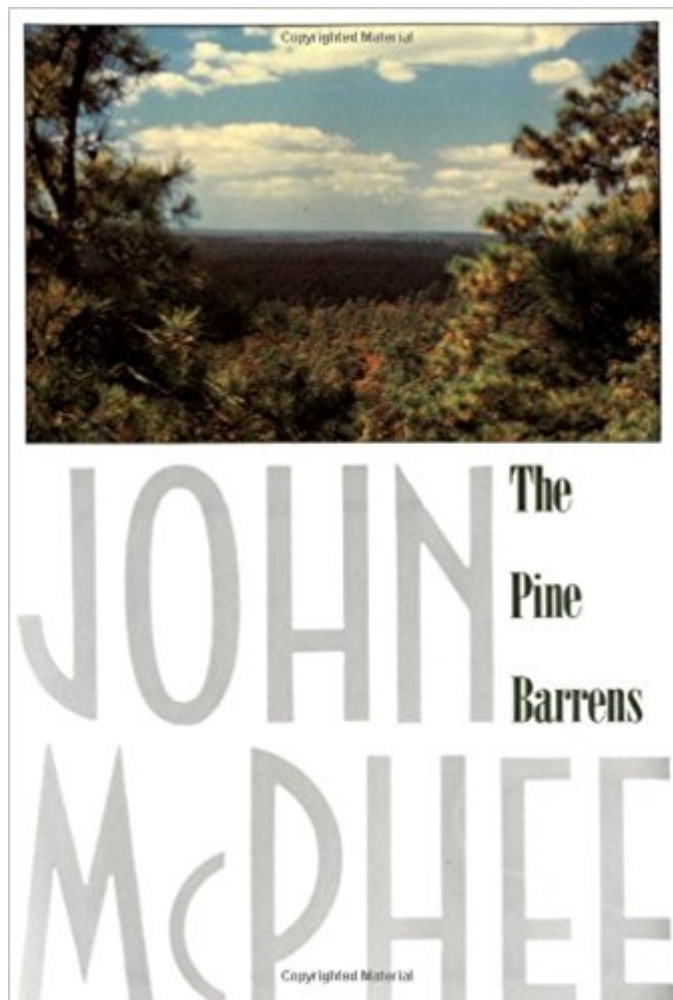


The book was found

The Pine Barrens



Synopsis

Most people think of New Jersey as a suburban-industrial corridor that runs between New York and Philadelphia. Yet in the low center of the state is a near wilderness, larger than most national parks, which has been known since the seventeenth century as the Pine Barrens. The term refers to the predominant trees in the vast forests that cover the area and to the quality of the soils below, which are too sandy and acid to be good for farming. On all sides, however, developments of one kind or another have gradually moved in, so that now the central and integral forest is reduced to about a thousand square miles. Although New Jersey has the heaviest population density of any state, huge segments of the Pine Barrens remain uninhabited. The few people who dwell in the region, the "Pineys," are little known and often misunderstood. Here McPhee uses his uncanny skills as a journalist to explore the history of the region and describe the people and their distinctive folklore who call it home.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Contrary to popular opinion, the whole of New Jersey is not a continuous Superfund site enlivened solely by poorly labeled Turnpike exits and skanky diners. In fact, the largest essentially untouched wilderness east of the Mississippi comprises nearly half the state: the New Jersey Pine Barrens. This more than 1,000-square-mile region has only a few thousand inhabitants--the Pineys, whose way of life has remained essentially unchanged since the 17th century. McPhee--one of the finest American essayists of the 20th century--has written an extraordinarily compelling, informative, and insightful book about the botanical, cultural, hydrological, and historical peculiarities of this region.

He also details the efforts to save it from the creeping urbanization of nearby Philadelphia and New York City. Very Highly Recommended.

“An outstanding reading experience. Natural History” “Using his fine eye, great ear and good heart” (Newsday), McPhee “tells how this geographic anomaly has come to be, describes its people and their distinctive folklore, and captures something of the dreamlike quality of this incredibly quiet land in the midst of the noisy clutter of mechanical civilization.” “Kansas City Star” “It will be a long time before another book appears to equal the literary quality and human compassion of this one.” “The New York Times Book Review

Learned more about the area I live in than I could have imagined. This book was written in the '60s so it is somewhat dated information, but still quite interesting.

The book is very dated at this point but there were a few interesting factoids about the Pine Barrens. I passed the copy around the ship I was aboard at the time and others had similar remarks. Having read other McPhee books in the past this was a bit of a let down.

Very informative non-fiction about a large area of New Jersey covered in dense forest I knew nothing about. Written in 1967 so things may be different now, but as of that time it was an amazing revelation.

Great book, especially for anyone from Jersey. Good reading, informative, enjoyable.

Great book

love the History. The book gives the Pines a natural life and personality. The water volume which should be protected will eventually end up as a lining in a Politicians pocket.

Brings back memories

Dated but good read

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