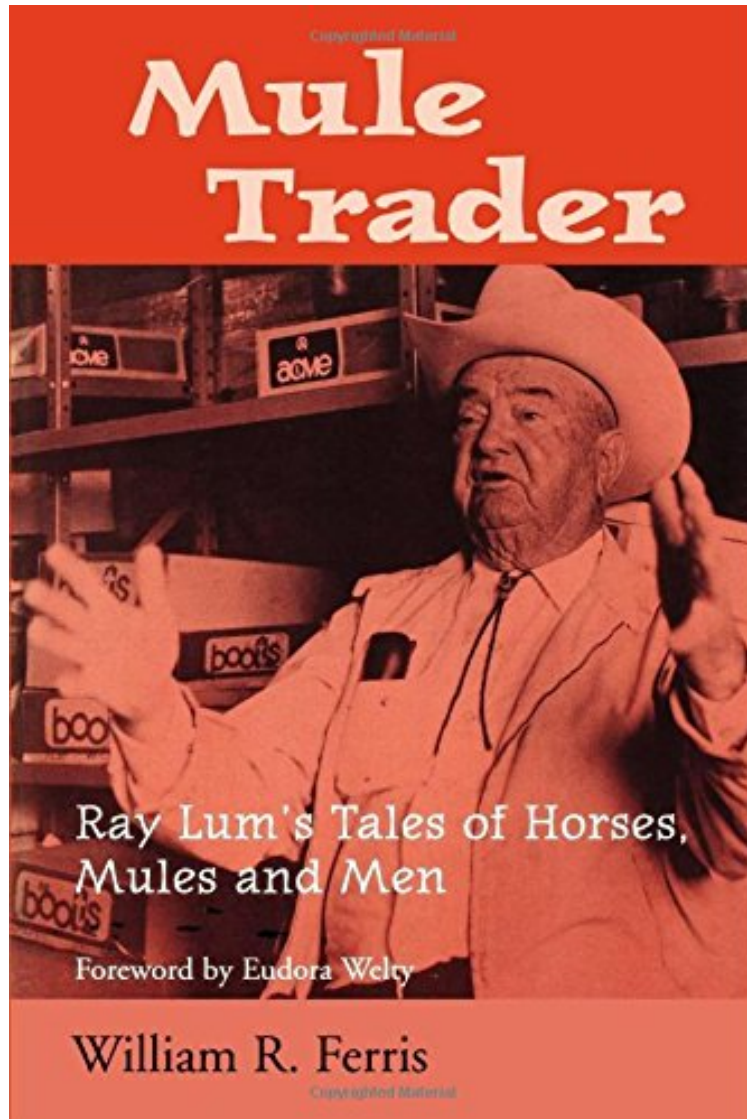


(Read free) Mule Trader: Ray Lum's Tales of Horses, Mules, and Men (Banner Book Series)

Mule Trader: Ray Lum's Tales of Horses, Mules, and Men (Banner Book Series)

William R. Ferris

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William R. Ferris : Mule Trader: Ray Lum's Tales of Horses, Mules, and Men (Banner Book Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mule Trader: Ray Lum's Tales of Horses, Mules, and Men (Banner Book Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's always a good read when I pick it upBy BrendanIt's always a good read when I pick it up, but I'm never anxious to get back to it. It is pure Americana, and kind of fun. Just wanders

from story to story in Ray Lum's voice ... I imagine it is exactly like what it used to be to listen to him spin yarns.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy deborah s. spearmanPriceless story of the life of an auctioneer.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It lost my interestBy L. NicolosiI love books about the Old West (and South), but this guy was kind of just a slippery wheeler-dealer and after a couple of chapters, you get the idea and it's all repetition. He didn't give me the insight into mule and horse behavior that I was hoping to get.

Readers captivated by this book will be happy that Bill Ferris found Ray Lum and that he thought to turn on a tape recorder. Lum (1891-1977) was a mule skinner, a livestock trader, an auctioneer, and an American original. This delightful book, first published in 1992 as *You Live and Learn. Then You Die and Forget It All*, preserves Lum's colorful folk dialect and captures the essence of this one-of-a-kind figure who seems to have stepped full-blooded from the pages of Mark Twain. This riveting tale-spinner was tall, heavy-set, and full of body rhythm as he talked. In his special world, he was famous for trading, for tale-telling, and for common-sense lessons that had made him a savvy bargainer and a shrewd businessman. His home and his auction barn were in Vicksburg, Mississippi, where mules were his main interest, but in trading he fanned out over twenty states and even into Mexico. A west Texas newspaper reported his fame this way, He is known all over cow country for his honest, fair dealing and gentlemanly attitude. . . . A letter addressed to him anywhere in Texas probably would be delivered. Over several years, Ferris recorded Lum's many long conversations that detail livestock auctioneering, cheery memories of rustic Deep South culture, and a philosophy of life that is grounded in good horse sense. Even among the most spellbinding talkers, Lum is a standout both for what he has to say and for the way he says it. Ferris's lucky, protracted encounters with him turn out to be the best of good fortune for everybody.

Bill Ferris makes me wish I'd known Ray Lum. Larry Brown Story after wonderful story, tall tale after tall tale, Ray Lum tells a southern writer where he came from and where he ought to go. Shelby Foote Indeed, the mule trader has undoubtedly helped to form our great oral tradition in the South. Ray Lum [was] a man born and bred to the practice of the country monologue. Eudora Welty About the Author William R. Ferris is the former director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi. Among his many awards are the NEH's Charles Frankel Prize and in 1991 Rolling Stone's citation of him as one of the top ten teachers in the United States.