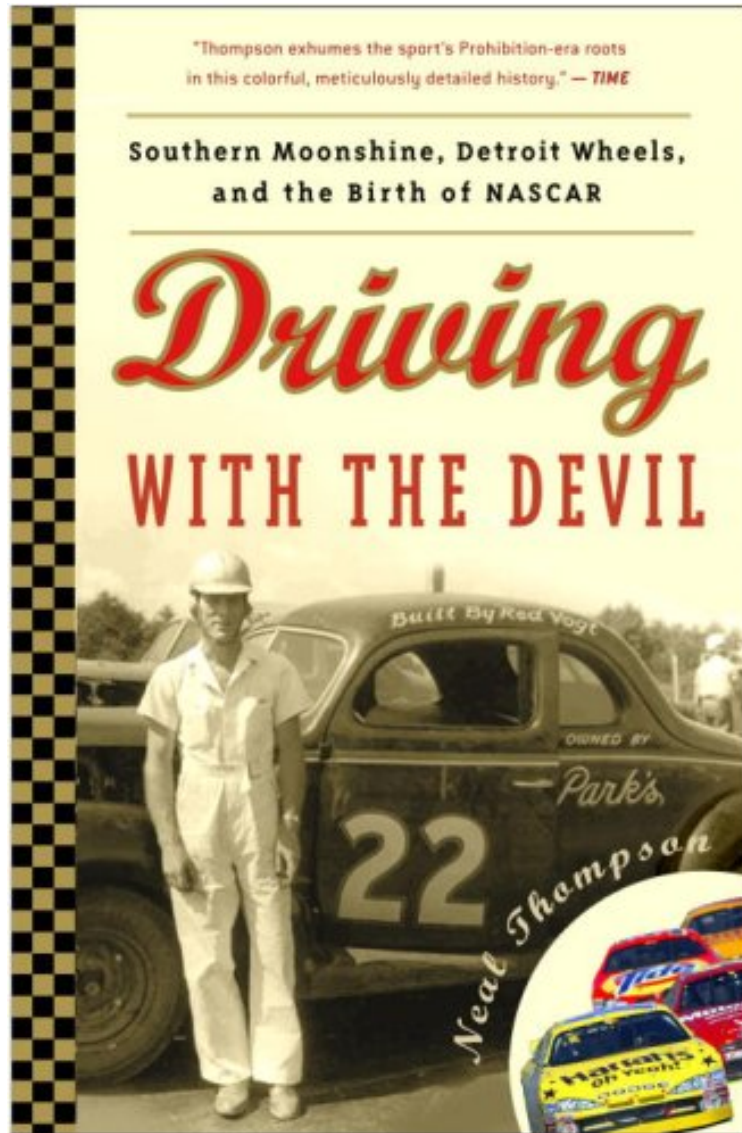


(Free pdf) Driving with the Devil: Southern Moonshine, Detroit Wheels, and the Birth of NASCAR

Driving with the Devil: Southern Moonshine, Detroit Wheels, and the Birth of NASCAR

Neal Thompson

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Neal Thompson : Driving with the Devil: Southern Moonshine, Detroit Wheels, and the Birth of NASCAR
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Driving with the Devil:
Southern Moonshine, Detroit Wheels, and the Birth of NASCAR:

19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely intriguing and entertaining book!By Jim AbbottWhat mystifies me is that I am not a racing fan in the least but this book seemed to call to me from the library shelf. As a new resident of Georgia, coming from NY, I felt that I needed to do the "when in Rome..." thing and soldier through

