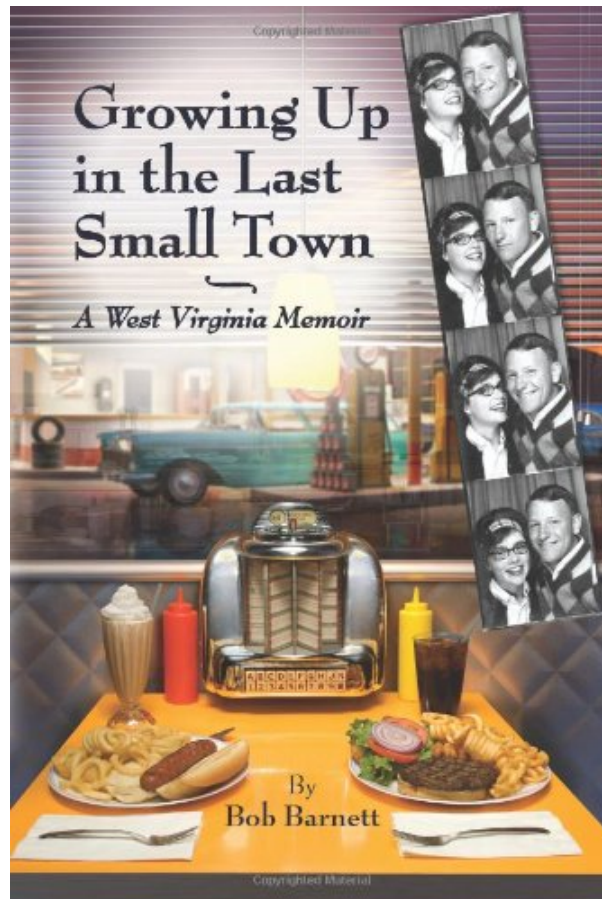
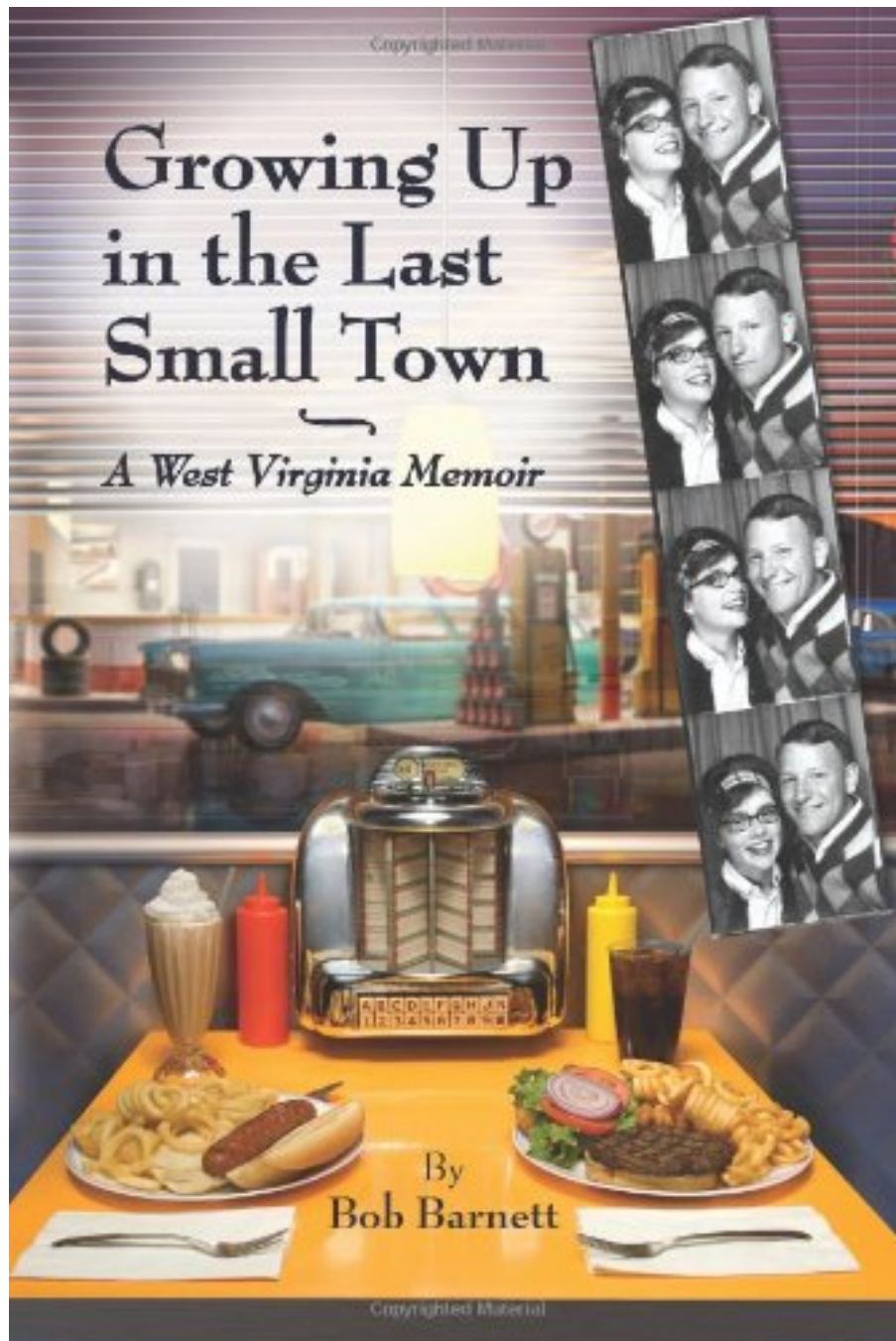


