

C.C. PYLE'S AMAZING FOOT RACE

GEOFF WILLIAMS

READ BY ROBERTSON DEAN

"A fine, unlikely and intimate journey into the American past, across the deserts, mountains and plains with heroes bearing wild aspirations long since gone." —*The Washington Post*

Among the runners of C. C. Pyle's First Annual International Transcontinental Foot Race were an assortment of underdogs, including twenty-year-old Oklahoman and part Cherokee Andy Payne, who wanted to win over the girl of his dreams and pay off the mortgage on his family's farm; Paul "Hardrock" Simpson, who was in over his head but couldn't let down his North Carolina hometown; Mike Kelly, a luckless boxer from Indiana; Seattle's Ed Gardner, one of four black runners who encountered bigotry; Charles Hart, a sixty-three-year-old Englishman hoping his best days weren't behind him; and Frank Johnson, a middle-aged steelworker from St. Louis who broke away from his humdrum life and dared to do something different.

Newspaper and magazine journalist Geoff Williams details this historic event and the colorful cast of characters involved based on firsthand accounts of those who were there and interviews from many living descendants. *C. C. Pyle's Amazing Foot Race* is a classic American story so astonishing and surreal that you have to hear it to believe it.

"Williams recounts the story with gusto, giving us a real sense of the physical and mental toll the competition took on its participants. . . . The book is like a time capsule and an entertaining one at that." —*Booklist*

Geoff Williams is a freelance journalist whose articles have appeared in *Entertainment Weekly* and *Life*, among other publications. He frequently contributes to *Entrepreneur* and is also the author of *Washed Away* and coauthor, with Chris Balish, of *Living Well with Bad Credit*. He lives with his wife and two daughters in Loveland, Ohio.

Robertson Dean has been nominated for several Audie Awards, has won nine *AudioFile* Earphones Awards, and was named one of *AudioFile* magazine's Best Voices of 2010. He has narrated hundreds of audiobooks in almost every genre, including the *New York Times* bestseller *God's Jury* by Cullen Murphy and *Unaccountable* by Marty Makary, M.D.



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