

Weird Florida II: In a State of Shock

by Eliot Kleinberg, Chapin House Books, 2006, 256 pages

By Catherine McElrath

Who says history has to be boring, especially when it's the history of one the country's wildest and weirdest states – Florida. South Florida-based author Eliot Kleinberg is back with a second volume of *Weird Florida*, published seven years after the first, and there's enough of the strange, the sublime and the simply shocking to stock almost 300 more accounts of Florida's oddest-but-true adventures.

From torrid tales of true crime (drunken lawyers streaking merrily through parking lots, bank robbers armed with pitchforks, a five-year-old girl arrested for being acting up in kindergarten) to oddball animal stories (beagles trained to sniff pythons, a woman stealing a parrot – by stashing it in her bra) and a host of other bizarre only-in-Florida happenings, *Weird Florida II* is a great read for natives and newcomers alike. If you're looking for a treasure trove of strangeness hidden under the sunshine, this book is a great guide to all that's wacky and wonderful in Florida.

"I'm already putting together a file for book three," says author Kleinberg. "If I thought for a second that Florida was going to stop being weird, I'd be worried. There's no sign of abatement."

If you like *Weird Florida*, try...

Ghost Town Locations in Florida: 326 Forgotten Sites, by James Warnke;
Al Burt's Florida: Snowbirds, Sand Castles and Self-Rising Crackers, by Al Burt;
Dream State: Eight Generations of Swamp Lawyers, Conquistadors, Confederate Daughters, Banana Republicans and Other Florida Wildlife, by Diane Roberts;
Strange Florida II, by Charlie Carlson.

