

# HOORAH PATCH PRESS

**A BOY CALLED COMBUSTION:  
GROWING UP IN 1940s MISSISSIPPI**  
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## **NEW MEMOIR CELEBRATES FONDREN FOUNDER, FAMILY AND HISTORY**

**ATLANTA/JANUARY 23, 2014:** Jackson native Bill Keeton M.D. shares memories of family, Fondren and (sometimes calamitous) fun in his new memoir, *A Boy Called Combustion*, published by Hoorah Patch Press this January in trade paperback and Kindle e-book editions and currently the #1 bestseller in its category on the site.

A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Medicine who now lives and practices pain medicine in Atlanta, Dr. Keeton credits Fondren with both happy memories and valuable life lessons.

The Fondren community is named after his grandfather, D.F. Fondren, who built a family home and the Fondren Grocery on the land he purchased near the former site of an insane asylum.

Nicknamed “Combustion” for reasons readers will immediately understand, young Bill grew up as part of the large Fondren family. Accidentally knocking down his grandparents’ garage, “helping” neighbors paint their house, and denting his mother’s brand new stove with his BB gun, Combustion constantly surprised all who knew him. The book’s 31 linked stories range in time from the author’s early childhood through his years in college. They savor the vivid imagination behind a child’s comic exploits, the wisdom gained in the aftermath, and the colorful family and friends who shared both the lessons and the fun.

Local landmarks including the Duling School, Brent’s Drug Store, and the Pix Theatre feature prominently in the stories, though another often-referenced place—the D.F. Fondren family home on North State Street, affectionately known as the Big House—was demolished in 1953.

Darden North, winner of the 2011 IPPY Award for Southern Fiction, calls the book “a downright funny, while poignant, tale of family survival and patience told by a masterful storyteller—a unique coming of age for a young man in Mississippi that will reach readers well beyond the Deep South,” adding, “Dennis the Menace ain’t got nothing on Billy Keeton.”

Featuring 20 pages of vintage photographs and beautifully designed by CJ Madigan of Shoebox Stories, the 189-page book retails for \$13.95 in trade paperback and \$3.99 in Kindle e-book.

Dr. Keeton, who comments that “I think my grandfather would be pleased by how much people love living in Fondren today, as well as surprised by the size and complexity of modern-day Jackson,” is available for phone and email interviews, talks and signings. Complete author biography, Q/A, media kit and image slideshow are available on the [media kit page](#) of [www.billkeeton.com](http://www.billkeeton.com).