

## THOUGHTFUL ... FUNNY ... ENDEARING

RIVER OF DREAMS is written by Wildwood Dean; Dean lives on Red River and I do mean lives on Red River. Don't write him off as a country bumpkin but rather know him as a country philosopher. Dean grew up on the river during the 40's in a hard scrabble situation. When you read the book, you will understand what I am saying. Times were hard but his family was tougher. The amazing fact is the love and devotion that the family finds through God. Time and time again the mother leads by faith and carries the family through. The book isn't about religion but it's founded on the love of God. You might be tempted to think that it is sad, but, no, anything but!!!

THOUGHTFUL: "OL' Mother Nature is puttin' the screws to me. It's just so hard to raise vegetables in the scorchin' heat without water. Raising something to eat is the key ... everybody's got to eat." Dad told Mother, "Before I had a farm there was Red River ... I'll be dad-gum if I'm gonna let Mother Nature do me in."

MYSTERY: "The whole thing remained a dark family secret. Dad and Barley and their brothers were sworn to secrecy; Delton and I couldn't afford to spill the beans."

FUNNY: "Waugh... Oh my, they're inside my drawers. Augh.... they're eating my butt up. Oh, have mercy!" Whomp ... Joe hit the ground right in front of the growling, gnarling dogs. (Not a single curse word was used in the ordeal.)

FAITH: Dub climbed down out of the pickup and counted out 10 crisp \$5 bills. Dad winked at Dub and told him, "Hand the money to Sybil. She's our bookkeeper." Mother peeled a \$5 bill off and stuck it in her apron pocket and handed Dad the other four. "Don't look at me that way Joe Price! "The grocery store can wait! The Lord can't."

River of Dreams is a must read. Retired School Teacher - Freda Riley