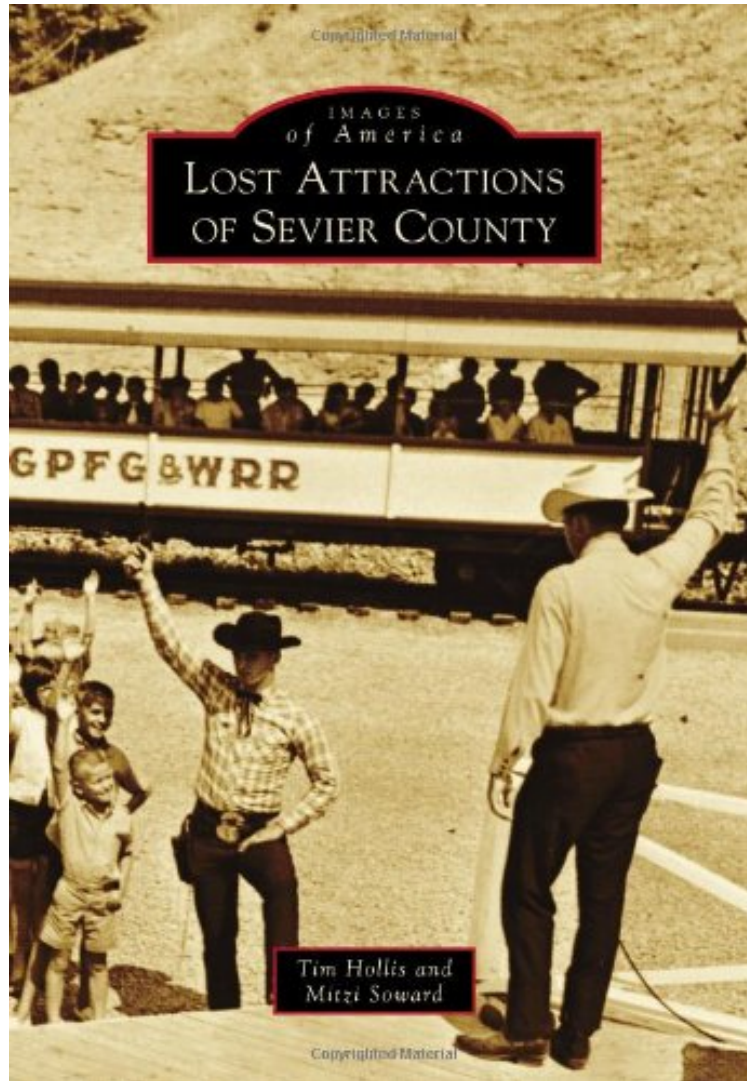


(Mobile pdf) Lost Attractions of Sevier County (Images of America)

## Lost Attractions of Sevier County (Images of America)

*Tim Hollis, Mitzi Soward*

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**Tim Hollis, Mitzi Soward : Lost Attractions of Sevier County (Images of America)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lost Attractions of Sevier County (Images of America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Yesteryear In 127 Pages!By David MarshallChange.If I summarized this book in one word it would be "change", as the area in and around Sevier County remains in a constant state of flux driven by the never-ending quest for the almighty tourist dollar. This fascinating work provides an excellent snapshot of that quest in simpler days, long before corporate America infused its influence upon the area's tourism industry. It's hard to imagine now but the area wasn't always a shopping mecca. The Parkway in Pigeon Forge wasn't always lined

with mega-resorts that are attractions in their own right. Many of the businesses and attractions were locally-owned Mom and Pop shops that peddled hillbilly, Indian, and western trinkets. People paid to watch caged bears drink Coca-Cola. It wasn't always pretty and this book celebrates the warts and rough edges of the area's tourism industry. It exposes the region's "bats in the belfry" attractions and often asks "What were they thinking?". There are many excellent books written about the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the surrounding area but they tend to focus on the constants of its majestic natural wonders and the heritage and culture of its people. Don't get me wrong. Those topics are fascinating enough to merit the labors of love that preserve the region's history for future generations, but as a tourist who has visited the area since the early 1970s on a regular basis, my interest also gravitates toward the myriad attractions that have faded into the ether of memory. And therein lies the charm of "Lost Attractions of Sevier County". I remember what the Smokies were like back in the 1970's. I visited many of the attractions highlighted in this book. I remember Goldrush Junction (later Silver Dollar City and now Dollywood), Magic World, Porpoise Island, the old concrete water slides that would batter and bruise you into gleeful submission, and a host of other attractions that once lined the Parkway in Pigeon Forge or the Main Strip in Gatlinburg. The memories my family made during those vacations and weekend trips will stay with me forever. Whenever I visit the area now, I seek out the remnants of those simpler days, those ghosts of yesteryear among the corporate glitz and clamor. My parents are gone but whenever I ride the train up the mountain in Dollywood, I can almost feel their presence. I felt that same sweet presence often while reading this book. I would highly recommend the book to anyone interested in the history of the area's "tourist traps" or who are looking for a fleeting glimpse into vacations past. The pictures in the book will certainly bring a smile to the faces of anyone who fits into the above categories or anywhere in between. A couple of small flaws do diminish the work slightly. The pictures are in black and white. I suspect some of the originals were black and white images and that doesn't bother me. I find it charming. However, the more modern pictures are a different story. I'm not sure why they were reproduced in black and white. I would have appreciated a bit more narrative text in the work as well. Each picture includes a description of the image but the work lacks a comprehensive narrative. To be fair, the work is more of a picture book than a history. Still, it merits five stars despite these small drawbacks. The pictures were the draw for me anyway. Co-author Tim Hollis also penned another book I highly recommend as a companion to this volume, "The Land Of The Smokies", which includes a more in-depth historical narrative but I find the pictures much more interesting in this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.  
Five Stars  
By Customer  
Rare and great photos from my childhood when my parents took us to the mountains!  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.  
attractions of sevier county  
By cathy  
I loved this book. It gave the history of a lot of the attractions I have visited while in TN. I also told of the attractions that came and went before I was about to visit. It gave a good history of sevier county.

The Great Smoky Mountains and Sevier County, in particular, have been major tourist destinations since the 1920s. Since then, many attractions, motels, restaurants, and other businesses have come and gone, including Jolly Golf, Magic World, Archie Campbells Hee Haw Village, the Rebel Railroad, Goldrush Junction, and dozens more. This book collects and preserves the memories of these lost attractions that formed the foundation of today's Sevier County tourism economy.

About the Author  
Tim Hollis has become well-known as a historian of the Southern tourism industry. Hollis has written five previous books for Arcadia Publishing and has penned numerous other titles on roadside nostalgia and baby boomer pop culture for the University Press of Mississippi, University Press of Florida, Stackpole Books, and History Press. Mitzi Soward has been a resident of Sevier County since 1965, when her family opened the Bears Den Motel. She is the cofounder of the annual Dumplin Valley Bluegrass Festival. Together in *Images of America: Lost Attractions of Sevier County* they document the changing face of tourism in this renowned vacation center.