# GROWING UP IN THE LAST SMALL TOWN BY BOB BARNETT



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## Review

"a regional gem... lucidly weaves historical fact with poignant humorous personal narrative....This memoir is a first rate account...." Mary Lou Pratt

--West Virginia Libraries

"Readers who enjoy memoirs...have a gem waiting for them...The book's highest virtue, however, is Barnett's evocative prose. --Huntington Herald-Dispatch

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"Features that set this well-written memoir apart include Barnett's succinct and readable account of Newell's history and the town's ties to the famous Homer Laughlin China Company... [and the book's] detailed index." --Goldenseal Magazine

## About the Author

Bob Barnett is a lifelong resident of West Virginia. He taught sports history for thirty-five years at Marshall University, and has written more than 300 articles, for a wide variety of periodicals and journals, including Saturday Evening Post, Sports Heritage Magazine, West Virginia's Goldenseal Magazine, and the Dallas Cowboy News.

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Growing Up in the Last Small Town: A West Virginia Memoir, a humorous and poignant account of the early life of retired Marshall University scholar Bob Barnett, a self-described bad student and undersized athlete coming of age in the 1950s. It is also the story of all of us who grew up in small-town America between 1940 and 1960. For Bob and the other children in unincorporated pottery town Newell, West Virginia, it was a time of simple pleasures: shedding winter coats on the first day of spring, playing baseball until dark, watching four-hour children's matinees on Saturday afternoon, and breaking plates in the town dump, their favorite playground. It was a time when getting the right date for the prom was more important than the election of the president. This story captures the rhythm of small-town life that we thought would never change. But change came quickly. Television became a staple of modern life in the 1950s offering Elvis, the evening news, and a vivid view of our changing world. School consolidations robbed towns of their souls, supermarkets eliminated the need for corner grocery stores, and the closings of mills and factories brought an end to small towns as we knew them. The generation whose story is told in this book grew up in the last small town in America.

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Saturday Evening Post, Sports Heritage Magazine, West Virginia's Goldenseal Magazine, and the Dallas Cowboy News.

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loved it all

By davez

I'll begin with a disclaimer--I know the author. That out of the way, anybody who grew up from the late 40s to mid-60s will recognize, laugh at, and weep about these snapshots of a lost way of life. Barnett is not simply nostalgic; he is understanding and articulate about why things changed. He is also generous about all the people in his small town who made it a great place to grow up. That is, this not a solipsistic account of what Barnett did, but a contextual recounting of how what he did fit into the rhythms of small town America. If you don't want to cry when he talks about getting on the wrong bus as a seven year old or want to cheer when he catches his first high school touchdown pass, you are a cold-hearted wretch beyond redemption.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

What? no more small towns

By N. J. Powell

The author, Bob Barnett did a nice job of sharing his stories, feelings and humor especially on teen dating and attending prom. I was curious to see how he validated "the last small town" and found his explanation solid. How nice it was to reminisce and laugh while reading this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Wonderful Story about Humble People !!!

By scarlet

I am proud to say that I grew up in Small Town America and am pleased and proud to see these stories of my home town area in print and selling so well. Thank you Bob Barnett for bringing Newel, Chester and all of the Northern Panhandle of Wonderful West Virginia into print so that others can know of the charm of living on the banks of the great Ohio River and being residents in an area of hard working , Christian, caring people!! Blessings to You !

My parents worked at Homer Laughlin Pottery, Hall China, Taylor ,Smith & Taylor and many more in the area. I have wonderful memories of my childhood in Chester and am glad these are being shared with people everywhere.

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