

Remembering Eudora Welty (1909-2001)

By Renée Love

Her stories and photographs amazed and surprised those who knew them, but the creative work alone was not all that her friends and admirers loved: the modesty, wit, generosity, and friendship she unfailingly displayed is also a common theme in the obituary tributes and remembrances written in honor of Eudora Welty in July of 2001. The death of a master writer may always inspire reflection, praise, and even re-evaluation of a career, but the one hundred plus articles and essays memorializing Welty as often contain anecdotes of personal experience with her—a dinner conversation, a walk through the mall, a drive from a train station, a chance meeting in the grocery or on a cruise ship, a visit in her home or in that of some charmed hostess or host. Many of the obituaries cover common ground, outlining the basic facts of her life, listing her works, summarizing her career and citing the many awards she received. The authors are mostly journalists or professional book page editors, but professors and poets, photographers and producers, fiction writers of two or three generations and politicians are heard from in quoted interviews. In the Winter 2002 issue of the *Eudora Welty Newsletter*, I include summaries of seventy-four cited pieces, short quotes, and information about those who were interviewed or quoted in the obituary. The entries are arranged chronologically by publication date.

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