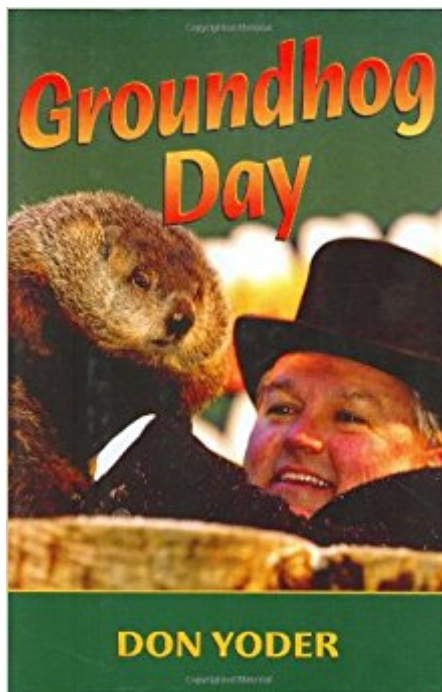


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Groundhog Day



Synopsis

Don Yoder was cofounder of the Pennsylvania Folklife Society, longtime editor of its journal *Pennsylvania Folklife*, and Professor of Folklife Studies at the University of Pennsylvania

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"What an eye-opening book!" The event we assumed to be a media-made holiday turns out to be a rich and fascinating piece of folklore." --JANE AND MICHAEL STERN "Groundhog Day, a much misunderstood holiday, finally has a book that does it justice. And who better to write it than the acknowledged master of American folklife studies, Don Yoder? Filled with Groundhog Day history, lore, and popular culture, it is a great pleasure to read any time of the year." --JACK SANTINO, author of *New Old-Fashioned Way: Holidays and Popular Culture*

Don Yoder was cofounder of the Pennsylvania Folklife Society, longtime editor of its journal *Pennsylvania Folklife*, and Professor of Folklife Studies at the University of Pennsylvania from 1956 to 1996. He currently resides in Devon, Pennsylvania.

For many people, Groundhog Day is a quaint blip of a holiday; a 30 second spot on the February 2nd nightly news in which a well-fed woodchuck is pulled out of his hole by a man wearing a top hat, subsequently followed (in the majority of years) with a "shadow sighting" and 6 more weeks of winter. However, in reality, this relatively bizarre celebration has its roots in pre-historic European origins and customs. Don Yoder's fast-paced and entertaining book traces contemporary

Groundhog Day festivities, ancient practices associated with the holiday, and the inextricable links between Pennsylvania Dutch culture, groundhog folklore, and weather prognostication. This is a charming piece of writing that, more than anything, introduces the reader to the underpinnings of Pennsylvania Dutch culture, and how Groundhog Day serves as a linchpin for that culture.

Read about this phenomenon by a noted historian and recorder of culture and History.

Punxsutawney is small rural town, where annual event attracts over 30K zealots--for sunrise ceremony on Goebblers Knob. Popularized by Bill Murray-in movie, which is shown now a 'cult' attraction--celebration begins last day Jan. "Phil" -their famous 'whistlePig', is honored guest in "Weather Capital-of-World"..a new educational discovery centered opened this year. check online for 2004 prognostications. djhuber@eudoraimail.com Member: committee make Groundhog Day..a Nat'l Holiday

I wanted to like this- to support a PA tradition but! I'd suggest making the trek to Punxsutawney instead of reading the book!

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