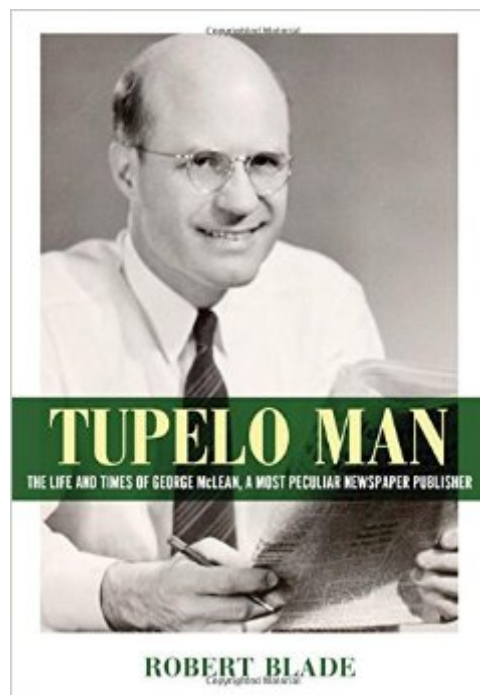


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Tupelo Man: The Life And Times Of George McLean, A Most Peculiar Newspaper Publisher (Willie Morris Books In Memoir And Biography)



Synopsis

In 1924, George McLean, an Ole Miss sophomore and the spoiled son of a judge, attended a YMCA student mission conference whose free-thinking organizers aimed to change the world. They changed George McLean's. But not instantly. As vividly recounted in the first biography of this significant figure in Southern history, *Tupelo Man: The Life and Times of a Most Peculiar Newspaper Publisher*, McLean drifted through schools and jobs, always questioning authority, always searching for a way to put his restless vision into practical use. In the Depression's depths, he was fired from a teaching job at what is now Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, over his socialist ideas and labor organizing work. By 1934 he decided he had enough of working for others and that he would go into business for himself. In dirt-poor Northeast Mississippi, the *Tupelo Journal* was for sale, and McLean used his wife's money to buy what he called "a bankrupt newspaper from a bankrupt bank." As he struggled to keep the paper going, his Christian socialism evolved into a Christian capitalism that transformed the region. He didn't want a bigger slice of the pie for himself, he said; he wanted a bigger pie for all. But McLean (1904-1983) was far from a saint. He prayed about his temper, with little result. He was distant and aloof toward his two children--adopted through a notorious Memphis baby selling operation. His wife, whom he deeply loved in his prickly way, left him once and threatened to leave again. "I don't know why I was born with this chip on my shoulder," he told her. *Tupelo Man* looks at this far-from-ordinary publisher in an intimate way that offers a fascinating story and insight into our own lives and times.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I expected to like this book because I'm from Tupelo, the author's wife was a friend and classmate from kindergarten through high school, and my parents greatly admired Mr. McLean, as I did. I was not disappointed. It was a wonderful read--I learned so much about my hometown and several of the men who worked with Mr. McLean to make Tupelo such a special place. Being from Tupelo made it all the more interesting to me but I think anyone who likes to read about people who look at their surroundings and determine to make them better will enjoy this book.

An amazing life story that demonstrates what positive and creative determination can accomplish over a lifetime. One person, endowed with such creative intelligence, can make a difference.

George's life exemplifies that truth and his efforts continue to flower. Faulkner identified the Snopes and their like. George changed their life. That is a tremendous accomplishment for both Mississippi men that will continue to resound throughout generations. Thanks to Robert Blake for his worthy effort.

An insightful look into the controversial life of one of North Mississippi's trailblazers. It was well written and left the reader to judge Mr. McLean.

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