the book. No need to labor, as it had me in its grip from the first page. It answered all my questions about all things southern, with a vivid description of life here in the last century as well as an unbelievably human story of the men who made moonshine and how their driving skills translated well into car racing at the outset of the stock car boom. It also introduced me to a unique man, a former master bootlegger named Raymond Parks, who, while not generally a race car driver, was as responsible as anyone for NASCAR being in existence today. His deep pockets kept many drivers racing and his mechanic, a genius named Red Vogt, actually came up with the name NASCAR. That Bill France used legal maneuvering to claim the NASCAR brand for himself and his family doesn't diminish what Raymond Parks did for the sport, and even for France himself who often found himself in need of financial help from the former moonshine baron Parks. Highly highly recommended for anyone who likes a good tale well told. A footnote--Raymond Parks still lives and works in Atlanta, owning, fittingly, a liquor store on Northside Drive. He is 93 yrs old. I stopped in to say hello the other day, and he was courteous and happy to show me all of his wonderful NASCAR and racing mementos. While slowed by age and possibly early alzheimers, he was a gentleman and I enjoyed my chat with him. Red Vogt's garage on Spring St, where the name NASCAR was coined, is still standing but is now an urban music shop. The garage door was open though, and I could see inside to where Red worked his miracles on the early Ford engines.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Lesser Known Shine By Kevin L. Martin Where you come from is gone, where you thought you were going to never was there, and where you are is no good unless you can get away from it. -Flannery O'Connor Wow! Any author that prefaces his work with a quote from Flannery O'Connor has my attention. We all know about Junior Johnson running shine for his daddy in the hills of North Carolina, but Thompson focuses in on the moonshiners of north Georgia and their customer in Atlanta-Ray Parks. Parks ran Ford V8s prepared by Red Vogt and driven by shiners Red Byron and Lloyd Seay. Thompson doesn't ignore Johnson, but does focus on the "Whiskey Trail" that ran from Dawsonville to Atlanta. Great history and a great read.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great insight into the beginning of NASCAR By Joey L. Its no surprise that while baseball/basketball/and football games are usually playing to semi-packed crowds, NASCAR is continually selling out short tracks and superspeedways that hold 160,000 people. NASCAR is exciting. And contrary to the naysayers, it requires a lot of skill and knowledge of not only racing, but engineering, aerodynamics, and overall car mechanics. But where and when did NASCAR start? Neal Thompson does a great job in tracing back the early days of southern automobile racing in the 30s and 40s when the sport was led by whiskey runners who drove moonshine from the small towns of dawsonville and dahlonega down to the bigger city of Atlanta. Thompson reveals the lives of some of these drivers (Lloyd Seay, Roy Hall, Red Byron, Fonty Flock), mechanics (Red Vogt) and car owners (Raymond Parks) showing the glorious and not-so glorious moments for each of the early stars in driving. A large part of this book focuses on the man credited with starting the organization of NASCAR: Mr. Bill France. France made his move from an okay driver to an outstanding and often times dirty promoter for the sport of racing. The book chronicles the trials France had to deal with when starting NASCAR (competition with other racing leagues, accidents at the races, financial problems). The book also shows how some tracks got started (Atlanta Lakewood Speedway, Daytona Beach and Road Course, Charlotte Speedway, Columbus Speedway and more) Driving with the Devil is truly fascinating. The beginning of NASCAR was fueled with competition, wild characters, and some truly great stories. I would highly recommend this book to the NASCAR fan looking to read about the history of the sport.

ldquo;Moonshiners put more time, energy, thought, and love into their cars than any racer ever will. Lose on the track and you go home. Lose with a load of whiskey and you go to jail.rdquo; mdash; Junior Johnson, NASCAR legend and one-time whiskey runner Today's NASCAR is a family sport with 75 million loyal fans, which is growing bigger and more mainstream by the day. Part Disney, part Vegas, part Barnum Bailey, NASCAR is also a multibillion-dollar business and a cultural phenomenon that transcends geography, class, and gender. But dark secrets lurk in NASCAR's past. Driving with the Devil uncovers for the first time the true story behind NASCAR's distant, moonshine-fueled origins and paints a rich portrait of the colorful men who created it. Long before the sport of stock-car racing even existed, young men in the rural, Depression-wracked South had figured out that cars and speed were tickets to a better life. With few options beyond the farm or factory, the best chance of escape was running moonshine. Bootlegging offered speed, adventure, and wads of cashmdash;if the drivers survived. Driving with the Devil is the story of bootleggers whose empires grew during Prohibition and continued to thrive well after Repeal, and of drivers who thundered down dusty back roads with moonshine deliveries, deftly outrunning federal agents. The car of choice was the Ford V-8, the hottest car of the 1930s, and ace mechanics tinkered with them until they could fly across mountain roads at 100 miles an hour. After fighting in World War II, moonshiners transferred their skills to the rough, red-dirt racetracks of Dixie, and a national sport was born. In this dynamic era (1930s and rsquo;40s), three men with a passion for Ford V-8smdash;convicted criminal Ray Parks, foul-mouthed mechanic Red Vogt, and crippled war veteran Red Byron, NASCAR's first championmdash;emerged as the first stock car ldquo;team.rdquo; Theirs is the violent, poignant story of how moonshine and fast cars merged to create a new sport for the South to call its own. Driving with the Devil is a fascinating look at the well-hidden historical connection

between whiskey running and stock-car racing. NASCAR histories will tell you who led every lap of every race since the first official race in 1948. *Driving with the Devil* goes deeper to bring you the excitement, passion, crime, and death-defying feats of the wild, early days that NASCAR has carefully hidden from public view. In the tradition of Laura Hillenbrand's *Seabiscuit*, this tale not only reveals a bygone era of a beloved sport, but also the character of the country at a moment in time. From the Hardcover edition.