

community-based educational principles, while the Department of Education recently used the image to introduce No Child Left Behind. Images of the little red schoolhouse also adorn clothing, stationery, and other consumer goods that link nostalgia to personal spending.

Zimmerman examines short stories, poems, political campaigns, and advertising to trace the origins of the image and to prove that the icon continues to meet the needs of multiple agendas. Despite their contradictory messages, Zimmerman argues that one-room schools' most powerful legacy lies in their symbolic meaning, not their functional reality. Current educators will find the juxtaposition of rural schools' historic image and their political uses engaging, while those interested in the history of American education will find rich analysis and a number of useful sources.

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An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century. By Jack E. Davis. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009. 616 pp., \$34.95, hardback, ISBN 978-0-8203-3071-6.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas, best known as author of *The Everglades: River of Grass*, was much more—a newspaper reporter, award-winning playwright, poet, publisher, social activist and, in her later years, an environmentalist. In this charismatic narrative, Davis weaves together themes of Florida history, wetland drainage, environmental renaissance, creation of Everglades National Park, and restoration.

Born in 1890 Douglas was an only child who found refuge in books. After graduating from Wellesley College and a short marriage, she reunited in 1915 with her estranged father, Frank Stoneman, editor of the *Miami Herald*. Douglas worked for the paper before joining the Navy for a brief stint during World War I. Her ensuing job as a Red Cross relief worker in Europe, along with her Quaker roots, laid the foundation for her strong social conscience.

Douglas lived in Miami for five years before she visited the Everglades. Davis notes that “she had little more than an elegiac fascination with nature” when she began her research on the ecosystem (20). But Douglas sought advice from experts, notably hydrologist Garald Parker and anthropologist John Goggin. The resultant book ranks with those of Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson as seminal environmental texts of the twentieth century. Yet, Douglas’s work, unlike the others, was descriptive rather than prescriptive. Davis writes, that “she was not particularly harsh with any of the unsavory land merchants who show up in *River of Grass*” (146).

Only in the early 1970s, when most Floridians of her generation were dead, did Douglas become a full-fledged environmental activist. Her credentials

as an author, sharp mind, and eloquence, allowed Douglas to launch continuous attacks on those who sought to despoil Florida. She and colleagues lobbied for establishment of Biscayne National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve. They stopped jetport and oil refinery developments and helped spur Kissimmee River restoration. Marjory's last effort was a push for restoration of the entire Everglades, which she had known before it was ravished by drainage and development. She died in 1998 at the age of 108, just as restoration efforts were embryonic.

Douglas's acknowledgements are as diverse as her accomplishments. They include nine honorary degrees and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1997 Congress bestowed her name on the Everglades Wilderness Area. Douglas's life, however, was not idyllic. She rarely felt financially secure, and her biography of William Henry Hudson was never completed. Nonetheless, her achievements are extraordinary. Davis has crafted a masterpiece that honors one of America's most remarkable women. Although there are some factual errors throughout the text, Davis's book is a "must read" for all Floridians, as well as those interested in environmental history and the Everglades. Douglas may have preferred sipping an afternoon Scotch in her Coconut Grove cottage to wading through an Everglades marsh, but without her herculean efforts, perhaps none of us could enjoy that pleasure today.

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Growing American Rubber: Strategic Plants and the Politics of National Security. By Mark R. Finlay. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2009. 360 pp., \$49.95, hardback, ISBN 973-0-8135-4483-0.

In *Growing American Rubber*, Mark Finlay offers a broadly conceived and painstakingly researched history of efforts to grow rubber-producing crops within the borders of the United States. He provides a valuable and entertaining account that ably integrates the disciplinary concerns of agricultural history, industrial history, and the history of science.

Focused chiefly on the first half of the twentieth century, Finlay's narrative addresses the history of the championship, by American scientists, technologists, and industrial leaders of various latex-producing plants—either native or imported—that could grow on American soil. It is a motley botanical crew indeed, ranging from the scrubby desert shrub guayule, to the invasive tropical vine cryptostegia, to various species of goldenrod, to the Russian dandelion. Their human advocates are no less diverse, including corporations such as the Intercontinental Rubber Company, eminent Caltech scientists, and American icons such as Thomas Edison and (unsurprisingly) Henry Ford and Harvey Firestone, to incarcerated Japanese Americans at Manzanar.

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