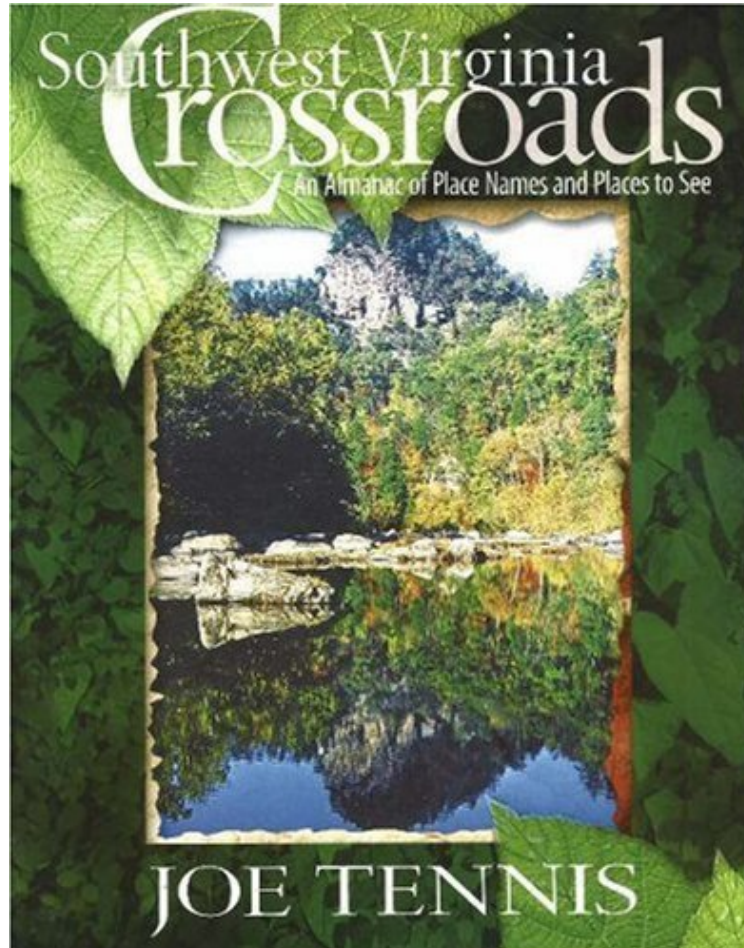


Southwest Virginia Crossroads: An Almanac of Place Names and Places to See

Joe Tennis

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Joe Tennis : Southwest Virginia Crossroads: An Almanac of Place Names and Places to See before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Southwest Virginia Crossroads: An Almanac of Place Names and Places to See:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Often neglected, never forgottenBy Jon L AlbeeI lived for a long time in Southwest Virginia. What surprises me so much is how ignorant and careless (even disparaging!) I was about this area while I was living there. Then, I moved.Now I wax lyrical about Virginia's "forgotten" region at any opportunity. If you're heading south on I-81, it all starts after you pass Roanoke, at Salem, as you start the ten-mile climb up the mountain to Christiansburg. Welcome to Southwest Virginia. An even more dramatic approach hits you heading north on I-77 out of Charlotte, NC. From Mt. Airy, NC, you start up the hill to Fancy Gap, with beautiful views of the North Carolina piedmont to the southeast. Stay with I-77 for another 20 miles and the lovely town of

