



Sullivan County (Images of America: Tennessee)

By Joe Tennis



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Sullivan County sits at the center of the Tri-Cities region of northeast Tennessee, with a scenic skyline, miles of mountains in the Cherokee National Forest, and three large lakes built by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Well-known county crossroads include Colonial Heights and Bloomingdale, while famous local landmarks include Warriors Path State Park; the stalagmites of the Appalachian Caverns and Bristol Caverns; the “World’s Fastest Half-Mile Track” at Bristol Motor Speedway; the “Birthplace of Country Music” at Bristol; and the Grand Guitar, the world’s only guitar-shaped museum. Piney Flats is the home of Rocky Mount, once the capitol building of “the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio.” Bluff City boasts railroad history and Civil War stories along the South Fork of the Holston River. Kingsport lays claim to Netherland Inn, Bays Mountain Park, and the Long Island of the Holston, a sacred place for the Cherokees. The courthouse town of Blountville holds the distinction of being the only county seat in Tennessee that is not incorporated.



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Editorial Review

Review

"In his fourth book, Tennis celebrates the story of the Holston River, a waterway that begins in Southwest Virginia and flows to Knoxville."

- Leigh Ann Laube, Kingsport Times-News, November 2008

"A book that thoroughly examines Sullivan County via interspersions of text with numerous photographs."

- Tom Netherland, Bristol Herald Courier, September 2008

"More than pictures, Tennis's book also contains an essay on each locality"

- Rocky Davenport, Piney Bluff Gazette, September 2008

"Tennis shares stories of moonshine, mountains, NASCAR"

- The Post, Big Stone Gap, Va., October 2008

About the Author

Author Joe Tennis is an award-winning journalist and former Sullivan County resident. He has authored several local history books, including Beach to Bluegrass, Southwest Virginia Crossroads, and The Marble and Other Ghost Tales of Tennessee and Virginia. His articles and photographs have also appeared in Blue Ridge Country, Bristol Herald Courier, Kingsport Times-News, Appalachian Voice, the Virginian-Pilot, and the Roanoke Times.

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