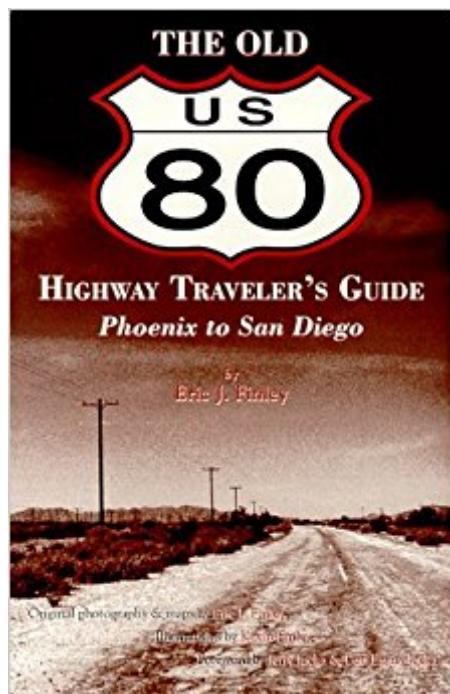


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The Old U.S. 80 Highway Traveler's Guide (Phoenix-San Diego)



Synopsis

Book by Eric J. Finley

Book Information

Paperback: 156 pages

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Customer Reviews

An interesting travel book...which put a better taste in our mouth. -- John Austin, book review columnist, Hollywood Insider's Syndicate, 1/16/98Eric Finley is a man after my own heart. -- Richard Nilsen, travel editor, The Arizona Republic, 11/30/97Eric J. Finley has done a superior job in telling the story of the old road.... He writes well, with a touch of humor, so the book is fun to read even if you don't plan to make the trip. -- Chris MacKenzie, The Alpine Sun/Back Country Shopper, 1/98Finley...has written a fabulous book about what's left of the road from Phoenix to San Diego.... We love this softcover book. -- Chuck Woodbury, editor, Out West The Newspaper That Roams, Fall 1997Now and then, a writer comes about who's dedicated to keeping the memories and romance of off-the-beaten-path highways alive. Author Eric Finley is one of them. -- Bob Carter, travel book reviewer, Traveling by the Book, 2/12/98

U.S. Route 80 is the predecessor to Interstate Highways 10 and 8 from Phoenix, Arizona, to San Diego, California. No longer marked as a major transcontinental thoroughfare, the path of old Route 80 in the West nonetheless survives in the form of a hodgepodge of lesser roads. For many years now, the seemingly disconnected segments of what was once called "the Broadway of America" have been largely abandoned and left to time. But now, author Eric Finley invites readers to re-explore the forgotten pavement, history, and sites of "the old road" in The Old U.S. 80 Highway

Traveler's Guide (Phoenix-San Diego). In the car or in the armchair, The Old U.S. 80 Highway Traveler's Guide will transport readers across nearly 400 miles of Arizona and California past burned-out gas stations, neon-lit tourist courts, and abandoned automobiles dotting a land of changing contour and immense historical importance. An ample selection of maps, illustrations, and photos (both original and historic) all add to the intrigue of this must-have guidebook for all highway lovers!

I really like this book because of all the old pictures and information not just a map.

I went over this entire route on a trip with my family when I was 13 in 1965. One marvels at the variety of landscapes that it covers, and the historical associations it is connected with. From the long stretch between Phoenix and Yuma (which is reminiscent of the terrain seen in the chase in the film *THELMA AND LOUISE*), past the former prison town and now thriving desert community of Yuma, along the desert route of the old plank road between Yuma and El Centro (some of the planks survive to this day), through the agricultural oasis of the Imperial Valley, going up over the Laguna Mountains and the San Diego backcountry, recently scarred by fire but still a great asset to this area), and finally winding down into San Diego proper, this highway covers every conceivable terrain. A valuable book for those who love the highways and byways of America.

I only discovered this book when I was past the half-way point of the very drive it describes. It added immensely to the remainder of the west bound drive and I used it to locate a couple of missed sites on the way back. US 80 doesn't have the current popularity of Route 66 or the Lincoln Highway but, as the "All-Year Southern Route" for "Coast-to-Coast" travel in the early days of the automobile, it was once one of the more important roadways in America. This is a great "roadie" book with plenty of history, sightseeing tips, and those details that help you put together your own two-lane experience. It is well written and illustrated and would probably make good reading for the arm chair traveler but it's real place is in the glove compartment.

WONDERFULLY WRITTEN, WELL ILLUSTRATED; AUTHORITATIVE. A MUST HAVE FOR ANY TRAVELER, ROADSIDE AMERICANA REVELER, TRANSPORTATION HISTORY ENTHUSIAST, OR ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN SOUTHWEST!!
(ADDITIONAL NOTE SHOULD BE MADE HERE; IS CREDITING THE WORK TO JERRY JACKA;
THE AUTHOR IS ERIC J. FINLEY)

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