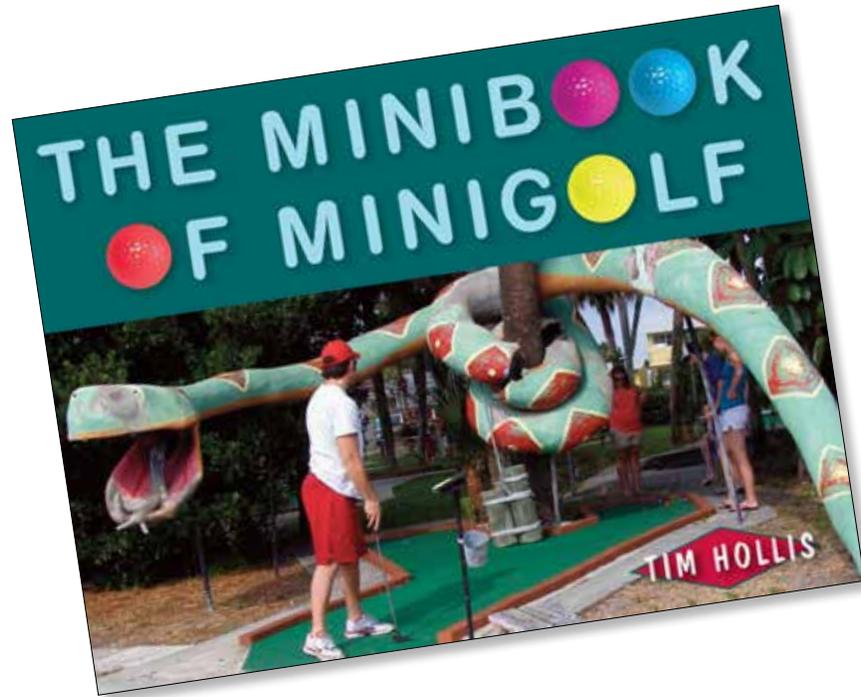


WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING



“Tim Hollis hits a hole in one in this beautiful and entertaining look at America’s miniature golf courses.”

—**BRIAN RUCKER**, author of *Treasures of the Panhandle*

“I can’t wait to add this fun little book to my collection. Hollis makes the world of miniature golf come to life with unique vintage postcards and photos.”

—**RICK KILBY**, author of *Finding the Fountain of Youth*

“Chock-full of long-lost courses and others which have remarkably survived, this collection will trigger the memories of those lucky enough to have lived when giant fiberglass and plaster statues were commonplace.”

—**DEBRA JANE SELTZER**, RoadsideArchitecture.com



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THE MINIBOOK OF MINIGOLF
TIM HOLLIS

978-0-942084-94-8
Paperback \$14.95
128 pp. | 6 x 4 ½ | 172 color photos
UNIVERSITY PRESS OF FLORIDA - APRIL 2015



TIM HOLLIS is the author of twenty-five books chronicling various aspects of popular culture and history, including *Hi There, Boys and Girls! America's Local Children's TV Programs*, *Mouse Tracks: The Story of Walt Disney Records*, *Selling the Sunshine State: A Celebration of Florida Tourism Advertising*, and *Ain't that a Knee-Slapper: Rural Comedy in the Twentieth Century*.

TIM HOLLIS

is available for interviews and appearances.



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Q & A with TIM HOLLIS

author of

The Minibook of Minigolf

“I enjoy seeing such documentation because it reminds me of my own past, but there are probably those who are too young to remember it personally and just enjoy it because they think it looks funky!”

You’ve written several books on tourism and pop culture, including colorful celebrations of motel, restaurant, and breakfast cereal advertising. How did you decide to turn your attention to miniature golf?

I started taking photos of miniature golf courses and their obstacles when I was seven years old, so I had accumulated quite a few. It seemed like a natural decision.

You use many of your own photos in the book, including one from your very first visit to a miniature golf course. What intrigued you about miniature golf when you were young?

I was always fascinated with the statues and other obstacles.

What did you find most interesting about them?

As a kid, I’m sure it was just that they were larger than life and twice as colorful. Plus, it was part of the whole experience of being on vacation. I realized later that what I was really responding to was that each of the handmade concrete figures was one-of-kind, not mass-produced.

Which miniature golf course did you have the most fun visiting while working on this book?

Unfortunately, there aren't many of the old concrete-dinosaur-and-windmill courses left, but I think most people would agree that the great survivor is Goofy Golf in Panama City Beach, Florida. Running a close second is Sir Goony Golf in Chattanooga, Tennessee, but unlike Goofy, that one has been remodeled several times since it was built.

Where did you find all the vintage postcards and advertisements used in the book?

I took a good number of the photos myself, and obtained others from fellow roadside history enthusiasts. Most of the postcards came from eBay or antique stores.

What is “roadside history”?

That term has come to represent the documentation of any part of the American commercial landscape that has disappeared or at least changed drastically over the decades—restaurants, motels, roadside attractions and so on. I enjoy seeing such documentation because it reminds me of my own past, but there are probably those who are too young to remember it personally and just enjoy it because they think it looks funky!

How does the roadside history of the South differ from other regions of the U.S.?

Practically all attractions in the South, in one way or another, were directed at people who were heading toward Florida. Even though Tennessee had its own vibrant tourism industry, it was still a state people passed through on their way to the Sunshine State. For comparison, other regions attracted visitors from their own areas (think of upstate New York or the Wisconsin Dells), or were perhaps tied to major arteries such as Route 66.

What do you hope readers will enjoy the most about your book?

I hope they enjoy savoring the vintage photos—as well as more modern-day photos of surviving vintage courses—and comparing the similarities and differences in courses from various areas and eras.

What trends do you see in the design of miniature golf courses today?

At least since the 1980s, the trend has been away from using statuary as obstacles, and I'm not sure just why. Today's courses are huge, with landscaping and fantasy decorations galore, but they are there just to set a mood. There are plenty of fiberglass giraffes and gorillas, but you no longer have to putt between their feet, for example.

Do you have one sentence of advice for aspiring authors?

Don't be discouraged by that first rejection letter—or the second, or the twenty-fifth, or the sixty-seventh . . .

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