**PREFACE**

--What I don’t know isn’t knowledge.

Anonymous

If you are looking for religious, e.g. Christian Christmas stories, you will not find them herein. These stories are not anti-Christian; rather they are a-Christian. The occasion for their telling might just as well have been the Fourth of July or Labor Day or even President’s Day. They are merely stories around a theme.

Do these stories provide some profound perspicacity into the deep and underlying understanding of the cardinal conditions of humankind, as do the insights of the great masters? Negatory. These are fun stories, perhaps analogous to nursery rhymes, not based in profundity.

It is left to the reader to input any sagacious discernment into these brief astonishing human accounts. For example, what did, in fact, Earnest Hemingway really mean by those erudite words, “A Clean Well-Lighted Place”? I guess he was a man of his word. My stories are mere anecdotes from the past.

This last paragraph is devoted to Audrey Hawkins, Department of Geography, University of Georgia, whose complicity in these stories is limited to her expertise in rendering them typographically, i.e., wordprocessingly, literate from their initial befuddled scribblings to this final finishing. Any errors in fact or fiction are sincerely regretted by the author.

 Athens, Georgia

 December, 2007