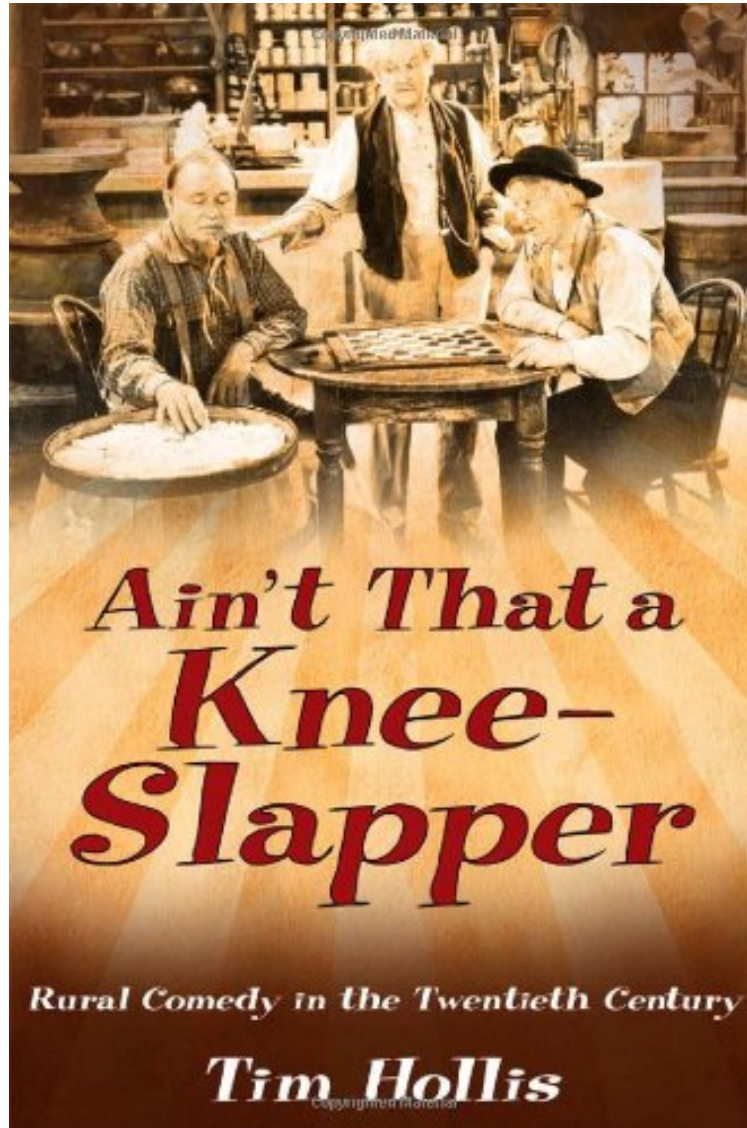


[Library ebook] Ain't That a Knee-Slapper: Rural Comedy in the Twentieth Century

Ain't That a Knee-Slapper: Rural Comedy in the Twentieth Century

Tim Hollis

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Tim Hollis : Ain't That a Knee-Slapper: Rural Comedy in the Twentieth Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ain't That a Knee-Slapper: Rural Comedy in the Twentieth Century:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very well written. Lot of research done. By Customer Very well written. Lot of research done. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Knee-Slapper By Ron Yancey I guess I

expected more Knee-Slapping, but it didn't seem to lead me in that direction. I'm not sure I even finished it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not What You Might Think By Sandra Grabman I bought this book thinking it would be funny. While it does have some funny skits in it to illustrate a point, it's mainly a scholarly work. As is indicated in its subtitle, it's about "rural comedy in the twentieth century." If you just want to laugh, skip the main part and just read the skits. But if you want to learn a lot about the development of country comedy from the WLS Barn Dance to Green Acres (both of which had the lovable Pat Buttram in their casts), you'll enjoy every word.

There was a time when rural comedians drew most of their humor from tales of farmers' daughters, hogs, hens, and hill country high jinks. Lum and Abner and Ma and Pa Kettle might not have toured happily under the "Redneck" marquee, but they were its precursors. In *Ain't That a Knee-Slapper: Rural Comedy in the Twentieth Century*, author Tim Hollis traces the evolution of this classic American form of humor in the mass media, beginning with the golden age of radio, when such comedians as Bob Burns, Judy Canova, and Lum and Abner kept listeners laughing. The book then moves into the motion pictures of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, when the established radio stars enjoyed second careers on the silver screen and were joined by live-action renditions of the comic strip characters Li'l Abner and Snuffy Smith, along with the much-loved Ma and Pa Kettle series of films. Hollis explores such rural sitcoms as *The Real McCoys* in the late 1950s and from the 1960s, *The Andy Griffith Show*, *The Beverly Hillbillies*, *Green Acres*, *Hee Haw*, and many others. Along the way, readers are taken on side trips into the world of animated cartoons and television commercials that succeeded through a distinctly rural sense of fun. While rural comedy fell out of vogue and networks sacked shows in the early 1970s, the emergence of such hits as *The Dukes of Hazzard* brought the genre whooping back to the mainstream. Hollis concludes with a brief look at the current state of rural humor, which manifests itself in a more suburban, redneck brand of standup comedy.

From the Publisher This hee-hawing history of comedic performers from the golden age of radio through the Dukes of Hazzard --Traces the genre of rural comedy as a whole rather than any single show or series--Provides only treatment of this subject with examinations of radio, movies, television, animated cartoons, and TV commercials--Offers nearly 100 black-and-white illustrations --Features an author well-established and successful in writing about popular culture
From the Inside Flap A hee-hawing history of comedic performers from the golden age of radio through *The Dukes of Hazzard*
About the Author Tim Hollis is the author of numerous books, including *Hi There, Boys and Girls! America's Local Children's TV Programs* and (with Greg Ehrbar) *Mouse Tracks: The Story of Walt Disney Records*.