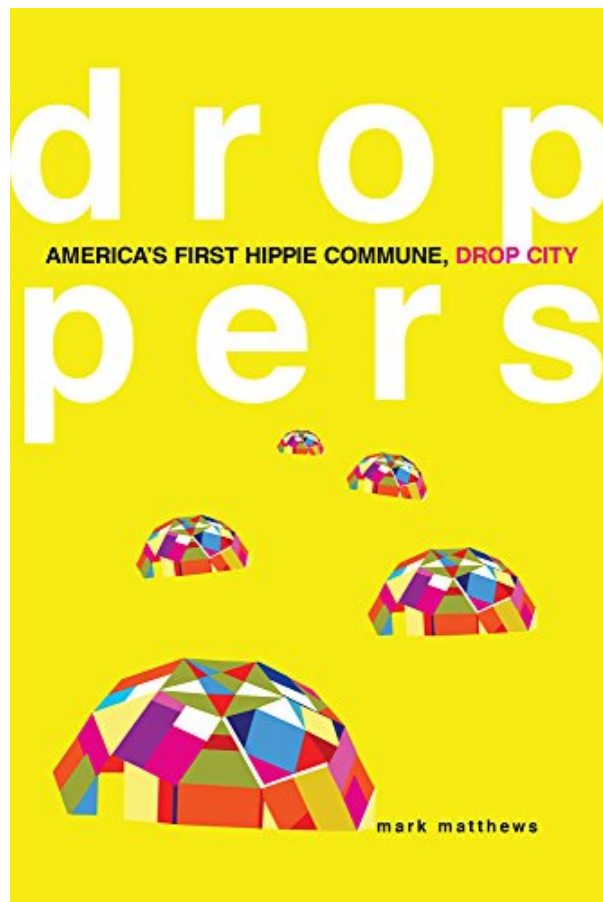
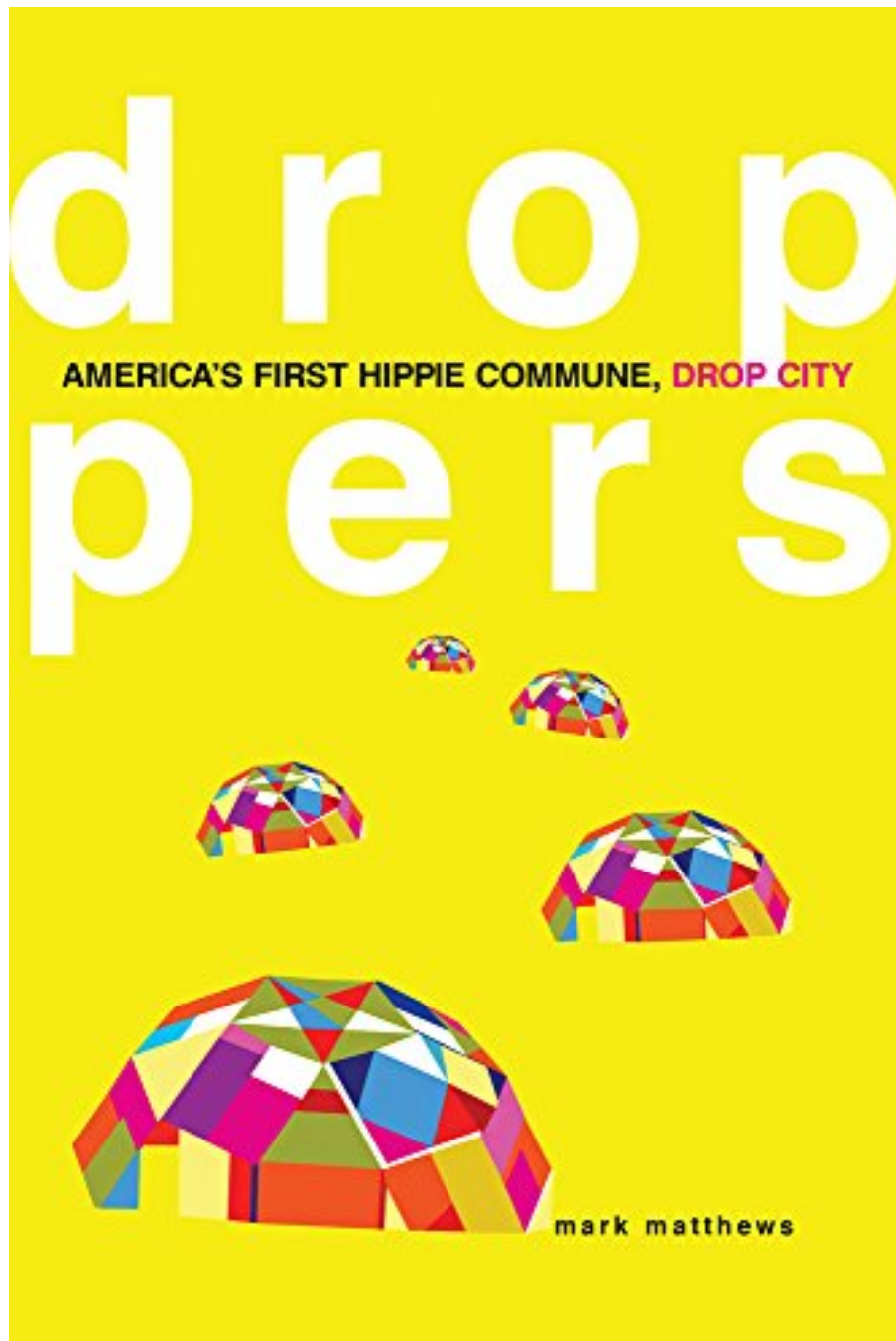


