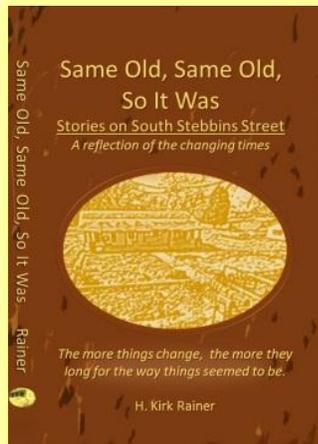


# Same Old, Same Old, So It Was

## Stories on South Stebbins Street

**Same Old is about** the life and living in decline, socially and economically; of how this place and those similar are struggling to survive at the rate and depth of change.

**Is it true;** that *the more things change, the more they stay the same*? Is it true, then, that *the good ole days* were not so good after all? What is true is that *times are changing* and with that, so too life and living in a very real and deep sense. Promises of progress and prosperity are *giving-out* for a variety of reasons, causes. .



**Who is to blame; who is at fault?** Some will say that it is society, a moral decline. Others will say it is economic; the loss of “good jobs”, *upward-mobility* and “real inflation” among other, similarly-described, statistics and trends.

These stories are not about the causes per se, who or what is at fault, or any similar, scientific analysis; rather, about the **struggles and sacrifices** in both social and economic decline—making ends meet when the no end is in sight of the problems that have and will continue to precipitate and even plague our land as an empire falls the way of all before it.

**Features of the stories are:**

- **Setting** – a working-class community, largely protestant, evangelical, at this west-end of the John C. Calhoun county
- **Plot** – each story has a unique plot though the common theme of all the stories is the struggle, sacrifice as describe above
- **Characters** – all stories share the common character and narrator, Howard, along with one or more other members of the community, family, friend and other.
- **Short story** – each story can *stand-alone* though all stories share the commons, community around Stebbins Street,

Good features of any story are:

- **Hook** – the beginning of the story grabs the reader’s attention.
- **Desire** – the author creates a **protagonist** to be to achieve a goal.
- **Conflict** – the author creates need conflict that the protagonist must deal with....
- **Challenge and Obstacles** – the protagonist must face obstacles and setbacks
- **Climax** – the story must include a turning point; usually, the protagonist confronts the **antagonist**.
- **Resolution** – the ending...loose ends are linked, unresolved questions, closed.