

# Philadelphia Big Earl Smith: The Untold Story of a Philadelphia Icon



## Philadelphia Big 5 by M. Earl Smith

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled



Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 200 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported

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Philadelphia Big Earl Smith was a larger-than-life figure in Philadelphia history. A talented athlete, musician, and entertainer, Smith was also a generous and kind-hearted man who made a difference in the lives of many. This book tells the untold story of Smith's life and legacy.

## **Early Life and Career**

Earl Smith was born in Philadelphia in 1922. He was raised in a poor family in the city's Strawberry Mansion neighborhood. As a child, Smith showed a talent for both sports and music. He was a star athlete at Simon Gratz High School, where he excelled in football, basketball, and track and field. After graduating from high school, Smith played professional football for the Philadelphia Eagles and the New York Giants. He also played semi-professional basketball for the Philadelphia Sphas.

In addition to his athletic career, Smith was also a gifted musician. He played the saxophone and the clarinet, and he sang in a variety of choirs and ensembles. In the 1950s, Smith began performing regularly at nightclubs and other venues in Philadelphia. He quickly became a popular entertainer, and he was known for his infectious energy and his ability to connect with audiences.

## **Civil Rights Activism**

In the 1960s, Smith became involved in the Civil Rights Movement. He marched in protest against segregation and discrimination, and he spoke out against police brutality. In 1964, Smith was arrested for participating in a sit-in at a segregated restaurant. He was convicted of trespassing and sentenced to 30 days in jail. Smith's arrest and conviction sparked outrage in the Philadelphia community. Thousands of people marched in protest, and Smith was eventually released from jail.

Smith's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement had a profound impact on his life. He became even more dedicated to fighting for social justice, and he used his platform as an entertainer to speak out against racism and discrimination. In the years that followed, Smith continued to be a vocal advocate for civil rights. He marched in the Selma to Montgomery marches, and he spoke at rallies and events across the country.

## **Later Life and Legacy**

In the 1970s, Smith's career began to decline. He struggled with addiction and health problems. However, he continued to perform occasionally, and he remained a popular figure in the Philadelphia community. In 1985, Smith was inducted into the Philadelphia Music Hall of Fame. He died in 1991 at the age of 69.

Philadelphia Big Earl Smith was a true Philadelphia icon. He was a talented athlete, musician, and entertainer who made a difference in the lives of many. He was also a courageous civil rights activist who fought for justice and equality. Smith's legacy continues to inspire people today.

Philadelphia Big Earl Smith was a remarkable man who lived a full and extraordinary life. He was a talented athlete, musician, and entertainer who made a difference in the lives of many. He was also a courageous civil rights activist who fought for justice and equality. Smith's legacy continues to inspire people today.



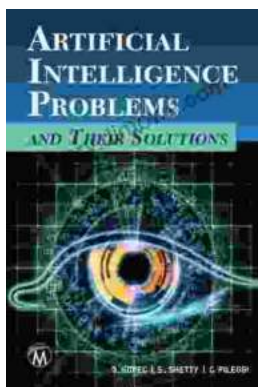
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