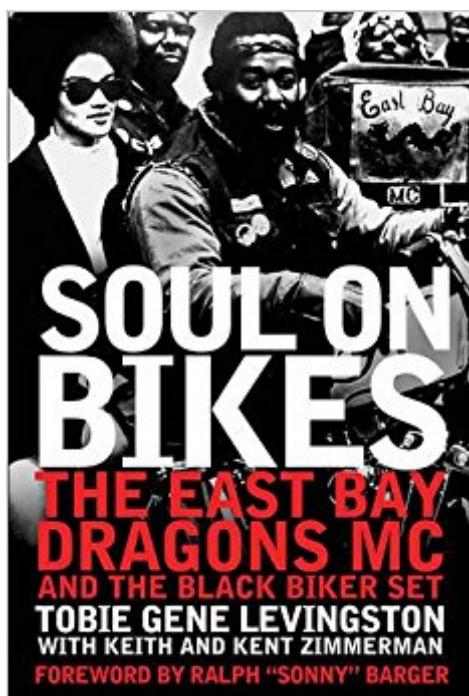


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Soul On Bikes: The East Bay Dragons MC And The Black Biker Set



Synopsis

The East Bay Dragons Motorcycle Club has gunned their Harleys through the meanest streets of Oakland, California, since the 1950s. Before Rosa Parks took her historic bus ride and before Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Huey P. Newton and the Black Panthers stood bravely for equal rights, the East Bay Dragons MC risked life and limb during the days when it was a revolutionary act for a black man to ride a Harley chopper. Written by Tobie Livingston, the club's original founder, Soul on Bikes offers a slice of underground American and African-American history you're unlikely to read in any textbook. Livingston and his colorful cast of misfits and comrades are an all-black, all-Harley, all-chopper group of motorcyclists who have found more than their fair share of violence and redemption on the battlefields of urban America--and their legacy is an important untold portion of African-American history. Soul on Bikes recounts the club's adventures with humor, attitude, and, most important, soul.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Motorbooks (November 15, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 076034535X

ISBN-13: 978-0760345351

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 50 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #435,803 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in Books > Arts & Photography > Vehicle Pictorials > Motorcycles #39 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Automotive > Motorcycles > History #821 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > History

Customer Reviews

Frost Illustrated Feb. 7, 2007 "Soul on Bikes: The East Bay Dragons MC and the Black Biker Set is a fascinating biography of a fascinating black man and an equally fascinating black movement."

The East Bay Dragons Motorcycle Club has gunned its Harleys through the meanest streets of Oakland, Calif., since the 1950s. While Rosa Parks took her historic bus ride, before Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X and Huey P. Newton and the Black Panthers stood bravely for equal rights, the

East Bay Dragons MC risked life and limb during the days when it was a revolutionary act for a black man to ride a Harley chopper. Here's a slice of underground American and African-American history you're unlikely to read in any history book. Tobie Gene Levingston and his colorful cast of misfits and comrades are an all-black, all-Harley, all-chopper group of motorcyclists who have found more than their fair share of violence and redemption on the battlefields of urban America.

Headquartered in Oakland, California, the East Bay Dragons exist alongside the Hell's Angels and the Oakland Raiders, securing their place as modern urban folk heroes. Starting out in the 1950s as a car club, Tobie Gene and the Dragons switched to two wheels and encountered street scuffles, rival clubs, ethnic stereotypes, police misconduct, and racial tensions. Their legacy is an untold portion of African-American history. From his humble beginnings as the son of a poor sharecropper, Tobie Gene became the founder and president of the nation's most elite exclusively black motorcycle club. Soul on Bikes recounts the club's adventures with humor, attitude, and most important, soul. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The black biker set presented itself, established itself, and filled a void from the beginning. Fifty years ago a lot of prejudices filled our lives. If you grew up in the South, you lived that mentality. If you lived in Oakland, California, nobody cared. Well, some cared but most were just excited about having a job! After all California was the place of plenty and fifty years ago we had plenty of fledgling motorcycle clubs. For the month of March, we at Motorcycle Fiction would like to present to you the story of Tobie Gene Levingston, the reigning President of the East Bay Dragons M C, an all-black all male motorcycle club for over 40 years. "Soul On Bikes" The East Bay Dragons MC and the Black Biker Set. Tobie starts this book in the present time. He has two club brothers dead and an invisible enemy telling him he has to cease and desist. No wearing your colors. He leaves the Club house to think. He remembers the story of a man who had to Pee. He laughs and knows he has made his decision, "ain't nobody going to tell us we can't wear our colors on these Oakland Streets, not after 40 years! Nobody!" That is the attitude of the club. Tobie started out as a sharecropper's son. His large family and a loving Mother gave him the values he needed to be a man and he has certainly shown us all what it takes to be a man; he has lead the East Bay Dragons for the last 50 years. He knows what it takes to be the leader of men. This is a history book, a very well written history book that will keep you entertained and smiling remembering your own history. This is a great history book. Enjoy

