

SNEEZINGCOW REPORT

NOVEMBER 2010

An irregular update from author, humorist and part-time pig farmer Michael Perry

VOL. 2, ISSUE 1

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Follow Mike



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THANK YOU

I am daily grateful that I pretty much accidentally wound up with this little life we've carved out. I owe so much to readers and listeners and people who take the time to come to readings and performances and concerts... so, simply: Thank you. – Mike

FAMILY

Mike continues to reserve his fondest love and gratitude for his wife and two daughters (now 3 and 10), as they deal with the everyday unshiny and grumpy side of him, and know what he is like when not carefully copyedited.

Notes from Mike



If your motorcycle has a ball hitch and you use it to tow a woodsplitter...yer one of us!
(Full story at <http://sneezingcow.com/2010/04/23/yer-one-of-us/>)

FARMING

Mike was on tour most of the spring so we didn't raise pigs, but we expanded our chicken operation and now have about 60 layers and a new chicken coop on wheels. With help from



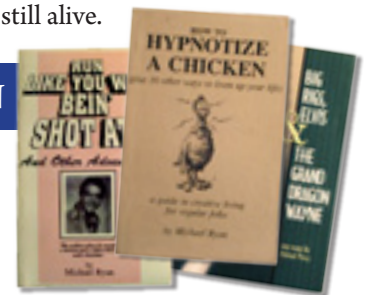
Mike's friend Mills we started fencing but didn't get far and therefore we are limited to raising theoretical beef. We did raise a bunch of meat chickens and had a real good garden year, so the freezers and cellar are well-stocked for winter.

MENAGERIE

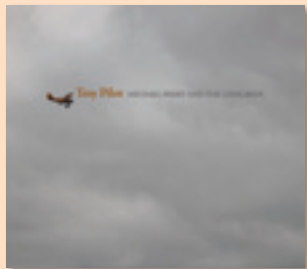
We now have two black farm cats named Charcoal and Briquet. They patrol the granary and keep it free of mice. Lately we have been joined by Socks, a stray who showed up when she was teensy. The other cats are mean to her but she is scrappy and the other day we saw her catch a rodent half her size. As of this minute, the guinea pig is still alive.

AUCTION

Please visit sneezingcow.com for links to online benefit auctions of rare, out of print, and early Michael Perry books and essays. A portion of proceeds will go to the Bloomer and New Auburn (Nobbern!) Food Pantry. Auctions commencing late November.



www.SneezingCow.com



Tiny Pilot
Michael Perry
and the Long Beds

Like so many before him, Mike learned to sing in church. Then a Waylon Jennings 8-track got him hooked on *boogey-boogey*. This combination yielded the mix of straight-up twang and churchly harmonies found in Perry's music. *Tiny Pilot* is Michael Perry's second full-length release with his band the Long Beds. The songs on *Tiny Pilot* range from boot-stomping country to roughneck folk ballads and are populated by characters drawn straight from rural and small-town America. The music made by Perry and his Long Beds has been described as 'country folk,' 'folk-twang,' and Americana.

The CD version of *Tiny Pilot* includes 3 exclusive tracks not found on the digital version. It also includes a lyric sheet with song commentary by Mike, and a full-color poster documenting the recording process.

CD.....\$12

Mike's Latest



Coop: A Family, a Farm, and the Pursuit of One Good Egg (paperback)

Paperback edition includes author interview and new "P.S." essay by Mike updating events (feral guinea hens, anyone?) since the hardcover release.

Faced with thirty-seven acres of fallen fences and overgrown fields surrounding his rickety Wisconsin farmhouse, and informed by his pregnant wife that she intends to deliver their baby at home, Michael Perry plumbs his unorthodox childhood—his city-bred parents took in sixty-some foster children while running a sheep and dairy farm—for clues about how to proceed as a farmer, a husband, and a father.

Paperback PS edition signed by author.....\$14.00
Hardcover signed by author.....\$24.00

Are Mike's Books Available on Audio?

