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ROLLING NOWHERE



RIDING THE RAILS
WITH
AMERICA'S HOBOS

WITH A NEW PREFACE BY THE AUTHOR

TED CONOVER

Bestselling author of *New Jack*

Rolling Nowhere Riding The Rails With Americas Hoboes

Ted Conover



Rolling Nowhere Riding The Rails With Americas Hoboes:

Rolling Nowhere Ted Conover, 1984 In Ted Conover's first book now back in print he enters a segment of humanity outside society and reports back on a world few of us would choose to enter but about which we are all curious Hoboes fascinated Conover but he had only encountered them in literature and folksongs So he decided to take a year off and ride the rails Equipped with rummage store clothing a bedroll and a few other belongings he hops a freight train in St Louis becoming a tramp in order to discover their peculiar culture The men and women he meets along the way are by turns generous and mistrusting resourceful and desperate philosophical and profoundly cynical And the narrative he creates of his travels with them is unforgettable and moving

Citizen Hobo Todd DePastino, 2024-05-31 In the years following the Civil War a veritable army of homeless men swept across America's wageworkers frontier and forged a beguiling and bedeviling counterculture known as hobohemia Celebrating unfettered masculinity and jealously guarding the American road as the preserve of white manhood hoboes took command of downtown districts and swaggered onto center stage of the new urban culture Less obviously perhaps they also staked their own claims on the American polity claims that would in fact transform the very entitlements of American citizenship In this eye opening work of American history Todd DePastino tells the epic story of hobohemia's rise and fall and crafts a stunning new interpretation of the American century in the process Drawing on sources ranging from diaries letters and police reports to movies and memoirs Citizen Hobo breathes life into the largely forgotten world of the road but it also crucially shows how the hobo army so haunted the American body politic that it prompted the creation of an entirely new social order and political economy DePastino shows how hoboes with their reputation as dangers to civilization sexual savages and professional idlers became a cultural and political force influencing the creation of welfare state measures the promotion of mass consumption and the suburbanization of America Citizen Hobo's sweeping retelling of American nationhood in light of enduring struggles over home does more than chart the change from homelessness to houselessness In its breadth and scope the book offers nothing less than an essential new context for thinking about Americans struggles against inequality and alienation

Going Places Robert Burgin, 2013-01-08 Successfully navigate the rich world of travel narratives and identify fiction and nonfiction read alike with this detailed and expertly constructed guide Just as savvy travelers make use of guidebooks to help navigate the hundreds of countries around the globe smart librarians need a guidebook that makes sense of the world of travel narratives Going Places A Reader's Guide to Travel Narratives meets that demand helping librarians assist patrons in finding the nonfiction books that most interest them It will also serve to help users better understand the genre and their own reading interests The book examines the subgenres of the travel narrative genre in its seven chapters categorizing and describing approximately 600 titles according to genres and broad reading interests and identifying hundreds of other fiction and nonfiction titles as read alike and related reads by shared key topics The author has also identified award winning titles and spotlighted further resources

on travel lit making this work an ideal guide for readers advisors as well a book general readers will enjoy browsing *On the Fly!* Iain McIntyre,2018-09-01 The first anthology of its kind *On the Fly* brings forth the lost voices of Hobohemia Dozens of stories poems songs stories and articles produced by hoboes are brought together to create an insider history of the subculture s rise and fall Adrenaline charged tales of train hopping scams and political agitation are combined with humorous and satirical songs razor sharp reportage and unique insights into the lives of the women and men who crisscrossed America in search of survival and adventure From iconic figures such as labor martyr Joe Hill and socialist novelist Jack London through to pioneering blues and country musicians and little known correspondents for the likes of the *Hobo News* the authors and songwriters contained in *On the Fly* run the full gamut of Hobohemia s wide cultural and geographical embrace With little of the original memoirs literature and verse remaining in print this collection aided by a glossary of hobo vernacular and numerous illustrations and photos provides a comprehensive and entertaining guide to the life and times of a uniquely American icon Read on to enter a world where hoboes tramps radicals and bums gather in jungles flop houses and boxcars where gandy dancers bindlestiffs and timber beasts roam the rails once more

Immersion Ted Conover,2016-10-24 Over three and a half decades Ted Conover has ridden the rails with hoboes crossed the border with Mexican immigrants guarded prisoners in Sing Sing and inspected meat for the USDA His books and articles chronicling these experiences including the award winning *Newjack Guarding Sing Sing* have made him one of the premier practitioners of immersion reporting In immersion reporting a literary cousin to ethnography travel writing and memoir the writer fully steps into a new world or culture participating in its trials rites and rituals as a member of the group The end results of these firsthand experiences are familiar to us from bestsellers such as *Nickel and Dimed* and *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* But in a world of wary strangers where does one begin Conover distills decades of knowledge into an accessible resource aimed at writers of all levels He covers how to get into a community how to conduct oneself once inside and how to shape and structure the stories that emerge Conover is also forthright about the ethics and consequences of immersion reporting preparing writers for the surprises that often surface when their piece becomes public Throughout Conover shares anecdotes from his own experiences as well as from other well known writers in this genre including Alex Kotlowitz Anne Fadiman and Sebastian Junger It s a deep in the trenches book that all aspiring immersion writers should have in hand as they take that first leap into another world **Who is My Neighbor?** Phillip K. Tompkins,2015-11-17 *Who Is My Neighbor* is a compelling account of the author s ten year journey as a volunteer at the St Francis Center a homeless shelter in Denver Colorado A retired Professor of Communication Phil Tompkins marshals his considerable experience as a participant observer in recording the voices of the guests of the shelter as they teach us about their situation We learn about their hopes for regaining a home and their fears as they are victimized in some cases even murdered Tompkins shows how effective communication and organization can contribute to finding an end to homelessness and establishing a movement

