

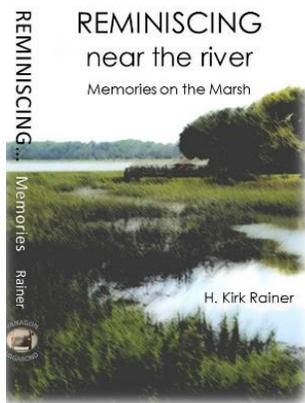
REMINISCING near the river Memories on the Marsh

Memories yes, but not without some elaboration and exaggeration. What is a story anyway but some truth with, well, some creative license?

The setting is evidently the marshes, bound in two or three places from Florida to South Carolina, near a river but not necessarily on it.

The time (period) spans multiple years but is likely from about the age of five to fifteen, 1966-1976, or about a decade; but keep in mind that I may from time to time flash forward given that much of adult years also includes this place, space.

Each story begins with a faint memory. Naturally, as the mind recollects other stories are conjured-up, the association and the likely triggering of something or someone long filed away in the recesses of one's mind or heart.



Each story is not written as it were, per se, but rather as I perceive that it was and perhaps what I was experiencing at the time, setting, senses and all other sensation. *I write about these accounts much as the narrator and central character does so in the sitcom some years ago, The Wonder Years*¹.

Although the stories begin at an earlier age (five versus twelve), the content is graphic at times; that is to say, it does address developing sexuality simply because it existed and sometimes to the nth degree. Indeed, kids “went steady”, kissed and did other things; each, their own journey except where it involved another. In all sincerity, these were the times we lived in both as to age, obviously, but also influence, *the sexual revolution*.

Another inspiration for this book, this collection of stories, is Bob Dylan's song, “My Back Stories”, and the refrain, “I was so much older then I'm younger than that now”. Much more in these later years of my life is a reflection on this time period of impressions, insight, ideals and innocent.

Can my stories be that interesting to others? I am not sure, but everyone has at least one good story and perhaps more....

¹ From Wikipedia: The Wonder Years...stars Fred Savage as Kevin Arnold, a teenager growing up in a suburban middle-class family. The series depicts the social and family life of a boy in a typical American suburban middle-class family from 1968 to 1973, covering the ages of 12 through 17.