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New Jersey Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff (Curiosities Series)



Synopsis

New Jersey--home of "The Sopranos," ten-story-high landfills, and the ugliest highway in the history of pavement (the New Jersey Turnpike), also claims the world's best spaghetti, nicest sandwich, and biggest ice cream cone, not to mention world-famous crabs, cheesesteaks, chili dogs, peanut brittle, and milkshakes. But it's not all about food. Within these pages you will discover animal actors, the nation's oldest nudist camp, and International Castor Oil Association (which is taking new members).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

New Jersey Curiosities is your round-trip ticket to the wildest, wackiest, most outrageous people, places, and things this state has to offer. Writer Peter Genovese has combed New Jersey for one-of-a-kind gems that make his home state truly unique. You'll meet the undisputed Weenie Queen of Garfield, visit a hot dog shop that doubles as the Famous Monsters of Filmland Shrine, and groan at one-liners from the only blind waiter/stand-up comedian in New Jersey. You'll learn the proper way to cook a garbage can turkey, get the skinny on the real birthplace of baseball, and hear the story of Waving Willie, New Jersey's friendliest roadside character. You'll feel the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat at the New Jersey Cockroach Derby and then relive the OK Corral shoot-out, carry a coffin down Main Street, and shoot cap guns at bad guys in Wild West City.

Manasquan resident Pete Genovese is a feature writer for The (Newark, NJ) Star-Ledger and

author of Roadside New Jersey, Jersey Diners, and The Great American Road Trip: US 1, Maine to Florida. Winner of various state press association awards, he was also nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for his Rwanda series. He oversees and writes the Munchmobile series, and authors a weekly food review column, "Eat with Pete."

Peter loves New Jersey and it always shows in his books. I'm a fan of him and of our beloved Garden State. My husband and I just moved back to our home state and use his guides for our weekend rides around NJ. Lots of fun!

Great reading

If you are a fan of weird no like me then this book too will be a good read for you

Fun and easy to read book about all the weird stuff in Jersey. I wish more pictures/maps were included. The book is a bit disorganized (hard to use as a guide), but it is very fun to read.

Being a fan of Weird NJ for several years, I recently decided to try out other books that chornicle the strange, unusual and the funny stuff that can be found within our borders. I found this to be a very decent, relatively comprehensive guide to those weird roadside items of the book's title. The author, Peter Genovese, is a writer for the Star Ledger, and runs a regular series about good places to grab lunch at, and has also written several other NJ based books about such things as diners, the jersey shore, and a previous book on weird stuff in NJ. He clearly has qualifications to write such a book, and it's obvious he enjoys Weird NJ, as many of the items referenced can be found in Weird NJ. In fact, this book is really a cross between Genovese Munchmobile column and the Weird NJ Roadside Guide. This book really is not comparable to the Weird NJ book recently published by the Marks, in that they are two different books. The Weird NJ book is all about stories and myths, and although you can go out and visit some of the things referenced in the book, it isn't meant as a travel guide. This book is, and it functions quite well. It features many things not found in the Weird NJ Guide and really does deserve a spot on any weird NJ fans book shelf. Some people like his first roadside guide better, while others found that book totally useless/. I can't compare the two books but I can say that this book is thoroughly enjoyable and worth the money. Pluses: interesting trivia and factoids about NJ minuses: pictures are B&W

A great read for fans of Weird NJ, regional history and the offbeat in general, Peter Genovese's book is both entertaining and informative. Unlike Weird NJ, you won't find much about ghost stories, UFO sightings and urban myths in "New Jersey Curiosities

For anyone who likes the concept of Weird NJ but feel the folklore and reader letters are fiction, this is a great non-fiction book for you. It's about the many quirky things in the wacky garden state, broken down into three sections-- North Central and South. Besides summaries on Lucy the Elephant, and the blind waiter diner in Hasbrouck Heights, the book also includes little known fun facts about the state, that we are home to the nation's only on-campus diner, and that the oldest log cabin in the country. And did you know the movie Jaws was based on a fatal Jersey shark attack? Well, then, read the book.

While this book was okay, I was kind of disappointed. It seems to just be rehashed articles from the author's previous two books, Roadside NJ and Jersey Diners, without all of the great pictures that originally accompanied them. I would recommend buying one of those books, which are still published by Rutgers University Press, rather than this one.

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