toward protective action especially when a proactive local government gets involved In addition to giving voice to homeless people Who Is My Neighbor explores Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper s ambitious Commission to End Homelessness This remarkable social experiment now called Denver s Road Home is two years into implementing an innovative plan for ending homelessness It provides a model for other cities nationwide where persistent homelessness has defied resolution

Undercover Reporting Brooke Kroeger,2012-08-31 In her provocative book Brooke Kroeger argues for a reconsideration of the place of oft maligned journalistic practices While it may seem paradoxical much of the valuable journalism in the past century and a half has emerged from undercover investigations that employed subterfuge or deception to expose wrong Kroeger asserts that undercover work is not a separate world but rather it embodies a central discipline of good reporting the ability to extract significant information or to create indelible real time descriptions of hard to penetrate institutions or social situations that deserve the public s attention Together with a companion website that gathers some of the best investigative work of the past century Undercover Reporting serves as a rallying call for an endangered aspect of the journalistic endeavor

Homeless Joshua D. Phillips,2016-10-04 A half century after the War on Poverty of Lyndon Johnson poverty rates remain unchanged Scholars have advanced polarized theories about the causes of poverty as politicians have debated how or if to fund welfare programs Yet little research has been conducted where the poor are provided a platform to speak on their own behalf While it is important to understand how economic systems affect the homeless it is equally important to learn about the day to day realities faced by those who rely on public policies for survival Drawing on the author s experience working in the homeless community this book presents some of their stories of loss abuse addiction and marginalization through interviews observations and ethnographic research

Cheap Land Colorado Ted Conover,2024-07-30 From Pulitzer Prize finalist and National Book Critics Circle Award winning author of Newjack a passage through an America lived wild and off the grid where along with independence and stunning views come fierce winds neighbors with criminal pasts and minimal government and medical services In these dispatches Conover invites readers to ride shotgun along an unraveling edge of the American West where sepia toned myths about making a fresh start collide with modern modes of alienation volatility and exile In a nation whose edges have come to define its center this is essential reading Jessica Bruder author of Nomadland Surviving America in the Twenty First Century In May 2017 Ted Conover went to Colorado to explore firsthand a rural way of life that is about living cheaply on your own land and keeping clear of the mainstream The failed subdivisions of the enormous San Luis Valley make this possible Five acre lots on the high prairie can be had for five thousand dollars sometimes less Conover volunteered for a local group trying to prevent homelessness during the bitter winters He encountered an unexpected diversity veterans with PTSD families homeschooling addicts young and old gay people people of color lovers of guns and marijuana people with social anxiety most of them spurning charity and aiming and sometimes failing to be self sufficient And more than a few predicting they ll be the last ones standing when society

collapses Conover bought his own five acres and immersed himself for parts of four years in the often contentious culture of the far margins He found many who dislike the government but depend on its subsidies who love their space but nevertheless find themselves in each other's business who are generous but wary of thieves who endure squalor but appreciate beauty In their struggles to survive and get along they tell us about an America riven by difference where the edges speak more and more loudly to the mainstream *The Routledge Companion to World Literary Journalism* John S. Bak, Bill

Reynolds, 2022-12-30 This cutting edge research companion addresses our current understanding of literary journalism's global scope and evolution offering an immersive study of how different nations have experimented with and perfected the narrative journalistic form genre over time The Routledge Companion to World Literary Journalism demonstrates the genre's rich genealogy and global impact through a comprehensive study of its many traditions including the *crónica* the *ocherko* reportage the New Journalism the New New Journalism *Jornalismo literário* *periodismo narrativo* *baogao wenxue* creative nonfiction *Literarischer Journalismus* *As SaHafa al Adabiyya* and literary nonfiction Contributions from a diverse range of established and emerging scholars explore key issues such as the current role of literary journalism in countries radically affected by the print media crisis and the potential future of literary journalism both as a centerpiece to print media writ large and as an academic discipline universally recognized around the world The book also discusses literary journalism's responses to war immigration and censorship its many female and Indigenous authors and its digital footprints on the internet This extensive and authoritative collection is a vital resource for academics and researchers in literary journalism studies as well as in journalism studies and literature in general Chapter 9 of this book is freely available as a downloadable Open Access PDF at <http://www.taylorfrancis.com> under a Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial No Derivatives CC BY NC ND 4.0 license

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