

# FINALLY... THE WARM SPRINGS STORY

## LEGACY & LEGEND

The Warm Springs story, one of the best American sagas ever, is finally getting its due. A new book by F. Martin Harmon, a veteran journalist with over 43 years of writing experience and the public relations director at Roosevelt Warm Springs for 13 of those years, *The Warm Springs Story: Legacy & Legend*, is scheduled for publication this May by Mercer University Press and can currently be purchased at the pre-publication price of \$28 (visit [www.fmartinharmon.com](http://www.fmartinharmon.com)).

Not just another Franklin Delano Roosevelt book, it's the story of a little known place made famous by the great man and in its telling, he is made even greater. It's the inspiring story the history books mostly missed.

Starting with Native American legends and the direct involvement of the elite families of West Georgia, it highlights FDR's 41 visits to his adopted home and the amazing polio generation at Warm Springs. From pioneer beginnings to civil and disability rights; from social causes and lasting initiatives to medical origins and heartwarming success stories; and from near closure, re-birth, and a multitude of what-might-have-beens to one of mankind's most enduring achievements; this is the complete story of Warm Springs – right up to the present day.

Throughout its 367 pages, meet well known participants, behind-the-scenes heroes, and human interest legends; all individual examples of FDR's famous "spirit of Warm Springs" – personal stories that illustrate the true significance of the place and its importance in the lives of so many. By sharing these individual episodes of people in the Warm Springs saga along with major events, milestones, and developments through almost nine decades of compassionate care, the tremendous worth of the place is well established. Unfortunately, this tremendous value has been accompanied by missed opportunities, abandoned roots, and a failure to take full advantage of the wonderful legacy that is Warm Springs. While other American heritage sites of much less significance have been totally preserved and profited from, only part of the Warm Springs story, the FDR part, has ever been secured. While *The Little White House* and *Historic Outdoor Pools* remain important historic destinations, they are only a fraction of the National Historic Landmark District and the story of Warm Springs, the rest of which has never been properly maintained (much less told).

Hopefully, this book can help alert the powers that be to the true potential, economic and otherwise, that still exists at this little West Georgia crossroads. Like the Lincolns and Washingtons

with whom he shares rarified status, FDR's influence remains so universal in so many ways that it's easy to understand how this part of his massive story might have been overlooked. What's not so easy to understand is how it was allowed to happen. With more than a decade of direct access to Warm Springs' legends, archives, and icons, Harmon paints a picture of a place that should be a Georgia point-of-pride, but has too often struggled just to survive — a historic, hidden jewel that remains largely under-appreciated and under-utilized... a place with an amazing story that's finally being told — in its entirety.



To access the pre-publication special, call Mercer University Press at 1-800-895-1472 toll free or go to [www.mupress.org](http://www.mupress.org). Use the code WSS28. You may also e-mail [mupressorders@merc.edu](mailto:mupressorders@merc.edu). In addition, *The Warm Springs Story: Legacy & Legend* will be available online through Barnes & Noble or Amazon, as well as locally wherever fine books are sold. Don't miss nearly 200 years of Warm Springs' history.