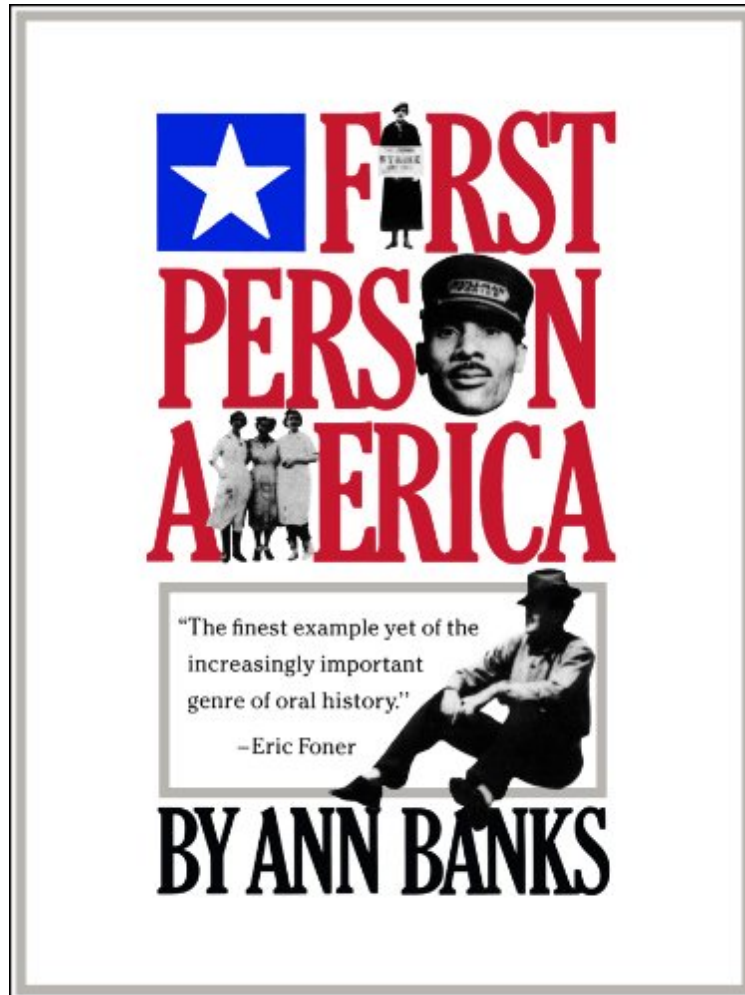


First-Person America

Ann Banks

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Ann Banks : First-Person America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised First-Person America:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Voices of Our People By Robert E. Hunter This was one of the excellent products of the Depression-era writers's project -- vices of "ameerage" Americans, and never to be recaptured in any ther way. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fresh in today's economic climate By Loren Tompkins This book was originally published in 1980, but two things make it very meaningful in 2009. First, there is an obvious similarity between the stories of these persons who lived through the Great Depression and families caught up in today's chaos. When allowances are made for differences in technology, many of these persons displaced in the '30's could be people in similar situations speaking today. The second thing that is thought provoking is the continuity between what happened 75 years ago and what is happening today. The book is a very good read--excellent stories and quite well edited. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A True Blast from the 1930s Past By Laura J This is

a fantastic collection of true vignettes dating from the 1930s. As someone who grew up in the '70s, I am intrigued and fascinated by descriptions from the days of the Great Depression. What makes this book so great is that these are actual descriptions from the '30s...not rehashed remembrances from the distant past. Thanks to the WPA program, and the meticulous detailing of Ann Banks, these stories are not lost to the ages. A must for any history buff.

Between 1938 and 1942 the Federal Writers' Project set out to create a first-person portrait of America by sending young writers—many of whom later became famous—around the country to interview people from all occupations and backgrounds. This book presents 80 of these diverse life histories, including the stories of a North Carolina patent-medicine pitchman, a retired Oregon prospector, a Bahamian midwife from Florida, a Key West smuggler, recent immigrants to New York, and Chicago jazz musicians. Historian Eric Foner called First-Person America "the finest example yet of an increasingly important genre of oral history."

From the Back Cover This book presents for the first time eighty life stories, collected by Ralph Ellison, May Swenson, Nelson Algren, Jack Conroy, and others, so that we hear again the voice of a North Carolina patent-medicine pitchman, a retired Oregon prospector, A Bahamian midwife from Florida, recent immigrants to New York, a Key West smuggler, Chicago jazz musicians.