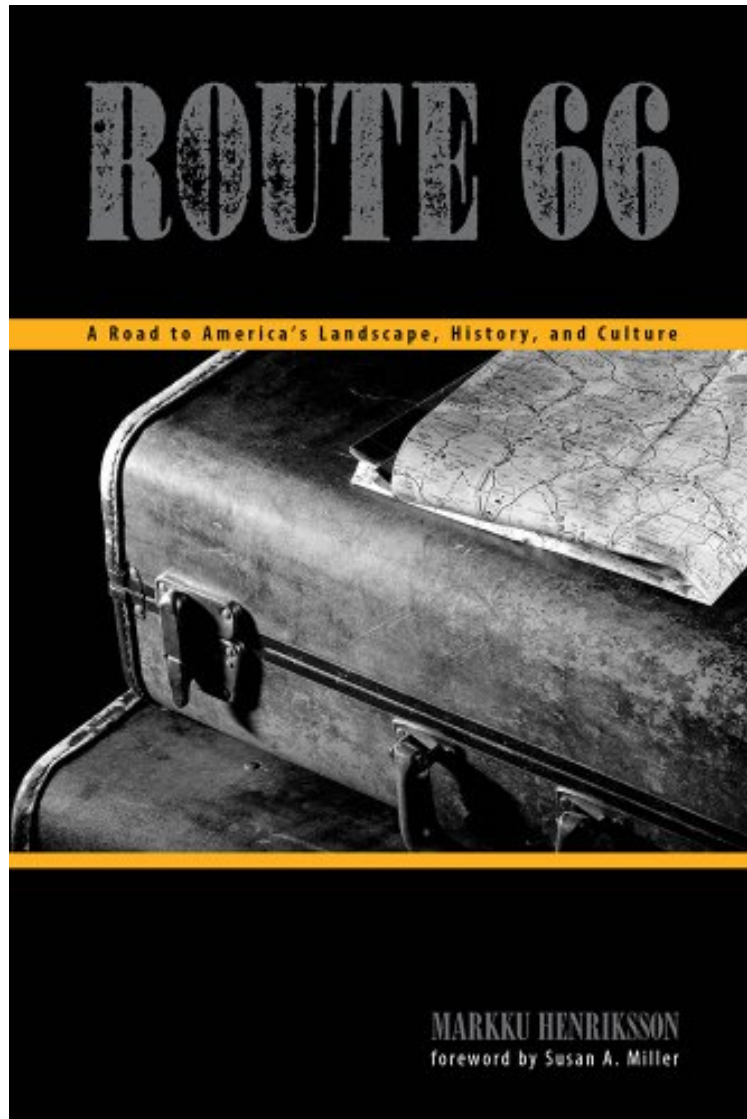


[Free read ebook] Route 66: A Road to America's Landscape, History, and Culture (Plains Histories)

Route 66: A Road to America's Landscape, History, and Culture (Plains Histories)

Markku Henriksson

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#4843507 in Books 2014-03-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.10 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 0896728250356 pages | File size: 49.Mb

Markku Henriksson : Route 66: A Road to America's Landscape, History, and Culture (Plains Histories)

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Route 66: A Road to America's Landscape, History, and Culture (Plains Histories):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Missed Opportunities By Peter Dedek It is unclear what kind of book this is supposed to be, history book, tour book, or personal travelogue, but it doesn't succeed as any of these. Instead,

