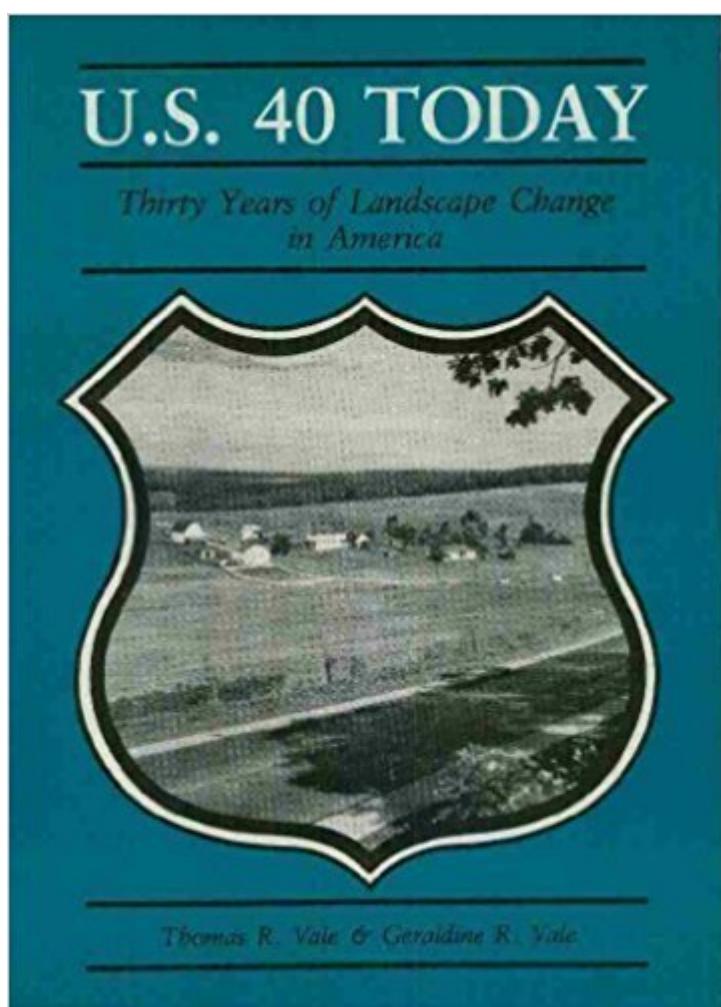


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U.S. 40 Today: Thirty Years Of Landscape Change In America



Synopsis

Photographs and descriptions show how U.S. Highway 40, from Atlantic City to San Francisco, has changed since 1953.

Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Univ of Wisconsin Pr; First Edition edition (December 1983)

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

I recently drove Rt 40 from West Virginia to Vandalia IL and used this book to find the spots where photos were taken in 1950 and 1980, then take new photos in 2017 to compare. Fun adventure!

There was a good write-up on each of the featured sites. I would recommend this book as many of these interesting landmarks would be easy to just drive right on by. Note: This is not an all-inclusive, mile-by-mile guidebook. Rather, it features roughly 3 or 4 landmarks in each state with photos from 1950 and 1980 to compare to today.

As an update to the original "US 40" by George Stewart, it's interesting and absorbing. One might be tempted because it is available at a much lower price than Stewart's "US 40" but it doesn't go into as much depth as did Stewart's book. Bear in mind also that "US 40 Today" is about as old now as was "US 40" when "Today" was published; both need to be viewed as historical, now.

Great Book. A must for all those historians and road enthusiasts who loves the National Road.

Somewhat interesting from a historical perspective, but overall, my view is this is a very dated book that pays very little attention to the California aspect of Highway 40s history.

Sometime in the early 1960s I came across George Stewart's book on U.S. 40 in our town's public library. I read it and reread it. I still remember many of the photographs and some of the narrative that graced the pages of that book. Even then it was becoming a bit of a nostalgia piece, as the 1960s were the period when the interstate highway system was being built in force. The current book, which came out in 1983 on the thirty-year anniversary of the original book, is also a worthy work. It's interesting in its own right, but it's best read while comparing it to Stewart's earlier work, for it shows how even the federal highways have changed over the years. (For instance, U.S. 40 had long since ceased to wander through the heart of Ellicott City, MD.) The photography in this work is excellent, and the narrative is informative as well.

Many people cite George R. Stewart's "U.S. 40" as a classic amongst photojournalism. Moreover, Stewart's 1953 book has inspired many to study the highways and byways of America. Certainly Thomas and Geraldine Vale were similarly influenced. The Vales' book provide a "then-and-now" examination of most (but not all) of the photographs and essays written by Stewart just prior to the dawn of the Interstate Highway System. The Vales take on a daunting task, that of retracing Stewart. The pair succeed in their efforts, providing great detail behind what has transpired over a 30-year period. Job well done. For more information about Route 40, check out this web site: users.aol.com/usroute40/.

I have read, re-read, and re-re, read this book and will take it with me to my grave. I can't begin to praise it's text or the then and now format photographs. 100000000% rating

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