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Al Burt Jr.

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#2038768 in Books University Press of Florida 1999-10-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .94 x 6.31 x 9.23l, #File Name: 0813016959256 pages | File size: 54.Mb

Al Burt Jr. : The Tropic of Cracker (Florida History and Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Tropic of Cracker (Florida History and Culture):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. okayBy Reader BobNever heard of burt before. I am sure if you are a fan this is a good book. He is a great writer and the stories are really nice.I bought it thinking it was a bit of florida history, but it was a meandering of stories from individuals that lived in florida. A little hard to tell the timelines in some of the stories until you see the end of the story and the date, but interesting stories nonetheless.As a history book, a big zero. As a folk tale book, a good 5.Depends what you are looking for.For me it was a diversion from intense

history I usually read. As a former conch and a native it is neat to see some stories in that realm. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tropic of Cracker By Harry Ronald Smith Florida is where I was born and raised, however this book tells me more than I ever knew about the State. Many of the historic tales and characters Al Bert included in his short and long stories I have heard or read about, but the stories in the book had much more depth. The people and places I had never heard of made me want to know more about my home State. I have emailed many of my friends that this book should be on their reading list in hopes that they will enjoy it as much as I did. I loaded my Kindle from with The Tropic of Cracker the same night my brother told how much he enjoyed reading the book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Down to earth history of the often destructive development of the modern state of Florida By roy A great overview of the people and events that have changed the face of the state of Florida for better or worse

"The Tropic of Cracker will . . . end the debate once and for all, of whether the term 'Cracker' is derogatory or a source of great pride. Al Burt has a masterpiece here." --Sandra Bogan, Florida Audubon Society From the preface: "The Tropic of Cracker survives in myth, memory, and love of natural Florida. It exists more in the mind than in geography, more in the memory than in the sight, more in attitude than in the encounter. . . . This book tells you about one man's vision of a state struggling to remain true to itself. It mixes new essays with a span of earlier ones written during nearly a quarter century of roving the state as a columnist for the Miami Herald. All of them, in sum, help illuminate and explain the Tropic of Cracker." --Al Burt The crack of the old-time cow hunter's whip gave the native Floridian a nickname, but Al Burt's Tropic of Cracker is a state of mind shared by those who love "what remains of the Florida that needed no blueprint or balance sheet for its creation, that was here before there was a can opener or a commercial or a real-estate agent." In his years of roving the state as a Miami Herald columnist, Al Burt mapped Florida's Tropic of Cracker, not with lines of latitude and longitude but with stories. The Crackers Burt tells of are men and women from Apalachicola to the Everglades, from Tallahassee to the Keys. They lived in the late 1800s, and they live today--along the Ocklawaha and in the floodplains of Lake Okeechobee. They were cow hunters, Conchs, and alligator men. They grew oranges, sugarcane, and muscadine grapes. They made moonshine. They drove mules, ate fried mullet, and told yarns in a Cracker creole about Florida's panthers, snakes, alligators, and hurricanes. There are luminaries among them--Zora Neale Hurston, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Virgil Hawkins, John DeGrove, Harry Crews--but mostly they are just regular folk who mark the borders of the elusive and magical Tropic of Cracker. For anyone who loves the old Florida and still has hope for the new one, Tropic of Cracker is the state's truest road map and Al Burt its most eloquent cartographer. Al Burt worked as a journalist for 45 years, the last 22 at the Miami Herald. The recipient of numerous journalism awards, he has been a freelance contributor to many magazines, including The Nation and Historic Preservation, and is the author of several books, among them Florida: A Place in the Sun (1974), Becalmed in the Mullet Latitudes (1984), and Al Burt's Florida (UPF, 1997), which was awarded the 1998 Patrick D. Smith Florida Literature Book Award. In his honor, the 1,000 Friends of Florida established the annual Al Burt Award for Florida journalism.

"Should be required reading for everyone who calls Florida home." - Miami Herald "Ever wonder what's the best way to eat a rattlesnake? Puzzled over the origin of the term 'Florida Cracker'? Have an interest in alligator wrestling or catfish? Al Burt has some answers for you." - Forum "Burt's writing shows a Florida that is vanishing before our eyes. [He] reveals the strange, quirky, charming face of the Sunshine State by writing about catfishermen on Lake Okeechobee, by relating the stories of Florida cowboys who drove free-range cattle across the state and by describing the hardships of a couple who abandoned south Florida for an organic farm in the Panhandle." - Weekly Planet "Drawing upon his long career as a roving Florida journalist, Burt uses a series of vivid biographical profiles to explore the full range of 'crackerdom,' from the good old boys and 'pork chopper' politicians of the Panhandle to the native Conchs of Key West. Cracker Florida, which surely has suffered more than its share of condescension and misunderstanding, has finally found its laureate." - from the Foreword "From the Inside Flap THE CRACK OF the old-time cow hunter's whip gave the native Floridian a nickname, but Al Burt's The Tropic of Cracker is a state of mind shared by those who love "what remains of the Florida that needed no blueprint or balance sheet for its creation, that was here before there was a can opener or a commercial or a real-estate agent." In his years of roving the state as a Miami Herald columnist, Al Burt mapped Florida's Tropic of Cracker, not with lines of latitude and longitude but with stories. The Crackers Burt tells of are men and women from Apalachicola to the Everglades, from Tallahassee to the Keys. They lived in the late 1800s, and they live today -- along the Ocklawaha and in the floodplains of Lake Okeechobee. They were cow hunters, Conchs, and alligator men. They were grew oranges, sugarcane, and muscadine grapes. They made moonshine. They drove mules, ate fried mullet, and told yarns in a Cracker creole about Florida's panthers, snakes, alligators, and hurricanes. There are luminaries among them, and writing about them -- Zora Neale Hurston, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Virgil Hawkins, John DeGrove, Harry Crews -- but mostly they are just regular folk who mark the borders of the elusive and magical Tropic of Cracker. For anyone who loves the old Florida and still has hope for the new one, The Tropic of Cracker is the state's truest road map and Al Burt its most eloquent

cartographer. About the Author Al Burt worked as a journalist for forty-five years, the last twenty-two at the Miami Herald. The recipient of numerous journalism awards, he was a freelance contributor to many magazines, including The Nation and Historic Preservation, and the author of several books, among them Florida: A Place in the Sun, Becalmed in the Mullet Latitudes, and Al Burt's Florida: Snowbirds, Sand Castles, and Self-Rising Crackers, which was awarded the 1998 Patrick D. Smith Florida Literature Book Award. In his honor, the 1,000 Friends of Florida established the annual Al Burt Award for Florida journalism.