida and published here for the first time. At the end of the book are biographies of the photographers, picture credits, a selected bibliography and an extensive index.



**An engraving from *Scribner's Magazine*, 1889, showing the San Carlos Hotel at St. James City on Pine Island near Fort Myers.**

Photograph from *Victorian Florida*.

The book takes the reader on a guided tour of Fernandina and Fort George Island, Cedar Keys and North Florida, Jacksonville, the St. Johns River, the Ocklawaha River, the Orange Belt, Tampa and the West Coast, St. Augustine, the Halifax River, Indian River Country, Palm Beach, Miami and Key West. Without exception, the authors match the illustrations to the text. They explain the photographs with patience and precision. The reader is forced to read in a non-linear way, looking from text to photograph to text again. Other illustrations help to create this unique reading experience. They are photographs of material artifacts including advertisements, brochures, maps, newspapers, train schedules, travel booklets and souvenirs. (A tiny live alligator in a cigar box was popular. So were palmetto hats and orangewood canes.) Midway through the book *A Tourist and Hunter's Guide To Indian River Country, 1889-90 Season* appears, adding to the reader's ability to imagine the traveller's perspective. Letters from travellers and commentary by writers including the

*1889-90 Season* appears, adding to the reader's ability to imagine the traveller's perspective. Letters from travellers and commentary by writers including the poet, Sidney Lanier, enhance the reading of this book still further.

What is missing? There are only a handful of photographs of blacks, Conchs, Indians and poor whites. Tourists viewed these people as quaint and occasionally photographed them. But the commercial photographers included here do not record their histories. Another sad side of Florida tourism is the destruction of the natural environment. During the 1880s one riverboat traveler remarked, "From the lofty decks of the steamers a great deal is seen, but every moment one is hurried ruthlessly away from some spot where there is every temptation to linger, and then left to while away hours at some landing where preceding crowds have gathered every flower, and alarmed every bird with pistols and parasols" (p. 57). Worse than these Victorian travelers were hunters. In Florida, they hunted alligator, deer, panthers and sea turtles. Adding to the destruction, financiers, including Henry M. Flagler and Henry Bradley Plant, built luxury motels on scenic beaches, the beginning of the condominium-lined, private, no-trespassing shores we see today. *Victorian Florida* preserves an elite vision of the state, a Florida still pristine, still wild.

*Ruth A. Banes*

*Seminole History: A Pictorial History of Florida State University.* By Martee Wills and Joan Perry Morris. Foreword by Burt Reynolds. Jacksonville, Florida, 1987. South Star Publishing Co. Pp. 240. Photographs. Index. Cloth. \$37.95.

While attending Florida State University in the 1970s, I often heard the story of how FSU and its rival, the University of Florida, were statutorily commanded by the Florida legislature to meet annually on the gridiron. Usually, some Gator would be trying to rub in the usual dominance of his town over mine. This story is one of several that is laid to rest by this fact-filled, lovingly produced history of Florida State University. It was the Florida Board of Control (precursor to the Board of Regents) that directed the state universities to compete in all intercollegiate sports in 1955. A bill introduced before the senate that year was rejected because it was felt a special law was not the way to implement this now infamous meeting.

FSU has had many colorful people associated with it throughout its years of change and adaptation as a major state university. From Faye Dunaway, who was runner-up in the 1959 Miss FSU contest, to Dr. Paul A.M. Dirac, Nobel Laureate for Physics in 1933, the range and scope of students and faculty have always been varied.

The opening chapters recount the history of this institution, which began in 1857 as the West Florida Seminary. Through the efforts of Albert Alexander Murphree, president from 1897 to 1909, the seminary was given college status and renamed Florida State College in 1901. Enrollment stood at 252 in 1902.

The Buckman Act (1905) caused the name to be changed to Florida Female College, which offended nearly everyone associated with the college. In 1909, the name was officially changed to Florida State College for Women, which it remained until 1947. The Tallahassee branch of the University of Florida (TBUF) opened in 1946 to accommodate the returning World War II vets. TBUF was located at Florida State College for Women's West Campus. Initial enrollment reached 600. On May 15, 1947, de facto coeducation became authentic with the birth of Florida State University.