



Shantyboat On The Bayous

Harlan Hubbard

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Since the publication of *Shantyboat: A River Way of Life* in 1953, Harlan Hubbard achieved a wide reputation as a modern-day Thoreau. Not content simply to advocate a life of simplicity and self-sufficiency, Hubbard and his wife Anna in 1944 built with their own hands a houseboat on the banks of the Ohio near Cincinnati and in 1946 set out on a leisurely, five-year journey down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. *Shantyboat*, Hubbard's recounting of their journey to New Orleans, and *Payne Hollow: Life on the Fringe of Society*, his sequel telling of their life in a corner of rural Kentucky after their return, won him a host of readers.

Shantyboat on the Bayous is the middle chapter of the Hubbard saga. It tells of Harlan and Anna's voyage of explorations into the remote reaches of Louisiana. For more than a year after reaching New Orleans, the Hubbards meandered through the lush Cajun country on the Intracoastal Waterway, along Bayou Lafourche, through the marshes around Avery Island, and finally up the storied Bayou Teche toward the farthest point of navigation.

The story of these travels, along with the author's illustrations of the bayou country, offers a portrait of one of the most unusual and least-known regions of our country and of the people who inhabit it. In this book, the Hubbards once again demonstrate their gift for living in simple and eloquent harmony with the land. As Don Wallis notes in his foreword, *Shantyboat on the Bayous* completes Hubbard's autobiography of "the life he shared with Anna, self-created and self-sustained, difficult and joyful, full of achievement and discovery, diligence, pleasure, and reward."

Here is a jewel of a travel book, certain to be treasured by Hubbard's many admirers and discovered by scores of new ones.

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