DROPPERS: AMERICA'S FIRST HIPPIE COMMUNE, DROP CITY BY MARK MATTHEWS



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From Publishers Weekly

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About the Author

A former wildland firefighter and freelance journalist, Mark Matthews is the author of *Smoke Jumping on the Western Fire Line: Conscientious Objectors during World War II* and *A Great Day to Fight Fire: Mann Gulch, 1949*.

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DROPPERS: AMERICA'S FIRST HIPPIE COMMUNE, DROP CITY BY MARK MATTHEWS PDF

Sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll. In popular imagination, these words seem to capture the atmosphere of 1960s hippie communes. Yet when the first hippie commune was founded in 1965 outside Trinidad, Colorado, the goal wasn't one long party but rather a new society that integrated life and art. In *Droppers*, Mark Matthews chronicles the rise and fall of this utopian community, exploring the goals behind its creation and the factors that eventually led to its dissolution.

Seeking refuge from enforced social conformity, the turmoil of racial conflict, and the Vietnam War, artist Eugene Bernofsky and other founders of Drop City sought to create an environment that would promote both equality and personal autonomy. These high ideals became increasingly hard to sustain, however, in the face of external pressures and internal divisions.

In a rollicking, fast-paced style, Matthews vividly describes the early enthusiasm of Drop City's founders, as Bernofsky and his friends constructed a town in the desert literally using the "detritus of society." Over time, Drop City suffered from media attention, the distraction of visitors, and the arrival of new residents who didn't share the founders' ideals.

Matthews bases his account on numerous interviews with Bernofsky and other residents as well as written sources. Explaining Drop City in the context of the counterculture's evolution and the American tradition of utopian communities, he paints an unforgettable picture of a largely misunderstood phenomenon in American history.

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9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

TRUE GRIT

By Jo Bernofsky

At last the true inside story of an inspirational group of youth compelled to have some creative fun during the Vietnam War disaster from which our country is still reeling. These droppers took their axes to auto junk yards and literally chopped out the tops of cars for building living domes. The story is beautifully presented by Mark Matthews who interviewed the founder of this non-intentional community for over a year. The story is inter-cut with powerful historical reportage of the Vietnam debacle. With the perpetual wars going on today and our Government seemingly unable to achieve peace, this brilliant book is particularly pertinent to the youth of today seeking creative meaning in their lives. If you're looking for something beyond all the daily depressing news, this book is for you!

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Take a trip down memory lane with the droppers and read this book.

By Rolling Mountain

Drop City, America's First Hippie Commune, is an American story of finding individual freedom and community as told through the eyes and words of the droppers who sought those dreams in a world gone mad with militaristic government and war, who sought refuge from the drumming conformity of stifling religious and educational institutions and mindless service to corporate greed and consumption . . . Mark

Mathews deftly unfolds a narrative on what drove the cultural forces that awakened a generation born out of World War II to follow the 'cosmic forces' of love, joy and happiness and the cultural sprouting of hippie communes in America. Drop City is told by the people who made it happen, droppings they would say, colorful, funny, tragic seekers born out of the American experience.

Take a trip down memory lane with the droppers and read this book.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

American history you won't learn in school...

By Sandy Borrow

Not only does this book describe the atmosphere and events surrounding the Viet Nam war, it incorporates the assimilation of an immigrant Eastern European family into American life. The development of America's first commune owes its idealism to the Bernofsky family's history and how their ideals influenced Eugene Bernofsky's vision. I found this book to be highly informative and extremely funny. The interviews with Mr. Bernofsky prove his razor sharp sense of humor while making a social commentary that documents a challenging time in America's history.

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