In last year's newsletter we boldly stated, "*Mike will be recording audio versions of Coop and Truck in early 2010.*" Umm... well, that turned out to be sort of a campaign promise, didn't it? We can say that Mike did indeed *begin* recording those audiobooks in 2010, and we really, truly do expect to complete the project in 2011. In the meantime, the audio version of *Population 485* (abridged, and including seven essays from *Off Main Street*) can be downloaded at iTunes and audible.com. Direct links available at <http://sneezingcow.com/2009/02/26/population-485-with-off-main-street-audiobook/>

Announcing the Sneezing Cow Podcast

The first Sneezing Cow Podcast is "magnetized and in the can," as we used to say in those distant analog days. This is a new and evolving project, but the general idea is that each podcast includes a chat between Mike and his friend Al, a recorded essay, and an excerpt from one of Mike's live performances. By the time you read this, the podcast(s) should be available for download or online listening at <http://sneezingcow.com/tag/podcast/>

ON THE HORIZON

• **NEW BOOK(S)**

Mike is working on two book projects. Both are scheduled to be released in 2012.

The first is a memoir that begins with Mike going across the valley to watch his 80-year-old neighbor shoot a homemade cannon. Then Mike goes off on tangents.

Mike is also writing his first Young Adult fiction novel. The main character is a teenaged girl who lives in an abandoned station wagon and does battle with – among other things – post-apocalyptic roosters.

• **MUSIC**

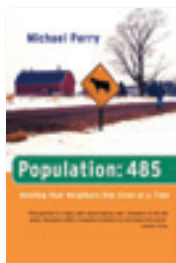
The Long Beds continue to hit the road when time allows. A new album is in the works, but a release date has not been set, as Mike is trying to learn a new chord. For more info on the Long Beds, visit <http://sneezingcow.com/music/albums/>

• **MIKE ON THE ROAD**

There will be some larger gaps in the calendar as it is time to catch up on farm and family, but Mike does love the sound of wheels, so please visit the Live Events page at <http://sneezingcow.com/events/>

VISIT FOR VIDEO

If you can't make it to a live event, or if you missed Mike on Wisconsin Public Television, or you'd like to see his bald head glowing during a television interview, we have compiled a gallery of video material at <http://sneezingcow.com/tag/video/>

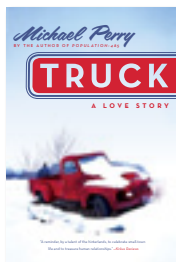


Population: 485 - Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time

After a twelve-year absence, a real-life prodigal son returns to his hometown — New Auburn, Wisconsin, population: 485 — and joins the volunteer fire and rescue department. In a place where men post claims of manhood on their truck bumpers, where the local vigilante is a farmer's wife armed with a pistol and a Bible, and where the most senior firefighter is a cross-eyed

butcher with one kidney and two ex-wives (both of whom work at the only gas station in town), writer Michael Perry sets out "to meet my neighbors at the invitation of the fire siren." The emergencies are real, the settings are surreal, and with each foray into the boondocks, we piece together the history of a people and a place. By turns fiery and funny, violent and gentle, **Population: 485** is the true account of a search for rootedness in a place from the past.

Paperback PS edition signed by author\$14.00



Truck: A Love Story

"All I wanted to do," says Michael Perry, "was get my old pickup truck running. That, and plant a little vegetable garden. Then I got distracted by this woman..."

As with *Population: 485*, much of the spirit of *Truck* lives in the characters Perry meets: a one-eyed land surveyor; a paraplegic biker who rigs a sidecar so his quadriplegic pal can ride along; a bartender who refuses to sell light beer; an enchanting woman who existed only on the inside flap of a cookbook, and half the staff of National Public Radio.

