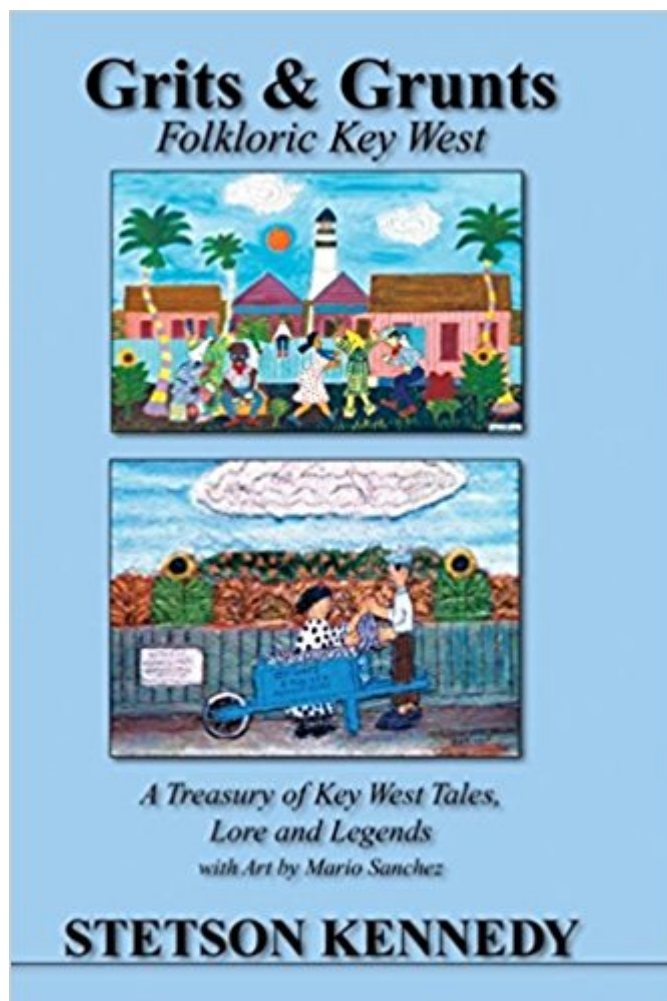


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Grits & Grunts: Folkloric Key West



Synopsis

Many a book has been written about Key West, but there has never been anything like Stetson Kennedy's *Grits & Grunts*, a portrait of the Key West that was. Neither a history (though you will learn a lot about Key West's unique past) nor a guidebook (though you will learn more about Key West than any guides offer), *Grits & Grunts* is a treasure trove gleaned from the rich multiculturalism that came to full-flower on "The Rock" during the first half of the twentieth century, when Key West was Key West. You'll find an abundant sampling of the inimitable art of Mario Sanchez, whose carved bas-relief paintings of Key West street scenes are in great demand around the world, as well as many never-before-published photographs. The overflowing Key West songbag is also here in all its abundance, from lullabies to traditional ballads, as well as games and folktales.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In this highly original work, Stetson Kennedy reveals himself as the consummate observer and storyteller offering fascinating glimpses into the unique people, history, and culture of Key West.

--Tina Bucuvalas, Director, Florida Folklife Program
Kennedy's keen observations and humor infuse a cornucopia of collected folklife gems giving voice to the diverse residents of the Rock. Kennedy, as folklore director for the Florida Writers Project of the 1930s, was one of the pioneering folklorists of the 20th century. --Peggy Bulger, Director, American Folklife Center, The Library of Congress

Stetson Kennedy has devoted his life to the championing of human rights, traditional culture, and stewardship of nature. A founding member of the Florida Folklore Society and Oral History Association, he is also a recipient of the Florida Folk Heritage Award and the Governor's Heartland Award, and is in the Florida Hall of Fame. He first came to Key West in 1935, married a Key West native, wrote the Key West Historical Pageant, and served as editor of the WPA Key West Guide. He has written many other books, including Palmetto Country and South Florida Folklife.

This book takes a look back at key west in days gone by. The history of the island is brought to light with not only history but surprises you would never have guessed.

A must read for anyone interested in Key West. Tons of information and anecdotes not found in your typical Conch book.

A bit of Key West history with interesting photos.

Anyone interested in Florida history in general and Key West history in particular will find this book fascinating. Stetson Kennedy lived there in the 1930s, and he has maintained a strong familiarity with "Bone Island." He covers a wide variety of fascinating topics by showing how the folklore was such a vibrant presence in the first part of the 20th Century. This book continues to showcase his "barefoot history" approach to writing about Florida's folklife, and his wonderful skills as a raconteur make the prose come alive. The book is also beautifully designed. The historical photographs and the artwork of renowned folk artist Mario Sanchez provide a vivid illustration of key themes and images that Kennedy discusses. It is especially inspiring to remember that this book was published by a brilliant writer who completed it when he was well into his 9th decade. Key Westers will likely enjoy Kennedy's writing about The Rock. For others, read this book before you visit Key West, when you're visiting Key West, or after you visit there.

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