Most of the african american based clubs usually have their beginings in the late 60's and early

70's. Being in an M/C myself that has its beginings in the later part of the 80's , I figured this book would be rich in history and perspective. I hate reading novels, but this book gripped me and I read the whole thing in 2 days. I'm not really good at book comments, but I will say this is a must read book if you are in a M/C, and should be a required read especially if you are in an african american based M/C. This book has left a lasting inspirational impression on me as a motorcyclist and as a president of a M/C myself. I've been pushing this on my members and other friends. I dont want to sound pro-black in my review. But the book de-bunks alot of myths about african americans and their spot in the motorcycle community. This book has giving me a sense of pride and gratitude towards clubs that paved the way for a guy like me to ride my chopper and fly my colors without fear of police brutality or revival racial M/C beefs. White, black, or inbetween. THIS IS A GOOD BOOK, go out it read it.

First off i never knew that much bout the East Bay Dragons, altho im from the Town(oakland) ive seen them but never knew the history to them so i decided to get this book to learn a lil mo about them, and woow was i amazed about how much there was to know about them and their history and the founder and the length of time they've been around. Honestly this is one of the best books ive read in a long time!! if you have any interest in motorcyle clubs history such as ones from the East Bay besides the Hells Angels this is the book to get!!!! Super interesting!!! Gene Toby is a legend in my eyes now!!! Much mo respect for the East Bay Dragons after reading this book!!! A huge part of Oakland history!!! If you want to learn about another huge part of Oakland history then read this!!! couldn't put the book down it was that good!!! Much respect to the East Bay Dragons!!! Honestly if you are living or from the Town you should read this book!!! Even if you are from another city in the East Bay you should read this book!!!

I read this book when it first came out, and I've read it repeatedly over the past four years. I just put it down again last night. This is a fascinating and well-written walk through the Black Biker Set (I ride) and it's a sad reality that no other books like it have come along. I want to know more about how Mr. Levingston's family dealt with his lifestyle. I want to know more about how American politics factored into their world. I want to know about how and why the Dragons chose their preferred styles of motorcycles over the years. It's reasonably well known that Bay Area Hells Angels generally prefer a certain type of bike while the Dragons are drawn to a different style. I'd like to know the philosophies behind their chosen machines. And, on a deeper level, I want to know more about the other legendary Black clubs out there. This isn't necessarily a job for Mr. Levingston but for

historians and publishers. I want to see more books like this. There are videos out there detailing theÂ Wheels of SoulÂ and another entitled "Glory Road" which is more general. Both are great documents and more are being produced. But where are the written histories to accompany this excellent overview of one of the premier Black clubs? For potential readers, you can't go wrong with this book. If you enjoy biker books, this one is unique. If you enjoy Black history, again, this is a unique entry. And if you just want to read something off the beaten path, you can't go wrong here.

Good Read.....If you like motorcycles and black Americana, add this book to your collection. Basically it's about one of the first black motorcycle clubs in this country, their trials and tribulations. The cost of the book was fair, delivery was fast and it makes for good reading.

Arrived before scheduled time. Perfectly packaged and safe. Reading it time from time. Very good read. I have a lot of motorcycle CLUB books. This is an interesting read.

When this book first came out I attended a local book signing by Mr. Levingston and it was very moving. As an African American Man I am always interested in books that speak directly to Black Men with an authentic story of how Black Men can prevent themselves from being just another statistic. An inspirational story of one of the oldest Black Mens Harley Davidson's clubs in America.

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