Hardcover signed by author\$24.00

Signed paperback PS edition\$14.00



Off Main Street: Barnstormers, Prophets & Gatemouth's Gator

"...A collection of essays about life in small towns, on the road, and around the world. Whether he's passing a kidney stone, hammering down I-80 in an 18-wheeler, or meditating on the relationship between cowboys and God, Perry draws on his rural roots and footloose past to write from a perspective that merges the local with the global. Ranging across subjects as diverse as lot lizards, Klan Wizards, and small town funerals, Perry's writing balances earthiness

with poetry, kinetics with contemplation, and is regularly salted with humor... showcasing essays on butchers, Elvis, and the downside of bunking next door to a Central American prostitute."

Paperback signed by author\$12.00



T-shirt - "Never Stand Behind A Sneezing Cow"

Spread the truth and the warning in a 100% cotton black T-shirt. T-shirts are black with "athletic gold" print. T-shirt reads, "www.sneezingcow.com" across chest; back features polka-dot cow on yield sign, over the message, "Never Stand Behind A Sneezing Cow."

Traditional Unisex Styling Hanes
Heavyweight in S, M, L, XL.....\$15.00
(XXL add \$1.50)



Why They Killed Big Boy... and other stories

A collection of essays, humor and nonfiction by Michael Perry. Reviewer comments: "Rural America is changing fast, and Perry is one of the funniest, most astute chroniclers of those changes...perceptive, witty, unpretentious writing...he creates characters worth remembering, takes you on journeys you'll not easily forget...Perry is an emerging writer who brings fun to the emerging genre of creative nonfiction." (some essays duplicated in *Off Main Street*)

Book signed by author.....\$10.00



Never Stand Behind A Sneezing Cow & Other Tales From Foggy Crossing

A live-audience recording of Mike addressing issues including high culture in low places, Fightin' Frogs football, parade floats gone bad, the fine art of manure spreader maintenance, coon dogs and the people who own them, things you should never say in an ambulance, Mavis Turner's *Love Guide*, the truth about deer hunting in Wisconsin, and, of course, this business about the cow.

CD\$10.00



I Got It from the Cows

A live-audience recording of Mike searching for truth in everything from the perfect cow to clogged sewer lines. Tracks include: "The Bull Catalog", "The Perfect Cow", "Explaining the Nurse Thing to Dad", "The Dew is on the Beer Tent", "Faux Pas Avec Monster Truck", "Holy Bumpersticker", "Zed Sets Me Straight", "Freaked at the Conoco", and "Just Say Whoa."

CD\$10.00



Headwinded Michael Perry and the Long Beds

Ten-song album (on CD) of original songs written by Mike and recorded with his band the Long Beds. Some have called it roughneck folk, and it honors the spirit of folks like John Prine, Waylon Jennings, James McMurtry, and so on. One lady in New Auburn said it was "like Gordon Lightfoot, only zippier."

CD\$10.00

The Long Beds T-Shirts

Heavyweight 100% cotton black t-shirt. Choose from two designs: "Like Gordon Lightfoot only Zippier" or "I'm A Bed Head." Long Beds URL on back.

Check sneezingcow.com for your size.



Order form on reverse side or place orders online at: www.SneezingCow.com

Sneezing Cow
PO Box 307
Fall Creek, WI 54742

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.SneezingCow.com
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Order total: _____

Shipping: _____

Tax $\left[\begin{array}{c} 5.5\% \\ \text{FOR WI} \\ \text{RESIDENTS} \\ \text{ONLY} \end{array} \right]$: _____

Total: _____

PAYMENT

MAIL TO:

Sneezing Cow
PO Box 307
Fall Creek, WI 54742

Make checks payable to
'Sneezing Cow'

For credit card sales please
visit www.SneezingCow.com.
(click on "The Store")

*Place
your order by
December 15th
for guaranteed
Christmas
delivery.*

Shipping charges:

\$0 to \$15.....\$2.75
\$15.01 to \$25.....\$3.00
\$25.01 to \$40.....\$3.75
\$40.01 & up.....\$5.00