



Shelby s Folly: Jack Dempsey, Doc Kearns, and the Shakedown of a Montana Boomtown (Paperback)

By Jason Kelly

University of Nebraska Press, United States, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In 1923, not long after oil had started gushing from northern Montana fields, declining real-estate sales in nearby Shelby were dimming the little town s prospects of becoming the Tulsa of the West. Then the mayor s son dreamed up a marketing ploy: offer to host heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey s next fight. What began as a publicity stunt soon spiraled into a civic drama unlike any Montana had ever seen. Shelby s Folly tells this story in full for the first time. Against the background of boom-and-bust Montana history, the folly of Shelby s would-be promoters unfolds in colorful detail. It took months to persuade Dempsey s conniving manager, Jack Doc Kearns, to sign a \$300,000 contract. With less than two months before the July 4 fight, the town still had no stadium and no accommodations for tens of thousands of expected fans. Jason Kelly describes the promoters desperate measures and their disastrous results, from the first inkling of the idea to the bitter end of the fifteen-round boxing match. Shelby residents identified with the underdog challenger, Tommy...

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