Wytheville welcomes you to Southwest Virginia. As a student at Virginia Tech, and as a young, struggling professional living in Roanoke shortly thereafter, I took this magnificent landscape for granted. Now, I miss it enormously. Where do I begin? There's so much history, so many beautiful towns, so many gorgeous country roads through well-cultivated, rolling green hills, so many lakes and rivers, forests and trails, hills and mountains, music and food, colleges and universities... no wonder those with the wherewithal (and the financial means) headed west from the earliest colonial days! It's a small-town, nature-lover's paradise, and the very antithesis of metropolitan Washington, DC, in northern Virginia. As early as 1730, the word was out all along the colonial eastern seaboard. Enter Daniel Boone, and other important pioneers from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Tidewater Virginia. You should begin to get a feeling for the region with this book. Here's your comprehensive guide to "poor" Southwest Virginia. This book is NOT a travel guide, so it's not the best choice if you're looking for restaurant and hotel listings. This is really a cultural and natural encyclopedia to points of interest for the region beginning immediately south and west of Roanoke. Actually, the title describes this book well, and it's written by THE authority of the region, Mr. Joe Tennis. Roanoke itself is not included in the book, and counties in West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina very much LIKE those in Southwest Virginia are purposefully excluded. The book is organized by county, and includes descriptions and black white photographs of historic sites, natural features, roads, towns, and regional items. The entries are written in accessible style, but offer a depth of historical and cultural insight not found in mass-market travel guides. Not really intended for your coffee table, this book is a serious reference work. It's an excellent companion resource to your standard travel guide, for those looking for more in-depth information, a local perspective, and more than a few hidden treasures. Buy this book, and by ALL means, go for a visit. By the way, the secret is already out! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Must Have By Blue Ridge Sue We first discovered this book 12 years ago, when we were vacationing with 3 pre teens. We were tired of the Disney World experience and hopped into the car with mountains on our minds. Stopped in the Meadows of Dan, and in a small store found this "bible" full of things to do and places to go in Southwest Virginia. We all had a wonderful time exploring. Years later, my husband and I still use it as our map. We use this book as a diary. Everytime we visit a place, we write the date, time and experience in the margin. We have happily traveled all of these by roads thanks to Joe. This book is a perfect gift for people who have just moved here and for those who say that there is nothing to do here. This book is a true gem, just like Southwest Virginia...and this is why we have chosen this beautiful place to be our home. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Book With Lots of Great Information By Celtic Music Guy Good book with lots of good information. I'm planning on making a road trip to Southwest Virginia later this year as that's where many of my ancestors on my mother's side came from. The pictures are good but mostly black and white. This book will definitely accompany me and be a good resource during my upcoming trip.

The mountains, rivers, and lakes of Southwest Virginia have invited explorers since the mid-1700s. Now this land beckons the modern traveler with its siren song of beauty, wonder, and history. Southwest Virginia Crossroads: An Almanac of Place Names and Places to See extols the virtues of this national treasure and serves as a guide for those who want to find the best of America. As you journey with author Joe Tennis through Southwest Virginia Crossroads, he relates the history of the land and its people, chronicling the fascinating stories birthed in this fabled region, as well as age-old place-names and their origins. County maps and detailed directions lead you to all the little- and best-known attractions housed in cities and towns like Bristol and Abingdon or sheltered within the rolling farmland and weathered mountains. Even those familiar with the area will want to visit waterfalls, lakes, towns, cities, restaurants, and historical sites discovered in the! pages of this comprehensive work. Whether on the car dashboard or at home on the coffee table, Southwest Virginia Crossroads is a wealth of knowledge and a delight to read.

"History lovers will have a festival reading about the origins of places and happenings of bygone days." -- THE ROANOKE TIMES Nov. 28, 2004 "a mesmerizing, detailed, brilliantly researched account of our region which will make the public proud of where they came from." -- Abingdon Virginian Wed. Aug. 25, 2004 "much to see and do in Virginia's Southwest, and Tennis provides a good starting point in this tour guide." -- Richmond Times-Dispatch Sunday, Aug. 15, 2004 Joe Tennis has produced a masterpiece -- V.N. Bud Phillips, author of Pioneers in Paradise What a fantastic comprehensive summary of the heritage and beauty of this area. -- Kitty Barker, Executive Director Blue Ridge Travel Association From the Author A newer edition of this book was released on March 29, 2017 About the Author Joe Tennis is a graduate of Radford University in Radford, Virginia, where he studied journalism and political science. Tennis began his professional writing career at age 20 as a correspondent for the Virginia Beach bureau of the Virginian-Pilot. His articles and photos have appeared in several Virginia newspapers, including the Bristol Herald Courier, Roanoke Times, and the Virginian-Pilot. He has also written for the Kingsport Times-News in Tennessee and Blue Ridge Country magazine. Tennis has won awards from the Virginia Press Association, Tennessee Press Association, and the Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association for his work as a feature writer for the Bristol Herald Courier in Bristol, Virginia. The authors articles have appeared in two books as well as several major newspapers, including the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Greensboro News Record, Charlottesville Daily

Progress, Winston-Salem Journal, and the Knoxville News-Sentinel. Tennis and his wife, Mary, live with their daughter, Abigail, near Bristol, in Washington County, Virginia.