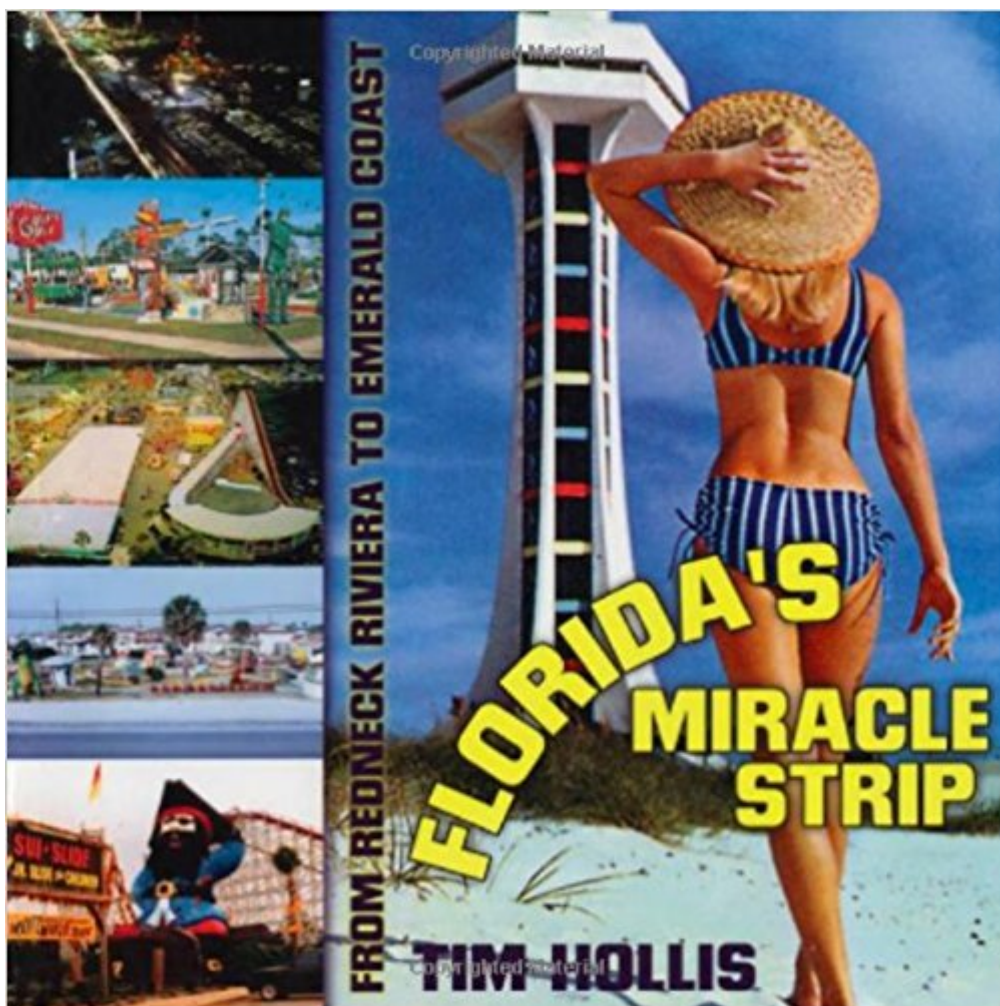


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# Florida's Miracle Strip: From Redneck Riviera To Emerald Coast



## Synopsis

Since World War II, tourists have flocked to Florida's northwest Gulf Coast and sun and fun spots at Panama City Beach, Fort Walton Beach, and Pensacola Beach. Every year those visitors number in the millions. For those who long to recall how the vacationland appeared thirty, forty, or even fifty years ago, Tim Hollis has written *Florida's Miracle Strip: From Redneck Riviera to Emerald Coast*. In a style that informs and entertains, Hollis describes the rise of early developments, such as Long Beach Resort, and major tourist attractions, such as the Gulfarium and the Miracle Strip Amusement Park. With heartfelt nostalgia and a dose of tongue-in-cheek, he reminisces on the motels and tourist cottages; the restaurants, such as Captain Anderson's and Staff's; the elaborate miniature golf courses, such as Goofy Golf and its many imitators. He takes a special delight in recovering the memories of those quirky businesses that now exist only in faded photographs and aging postcards, such wacky tourist traps as Castle Dracula, Petticoat Junction, Tombstone Territory, and the Snake-A-Torium. In the book, Hollis examines how this area became known as the "Miracle Strip," and how the local chambers of commerce got so tired of that image that the name gradually fell into disuse. The book is illustrated with a profusion of vintage photos and advertisements, most of which have not been seen in print since their original appearances. For the nostalgia lover, the snowbird, the tourist seeking yesteryear, *Florida's Miracle Strip: From Redneck Riviera to Emerald Coast* will be a welcome traveling companion. Tim Hollis is the author of *Hi There, Boys and Girls! America's Local Children's TV Programs* and *Dixie Before Disney: 100 Years of Roadside Fun*, both from University Press of Mississippi.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A nostalgic romp through the tourist attractions and vintage hotels of the Sunshine State's Gulf Coast

Tim Hollis is the author of *Hi There, Boys and Girls! America's Local Children's TV Programs* (2001) and *Dixie Before Disney: 100 Years of Roadside Fun* (1999) both from University Press of Mississippi.

Hi Yall! Yeah, I'm a southern boy through and through, but I'm no redneck by a long shot! Not all of us southerners are rednecks, everybody just assumes we are. But one thing I can say is, back during the "day", this Miracle Strip area, with the Miracle Strip Amusement Park, Shipwreck Island Water Park, a variety of mini putt-putt golf sites, go carts, and the beloved, skee ball locations, not to mention tons of T-shirt shops for those "famous air-brushed" shirts of your vacation to the miracle mile area. This place was the "happening" spot for many of us southerners of the southeastern states, and those further off as well. This book has such memories in it, ranging from those of the 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's, and 80's. This book has pictures that is certain to joggle the ole memory banks of many good times that was had at good ole Panama City Beach, FL. Along with plenty of pics, there is some good reading to take you back to "yesteryear", when things were much simpler, and happier, than the sadness of today. Ah, but don't let change, (even if it does seem to be for the worse), dampen your great memories of days gone by. With such a vast array of pictures and readings, this book is sure to bring a smile back on your face, when you allow it to "take you back" to your great times, that you had at Panama City Beach. This book is a must for all of those who called Panama City Beach their summer vacation destination for many years; from a child with the parents, to the days in PC as an adult. Let this book take you back to life, as it should be.

Very interesting history of an area where I lived for a while back in the 50'-60's. It was nice seeing how the area grew and how utterly different (I didn't say better) it is now than then! Again worth the money just for the memories!

Loved this book. Tim's writing is engaging, informative and entertaining..!

Easy read and some interesting photos. Recommended

Great read. Brings back memories during the 1960's of PC and the Hang Out.

I have always found this mans work to be well researched, and a brilliant reflection on the past.

informative, made me see places like i was their with tim. I have been going to pcb since 1975 and have enjoyed the same places and missed the ones gone

This was a fun read, especially for those who were children when the touristy gimmicks of the Gulf coast were in their prime. I loved the pictures and the background info on my favorite attractions.

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