

NEWARK
The Star-Ledger

Here's Peter

3/8/92

LITTLE FOLLIES: The Personal History,
Adventures, Experiences & Observations of
Peter Leroy (So Far)
by Eric Kraft. Crown. \$12. ROSE-FR
HARRIS

Eric Kraft is one of our best writers, the author of two extraordinary novels - "Hart'n'Laura," a critical favorite, and the even more admirable "Reservations Recommended," an urban fable told in the guise of restaurant reviews. But there are a number of admirers who longed for one more book by Kraft, until now unavailable, the adventures of an unlikely hero named Peter Leroy.

These stories, some of them a decade old, were originally radio scripts. They were supposed to have been published in book form at the time they were aired, but the deal fell through. Now, Kraft has given us all of the Leroy stories, plus a new ninth one that was written for this book. They are quite as delightful as anything he has written.

The highly imaginative writing contains passages such as this one in praise of clam shells as the answer to family boredom, all in the guise of an admonition from something called the Bobbington Clam Council, which urges making knickknacks from clam shells in these words: "Say, Mom, your family's counting on you! They're counting on you to come up with something clever to do in the evening, something that will make them forget, for a few happy hours, the monotony of work and the tedium of school."

There's no monotony or tedium in these delightful pages.