its a choppy collection of Route 66 trivia and personal observations. As a history book it offers few insights or new information, and it does not work as a tour book, because it is not organized like one and has too few illustrations and no maps, nor is it an interesting travelogue. The authors observations are often irrelevant, like when he tells readers about what he and his wife ate at various restaurants or that 313 is Donald Ducks license plate number. Although published in 2014, it is based on two trips the author, took in 1996 and 2002 making much of the information over a decade old. For some locations, such as Chicago, St. Louis, and Los Angeles, he gives painstakingly detailed histories but then blows past other places, like Amarillo, which are also closely associated with Route 66. One of the author's intended goals was to write about Native Americans, but he made no effort to record their views or memories of the highway, and describes Native Americans through a fuzzy, touristic lens. He also makes stereotypic and nave statements such as Navajos and the Hopis are friendly without exception (p.170) and this inane comment, . . . but the driver who does not realize hes on Indian land now has got to be blind. Unfortunately, even blind people get drivers licenses in these parts of the world, (p. 153) what? This book missed a lot of opportunities. It provides an interesting description of the health and environmental damage caused by mining in Galena, Kansas, on Route 66, but then never picks up the interesting environmental thread again. It discusses movies and television and music, but rarely really connects them with Route 66. The book has no clear theme and bounces from subject to subject. At the end, the author drops readers off at the Santa Monica pier without even offering a conclusion to help them make sense of the rambling journey they just taken. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Unoriginal, uninspired, and boring

By Jeremy Olsen
Being a big fan of Route 66 literature, I picked this book up because the back cover read "...yielding a more holistic and complex picture than any previous study...Not a history of the road itself and the towns along the way, Henriksson's perspective instead offers insight into America and its culture as revealed in its peoples, their histories, cultures, and music.". Most interested readers would think that sounds really entertaining and refreshing and the book would provide some new insights about the people along the road and what that says about American society, and the Route's place in that. Instead, the reader is literally treated to a rehash of nearly every previous Route 66 book combined. Considering the back cover reads "Not a history of the road itself and the towns along the way...", it's rather peculiar that Mr. Henriksson devotes the majority of the first chapter (and many others) to blandly and robotically doing just that. The entirety of the Chapter on Chicago literally recounts all of the city's major historical events, as if they were being taught to a high school history class (here Mr. Henriksson incorrectly informs the reader that the great Chicago Fire was caused by Ms. O'Leary's cow...even though multiple historians have proved the story is a myth. The city council even exonerated Ms. O'Leary in 1997!). And so on and so on for 200+ pages....where's the insight into the Route's peoples? I guess, if there is a consistent cultural narrative here, it's one in which all white Americans are bad and have kept down minorities, specifically Native Americans. Mind you, I've traveled the Route and I do understand and sympathize with, the challenges faced by Native peoples but Mr. Henriksson seems to be pushing an agenda, not having any neutral insight into race relations in modern-day America. I was struck by how little the author delves into the real "race-neutral" problems that have effected the Mother Road. Poverty and unemployment are given cursory nods, mostly in conjunction with the Great Depression and "The Grapes of Wrath". While these are still persistent issues that plague citizens of all races along the road, you wouldn't know it from reading this book. All in all, this book was a big disappointment for me. If you are looking for a book that will blandly relate the major historical events along the Road, this would be OK (which is why I gave it 2 stars). But don't read this expecting much insight into the American people, other than perhaps some very tired Eurocentric stereotypes.

When Markku Henriksson was growing up in Finland, the song (Get Your Kicks on) Route 66 was one of only two he could recognize in English or Finnish. It was not until 1989 that Henriksson would catch his first glimpse of the legendary highway. It was enough to lure Henriksson four years later to the second international Route 66 festival in Flagstaff. There he realized that Route 66 was the perfect basis for a multidisciplinary American Studies course, one that he has been teaching at the University of Helsinki ever since. Forming the soul of this work and yielding a more holistic and complex picture than any previous study are Henrikssons 1996 (east to west) and 2002 (west to east) journeys along the full length of the Route and his mastery of the literature and film that illuminate the Routes place in Americana. Not a history of the road itself and the towns along the way, Henrikssons perspective offers insight into America and its culture as revealed in its peoples, their histories, cultures, and music as displayed along the Mother Road.

Route 66 is a love letter to Americas Main Street. For all its historical and cultural context, this is, ultimately, a Finns celebration of that fantasy of the American Road. Susan A. Miller, from the foreword