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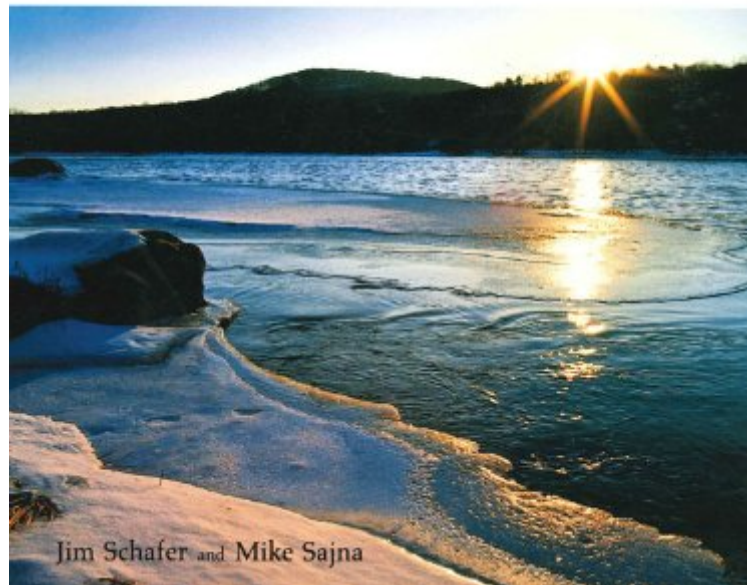
The Allegheny River: Watershed of the Nation (A Keystone Book)

Jim Schafer, Mike Sajna

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THE ALLEGHENY RIVER

Watershed of the Nation



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Jim Schafer, Mike Sajna : The Allegheny River: Watershed of the Nation (A Keystone Book) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Allegheny River: Watershed of the Nation (A Keystone Book):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerA thorough coverage of history along the river and its monumental importance to the nation in the past.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerAwesome !!4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A fine book about a little known river and its historyBy Jerald R LovellI recently purchased this work in a used book store and, if you have that opportunity, I strongly suggest you do the same. The pictures are done in four color format, follow the text, and are of high quality. I would have preferred more detailed maps, but this is a small quibble.The text is endlessly entertaining and extremely well written for persons of all ages. The format is a bit unusual in that the tour of the river begins at its end in

Pittsburgh, where it meets the Monongahela to form the Ohio River, and runs upstream to the source. Many interviews with persons familiar with the river and its history form a great deal of the text, and the factual development is very well done. The Allegheny is the northeasternmost tributary of the Mississippi River system and the only one that drains part of New York State. It was the pathway for many who moved west of the Appalachians. Many persons who traversed this route when they were young explored the West as they grew older, and their connection is excellently demonstrated in a fascinating, seamless manner. The Allegheny almost drowned George Washington as a young man, became one of our first industrially-used rivers, and is now in the process of being restored as a clean stream. In short, the Allegheny, almost more than any other river, reflects the history of the development of our country. I believe you will find this coffee-table sized book a fascinating, useful addition to your library, and I highly recommend it.

Of all the rivers in the country, few can claim as long, diverse, and colorful a history as the Allegheny. Jim Schafer and Mike Sajna take us on a trip from its mouth to its headwaters, charting the Allegheny Rivers history from its creation during the Ice Age to the present. Using historical records and accounts, interviews, personal experiences, and over 150 contemporary and historical photographs, Schafer and Sajna vividly portray the mighty Allegheny. The Allegheny played a key role in the French and Indian War, and after the Revolution it was the main thoroughfare for immigrants heading west to settle America from Ohio to the Northwest Territory, thus earning Pittsburgh the title "Gateway to West." Part of the river's story includes its role in the Industrial Revolution, for it once bore the environmental scars of unrestricted industrialization. Today it has rebounded to become one of the best fisheries in the state and home to a diverse collection of flora and fauna, including several endangered species. It is also now one of the most heavily used rivers for recreation in the country. Throughout the text, Sajna weaves vignettes with the famous figures and interesting character who have encountered the river, from George Washington, John D. Rockefeller, Sr., and Andrew Carnegie, to Seneca Chief Cornplanter, John Wilkes Booth, "Johnny Appleseed," and Rachel Carson. He also interviews contemporary people who live, work, or take inspiration from the river, including a woodcarver, a riverboat captain, and vacationers and naturalists. Through words and photographs, Schafer and Sajna depict the ever-changing face of the river.

From Publishers Weekly "Everything good and bad about the country can be found along the Allegheny River," writes Pittsburgh Magazine columnist Sajna. Following the river's winding course through small cottage communities, suburbs, fisheries and post-industrial backwaters of western Pennsylvania, to Pittsburgh where the Allegheny joins the Monongahela to form the Ohio River, this delightful amble blends history, reportage and travel. George Washington nearly drowned in the Allegheny's frigid waters. Indians burned to death their British captives along the river's banks during the French and Indian Wars. Andrew Carnegie opened a foundry on the Allegheny in the 1860s. Environmentalist Rachel Carson, infamous oilman John Wilkes Booth, muckraker Ida Tarbell, real-life legends like Johnny Appleseed and Mike Fink, and Seneca Indian artists figure in a narrative bedecked with 165 color photographs and 27 b w. Copyright 1992 Cahners Business Information, Inc. The book's strength is simplicity in purpose, tone, and graphic design and it is brimming with crisp, straightforward historical narratives of famous people and their relationship with the river. It would be hard to imagine a more attractive book about a river for popular audiences. Paul Roberts, Pittsburgh History Sajna's clear accessible text is more ambitious than that of the typical, popularly-oriented river book. Eschewing the standard source-to-mouth down-river sojourn, the author strives to present the Allegheny from many different perspectives. Edward K. Muller, Pennsylvania History About the Author Jim Schafer is an award-winning photographer whose work has appeared in Pittsburgh Magazine, Women's Day and Scientific American. His first book of photography, Lehigh Reflections, was published in 1988. Mike Sajna is the outdoors columnist for Pittsburgh Magazine and author of Pennsylvania Trout and Salmon Fishing Guide (1988) and Buck Fever: The Deer Hunting Tradition in Pennsylvania (1991).