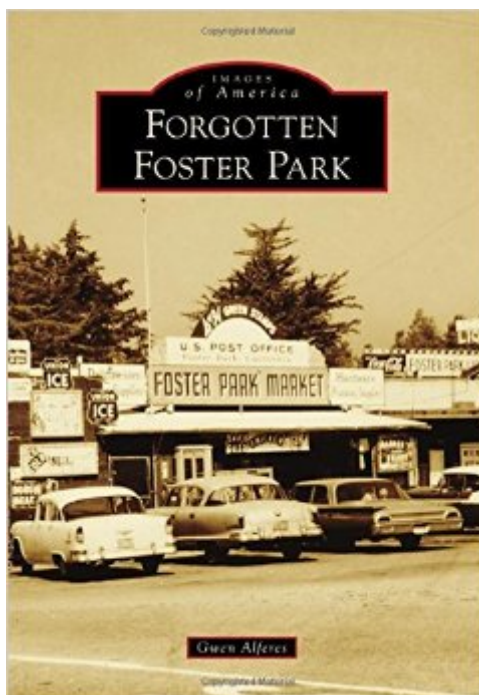


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Forgotten Foster Park (Images Of America)



Synopsis

Surrounded by steeply sloped hillsides, Foster Park was a tiny rural community that took shape during the oil boom of the 1920s. It was situated at a bend on Highway 33 adjacent to Foster Memorial Park, for which it was named. Among the 50 or so homes was a thriving business district that most notably included a dance hall hosting musical greats of the time—such as Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and the Everly Brothers—and a saloon equipped with a boxing ring. The Ventura River, once loaded with giant steelhead trout, and the Southern Pacific Railroad both ran through the town. It has been described as unreal by some and a rural slum by others. With the makings of a Norman Rockwell portrait, it came to its end in the mid-1960s to make room for the hotly contested extension of the Ojai Freeway. To younger generations and newcomers of the area, Foster Park's former existence is virtually unknown.

Book Information

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#2836 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > History

Customer Reviews

Gwen Alferes has written a wonderful homage to the little town of Foster Park that was demolished to make way for Highway 33 in the 60's. The book is chalk full of pictures of the town, of the surrounding areas, stories told by past residents, and full of tidbits about past celebrated musicians (such as Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, & the Everly Brothers) performing at the Foster Park Moose Lodge & Okies Bar back in the day. But most of all this book was written through the eyes of a person that loved her hometown and the people in it, while other books are wonderful with direct fact...I would choose this one time and time again, because it was written through the looking glass

of past residents, giving us a glimmer of what life would have had struggles but at the heart of it, family and friends mattered. When I tell you this book is a wonderful tribute to the local history of Ventura County and the Ojai Valley, I'm not lying, it has so much heart and passion to it, you will begin to wish, that you'd been born in another time and had the opportunity to experience it for yourself. When I read it, I got the distinct feeling this would make a great movie, such as Friend Green Tomatoes, The Ya Ya, Sisterhood, anything that reflects the heart and love of our what makes the United State the great nation it is.

My family moved to Foster Park in 1946 from Nebraska. My brother, 2 sisters and I all attended Mill School and graduated from Ventura High. We grew up on Camp Chaffee Rd., across from the "The Bowl". It's a beautiful area, and we loved growing up there, would love to see Foster Park (the park itself) restored. We had an amazing time when the dam was being built, climbing everything. It was a great time to be a kid. Thank you, Gwen, for a wonderful memory. David Schrader

Very enjoyable and informative and an interesting bit of history in the area that I live.

Loaded up with long forgotten pictures of a town lost due to progress.

History and Local Folklore come to life in this Rich and Accurate info of our local town gone due to the freeway coming thru back in the '60's.

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