



10-15-1982

Poetry

Sheryl L. Nelms

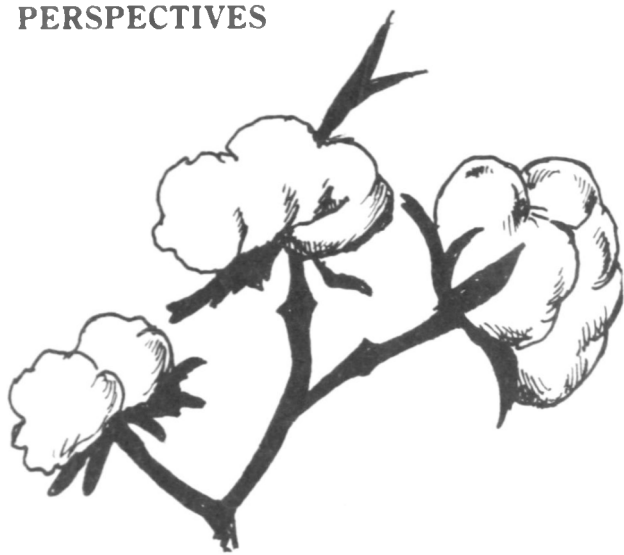
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the corn is planted
and waiting for rain
the beans are in
the ground
and the milo
is going down

then it's flax
and oats
to cut
before another
go round of alfalfa

and somewhere in between
it's put up prairie hay
combine wheat
cull the cows
sell the feeder pigs
and lambs
at the
right time
disk and harrow

easy livin'

then cultivate
always cultivate
except for what we can spray
when we top dress with anhydrous
or later if it's not too expensive

and in our spare time
there's show calves
and truck garden
to work
eggs to candle
and fences to mend

by then it will be time
to plow
again

and those folks in town
think farmers
have it made
free food for all



rained-out farmer

too much
of a good rain
sends him

caged panther pacing
across the kitchen linoleum

muttering muddled
meanness
to any
who

dare there

DRAWING BY GINGER RADER, INKING BY KEVIN HILL

Poet

Oklahoma whea

shopping at Safeway
is a chore
for him

he checks
every banana
and white onion
every loaf of Wonder
and box of Grapenuts
every can of pork 'n b
all of the varieties of
every bag of enriched
all of the frozen juices
and cartons of ice cre
every doughnut
and jar of wheat germ
every wheel of Chedd
and link of sausage
every pickled pig's fo
and slab of bacon
every sack of popcorn
and bottle of vegetab

his eyes scan
them all

add
subtract
divide by a bushel
of his winter wheat

and this time
he comes out
in the hole

Oklahoma wheat harvest

plump
tan kernels
loлл in the July sun
waiting

to be
picked up
by the churning clippers
rolling along
through
the riptide

spraying straw
in a golden wake

spi
har drous
per re

etry by

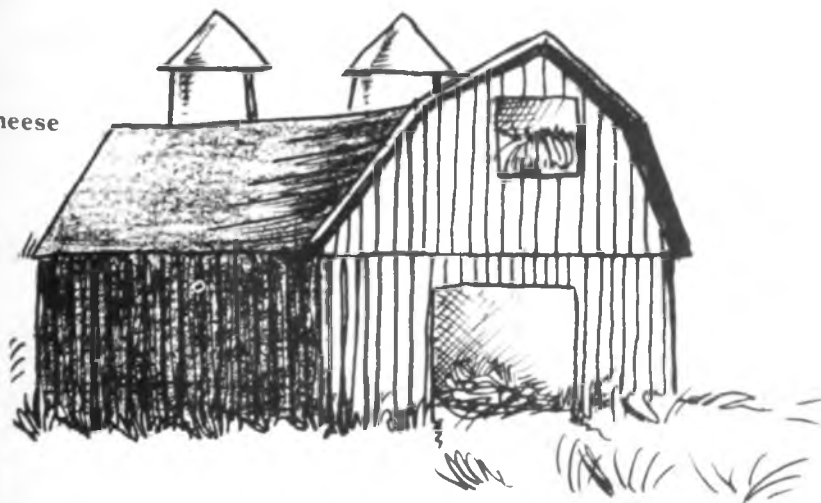
Sheryl L. Nelms

awheat farmer

galeway

Wonder bread
apenuts
pork 'n beans
eties of milk
enriched flour
en juices
of ice cream
nut
eat germ
of Cheddar cheese
ausage
d pig's foot
acon
f popcorn
vegetable oil

ushel
wheat



The Spirit

it's there in the
earthworm smell
of fresh plowed loam

it's there in the
Levi work shirt

it's there in the
worn linoleum
and the squeaking Dempster windmill

I see it in those sun weathered wrinkles

it's there in every
farmer
each time it
rains on fresh sown seed

21

