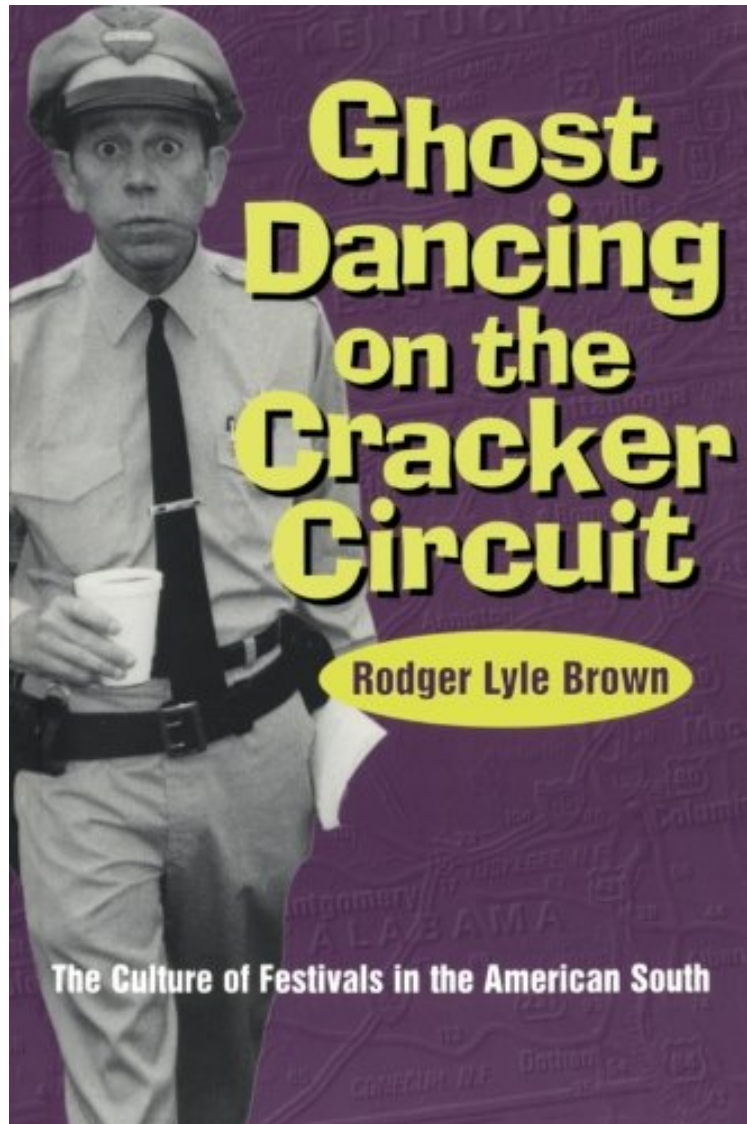


(Free read ebook) Ghost Dancing on the Cracker Circuit: The Culture of Festivals in the American South

Ghost Dancing on the Cracker Circuit: The Culture of Festivals in the American South

Rodger Lyle Brown

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#3061647 in Books University Press of Mississippi 1997-02-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .52 x 6.00l, .85 #File Name: 0878059067228 pages | File size: 31.Mb

Rodger Lyle Brown : Ghost Dancing on the Cracker Circuit: The Culture of Festivals in the American South before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ghost Dancing on the Cracker Circuit: The Culture of Festivals in the American South:

5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. MediocreBy A CustomerThe author somehow loses his direction from the time he came up with the idea for the book and the time it was written...Though there is a dearth of books in

this particular area, Brown misses the opportunity to make it a really spectacular piece, by getting off on lofty, philosophical, anthropological rhetoric which the lay person will find particularly boring. The historical origins of the festivals and the information about the festivals themselves was particularly good....Is this man a true Southerner? His deprecating remarks about some of the festival participants would indicate that this is not the case. How can he in good conscience ridicule his Southern "kin"? 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. From the Associated Press: By A Customer "Every so often, a book comes out that is entirely, refreshingly new -- not just in approach and style, but in idea, scope and theme. Rodger Lyle Brown, while doing doctoral work at Emory University, decided to weave his journeys to Southern festivals into a tale that has most ambitious task: to show that the way Southerners celebrate history and heritage is part of a tapestry of melancholy that illustrates the fading of community. He succeeds mightily....For anyone interested in the South, social history or the human condition, this is a book that is not to be missed." --Ted Anthony, Associated Press National Writer. April, 1998. 7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Glib approach to southern culture By Jeff Potter Sadly, this book is "more of the same": poke fun of the hillbillies. It seems written from an MFA grad-student approach with an NPR polish applied. Light and witty, urban, no real feel for the subjects. Humor is great, of course, but here it doesn't quite work: there's a disconnect. A bit of a snotty tour of the South. Sure, I had some laughs and learned some things, but...The old Ten Speed Press books on white trash cooking are funny yet also connected, so it can be done. I bought this book while exploring southern culture awhile back. I usually hang on to books more than I should. But this thin, slick little thing got sold. In contrast, Grady McWhiney's "Cracker Culture" is insightful, original and astonishing. And I've kept it.

Everybody knows about community festivals that celebrate the good ol' days events like Rattlesnake Roundup, Peanut Days, and Mule Day. Countless towns around the South stage them. They set aside one weekend a year, rope off some parking, and celebrate some local theme on the courthouse lawn or in a nearby pasture, touting lost days of imagined glory. The phenomenon is rapidly proliferating across the region, but until now the deeper significance of these hometown events has not been explored. In *Ghost Dancing on the Cracker Circuit* Rodger Brown takes the reader on a road trip across the South. He visits many festivals and unweaves their webs to find the meaning that underlies them. Contrary to popular interpretation of them as times of celebration and fund-raising, Brown discerns them to be times of mourning. Behind the scrim of jolly slideshows he finds communities responding to economic restructuring and cultural change. As he travels across the South, he absorbs vivid impressions of boosterism and cornball symbolism. Along this comical trail that he terms the cracker circuit he perceives how these seasonal events are staged by white sponsors attempting to resurrect a splendid past that actually never existed. He likens them to legendary Indians ghost dancing in ceremonial performances staged to conjure up a lost paradise. In chapters with such titles as *Stuffing Sin in a Lard Bucker* and *Aunt Bees Death Certificate* Brown not only sketches intriguing portraits of people and places but also makes fascinating revelations the political meaning of Green Acres and Gilligans Island, the real story behind the Hatfield and McCoy Feud, and the surprising role of *The Andy Griffith Show* in contemporary southern mythography. Brown's adventurous, good-natured inspection of this pervasive cultural curiosity discloses the state of the South at the turn of the millennium.

From *Library Journal* Brown (American studies, Emory Univ.) has traveled across the South attending small community festivals and delving into their origins and traditions. He has created here a social history of small-town Southern communities. Using festivals such as the Rattlesnake Roundup in Whigham, Georgia, and the Chittlin' Strut in Salley, South Carolina, he successfully shows a cross-section of an America rapidly being gobbled up by larger urban areas. He maintains that the festivals are a last-ditch effort to maintain community cohesion and identity. Brown compellingly combines sometimes humorous scenarios from these festivals with revelations on the social significance they might represent. Recommended for public and academic libraries. Sandra Knowles, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Inside Flap A look into deep communal meanings that emerge as small towns stage their annual festivals