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Early Days in Texas: A Trip to Hell and Heaven

Jim McIntire

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#7901685 in Books Univ of Oklahoma Pr 1996-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x 5.50 x .50l,
#File Name: 0806128518184 pages | File size: 60.Mb

Jim McIntire : Early Days in Texas: A Trip to Hell and Heaven before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Early Days in Texas: A Trip to Hell and Heaven:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tales of frontier Texas told by a tough cowboy, outlaw and lawmanBy Joe Owen"Early Days In Texas: A Trip to Hell and Heaven" by Jim McIntire and edited by Robert K. DeArment (published in 1992, 184 pages) is a autobiography of this interesting Texan as he relates his life and adventures in the mid to late 1800's in Texas and other frontier states.The editor quickly warns the reader that Jim McIntire enjoyed telling "tall tales" of his life and experiences and to take his autobiography with "a grain of salt". Jim McIntire was born in Ohio but as a youth traveled to Texas to experience the frontier and cowboy life he read about in 10 cent novels. As a youth in Ohio, McIntire became a leader of a black "minstrel show" that travelled through Ohio and had some funny yet dangerous adventures. After being bored with this, he traveled to Texas where he became a cattle driver, Indian fighter, Texas Ranger, saloon keeper, gambler, card dealer, an outlaw, and many more occupations. His descriptions of fighting the Comanches and Kiowas is a thrilling adventure and gruesome. Having no love for the Indians, Hispanics (he calls them greasers), and blacks (liberally using the "n" word), that are in Texas and he shows no mercy or understanding when they are breaking the law, according to McIntire.His stories of dealing with notorious Sam Bass, meeting Billy the Kid, Pat Garrett, and other famous western figures make a great read. Eventually, McIntire would run afoul of the law and became a notorious outlaw himself, bragging about the men he had killed along the way. His description of frontier Texas gives an excellent window into the frontier life of Texas small towns and ranches.Jim McIntire did a lot in his life, and it is amazing (if true) that he survived any of the

encounters and circumstances that he was in. As Larry D. Ball (Professor of History at Arkansas State University) says on the back cover, "The representation of this little volume constitutes a very worthwhile service to the readership in frontier studies. While Jim McIntire is not always honest with his readers, he provides entree into the shadowy frontier underworld and the calloused and brutal nature of the Indian wars." The editor's annotations are very full and informative and give a truthful version of the circumstances that McIntire described. Jim McIntire was the kind of cowboy that would be great to listen to at a campfire and being captivated by his stories. You wouldn't know which stories are true or not, however, one thing you wouldn't want to do is call him out on his stories and say he was a "liar". Jim McIntire was good with a gun and would probably shoot you between the eyes, or thrash you to within an inch of your life for calling him out. I would enjoy listening to his stories of being an outlaw, saloon keeper, and Texas Ranger, but always wonder which ones were true, which stories were exaggerated, or which stores are just tall tales. All in all this is a good read about early frontier Texas and is enjoyable to read and think about how life in frontier Texas was tough, and made the Lone Star state truly a unique and distinct place to live. Recommended read!

Book by McIntire, Jim