



JUST RELEASED! JANUARY 1, 2004

The Ohio Almanac

Third Edition

8.5 x 11
896 pages
Softcover

ISBN 1-882203-29-1

\$39.95

EDITED BY JOHN BASKIN & MICHAEL O'BRYANT

FACED WITH UPDATING *THE OHIO ALMANAC*, that perennial mainstay of Buckeye information, the editors arrived at the conclusion that Ohio contained a surfeit of facts and a paucity of comprehension. The editors' answer to this conundrum is the almanac's newest edition, just released by Orange Frazer Press and encompassing nearly 900 pages, 7,000 hours, 500,000 facts, and a bill for two weeks at a sanatorium for four proofreaders.

THE THIRD EDITION OF *THE OHIO ALMANAC* is even more of a hybrid creation—part almanac, part encyclopedia. Or, say the editors, “at once compendium, history, lesson-planner, and doorstep.” Their mission began before the 2000 U.S. Census, when a torrent of new information rushed downstream and threatened all known factual orders.

THE *ALMANAC*'S FACT-MAVEN, MICHAEL O'BRYANT, was delighted by the chaos of new fact and set about compiling lists. John Baskin, with his customary affinity for finding the most difficult way of completing any project, convinced the normally sensible Mr. O'Bryant into more synthesis and assessment. Instructed by what they began to regard as the contemporary assault of random information, this editorial odd couple decided on a dual approach: honoring traditional facts while attempting to provide context and understanding.

THE BUSINESS SECTION HAS, THEN, A LIST OF OHIO'S top employers, but also a “plus&minus” chart that evaluates Ohio infrastructure and economy, as well as where Ohio jobs are, were, and will be. There are typical lists of gross state

product and retail trade, but also an analysis of how Ohio fits into Harvard University's creative Cluster Project, which identifies and ranks concentrations of related industries.

THERE ARE DOZENS OF BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRIES, both historical and contemporary, but also charts such as “11 High Cultural Buckeye Moments” (in which Ohioans invent everything from the sectional sofa to the modern comic book and a middle-class American world view) and “15 Ohioans You Want on the Next Barstool When the Fight Breaks Out” (notably Phil Sheridan, who once threw the conductor off his own train).

THE BODY OF RELEVANT OHIO FACT IS ACCOMPANIED—and leavened—by an unusual range of charts, lists, essays, and asides. In them, the editors ask: Where else will the astute Ohio reader find such items as a modern appraisal of the Ohioans in the White House, the *failure* of the Wright Brothers, the Ohioan who caused a panic in America's undershirt market, biographies of Ohio's greatest public servants, and classic moments in Ohio waggery?

THERE ARE ESSAYS BY OHIO'S TOP WRITERS, ACADEMICS, and journalists, all of it heightened by nearly 500 photographs and drawings, and hundreds of related website and website reviews pointing the user to specific Ohio information.

NOWHERE ELSE IS FOUND SO MUCH MATERIAL helping Ohioans understand Ohio, including the single best explanation ever written on exactly who Ohioans are and *why* they are.

Contact: Sarah Hawley @ Orange Frazer Press

P.O. Box 214, 37½ West Main Street, Wilmington, OH 45177 800.852.9332