

\$3.00

Tale of a
FOOLISH FARMER

By George Sessions Perry

If you have ever owned a farm, this little book should make you that much happier. If you do own one, it should help to get your mind off that fact. If you are thinking of buying one, it may very well change your mind. But for George Sessions Perry, it's already too late. He is already inextricably involved with all varieties of quadruped, biped, and secondhand machinery.

This is the rich and happy story of a country boy who could never really leave the country. Although George Perry traveled more than 50,000 miles around America, and put more than ten books and dozens of magazine articles between himself and his native Rockdale, Texas, the rich soil of the Texas bottomlands finally pulled him back. One spring, when the first tips of new corn were playing peep-eye out of the earth, Mary Arnwine, his old friend, confidante, and cook, who could wish a hole through a two-inch plank, began singing her siren song about the joys of farming. Then George Perry got so filled with the spirit that he went out and bought not one farm but two, "Brushy Creek Farm" and "Hold Autumn Farm."

(continued from front flap)

250 acres of hillside and bottomland thicket. Inventory showed fences: none; habitable dwellings: none; barns: none; ditto implements and draft animals. But Mary Arnwine, her husband Rush, and their four children quickly started filling up the place. From that point on, no matter whether George Perry was building a barn by long-distance or bragging in a grocery store in Connecticut about his cattle out West, his roots were in Rockdale, Texas.

George had plenty of troubles along the way. There was a herd of brainless cows who thought nothing of showing the hiding place of their baby calves to a hungry wolf but refused to show George a profit; a bad-tempered horse that kept drinking out of Mary Arnwine's milk pail; Rush Arnwine, Mary's husband, who had a way with machines—the wrong way—and finally fought the Perry truck to a standstill; and a most dangerous weed called Mexican clover.

But whether George is in crisis or in clover, **TALE OF A FOOLISH FARMER** is a story of great gusto, joy, and contentment. George Perry's growing love for the farm and his realization that it has made his whole life more creative and meaningful will be a tonic to the spirit of everyone who wants to escape from the urban world. This is a book for all those who would like to relax completely among good grass and good friends.

Tale of a
Foolish Farmer

By *George Sessions Perry*



Photograph by George Heinold

GEORGE SESSIONS PERRY

Born and raised in Texas, George Sessions Perry started off his long, action-packed career in true storybook tradition—as a deck boy on an ocean-going steamer. He went on to exploits in darkest Africa and then into a full-fledged literary career. George Perry is the author of the prize-winning novel **HOLD AUTUMN IN YOUR HAND** and the best-selling **TEXAS: A WORLD IN ITSELF**, as well as the remarkable *Cities of America* Series to which he contributed twenty-one articles for the *Saturday Evening Post*.

Yet George Perry's innate love for his native Texas bottomlands never faltered throughout his entire adventurous career, and he finally surrendered a few years ago and bought himself two farms near Rockdale, Texas. **TALE OF A FOOLISH FARMER** chronicles George Perry's delighted discovery of the rich joys and ingenuity-taxing tribulations that are every Texas farmer's lot, and makes for refreshing, warmly human reading.

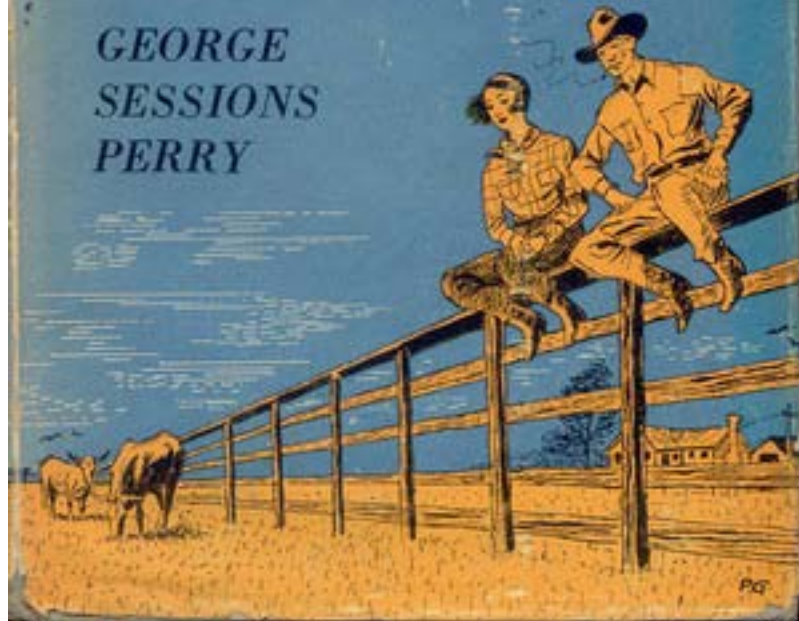
McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.

330 West 42d Street

New York 18, N. Y.

Tale of a
Foolish Farmer

*GEORGE
SESSIONS
PERRY*



Books by GEORGE SESSIONS PERRY

Fiction

WALLS RISE UP

THIRTY DAYS HATH SEPTEMBER

In collaboration with Dorothy Cameron Disney

HACKBERRY CAVALIER

HOLD AUTUMN IN YOUR HAND

Non-fiction

TEXAS: A WORLD IN ITSELF

WHERE AWAY: The Story of the U.S.S. MARBLEHEAD

In collaboration with Isabel Leighton

CITIES OF AMERICA

MY GRANNY VAN

ROUNDUP TIME

A collection of Southwestern writing

FAMILIES OF AMERICA

TALE OF A FOOLISH FARMER