MD Gage's New Book “The Formative Years of Benjamin Bird” is a Richly Detailed Work of Historical Fiction Set in the Oklahoma Territory in the Early Twentieth Century

Recent release “The Formative Years of Benjamin Bird” from Page Publishing author MD Gage is an engrossing story following the early childhood years of a sweet and sensitive boy born on a hardscrabble farm in western Oklahoma in the early 1930’s.

NEW YORK (PRWEB) May 13, 2019 -- MD Gage, an Emeritus professor of History at Tarrant County College in Fort Worth, Texas who currently operates a registered Simbrah cattle ranch in Clay County, has completed his book “The Formative Years of Benjamin Bird”: the first in a series following the life of a young boy born in the Depression-era South.

The story of Benjamin Bird is set in Western Oklahoma in the Dust Bowl years of the Great Depression. Benjamin was born in 1934, the third child of a sharecropper. Ben’s heritage encompasses the history of late nineteenth-century frontier America, for his grandfathers were born in the aftermath of the Civil War. His paternal grandfather was the son of a former slave owner, and his maternal grandfather, the youngest son of a Confederate veteran, was from an extended family who, for generations, had subsisted squatting on public land beyond the edge of the farming frontier. Like nomads, when the frontier was closed, they owned no land.

Benjamin’s first memory was when, in late 1935, his farm family moved into a two-room frame shack whose plastered walls were pasted over with 1932 newspaper front pages, to seal the cracks. Benjamin was a happy boy who found joyous harmony in the natural world on the hardscrabble farm on which they subsisted, while the 1932 newspaper headlines kept him inquisitive about the world beyond his boundaries. He was secure in the love and support of his parents, his brother, and his sister.

Nearby, Ben’s grandparents, uncles and aunts, and sturdy, competitive cousins provided a support system, sharing what they had, a blood-related social security system, a workforce during harvest, a force to turn to for help in crisis. He loved them all and remained loyal to them throughout his formative years, even after he detected among them certain blemishes of character, even after their occasional hurtful words made him seem inferior, even after he began to doubt the infallibility of their fundamentalist religious convictions, even after he developed a secret, forbidden, gripping crush on a handsome, roguish older neighbor boy.

In conflict of conscience, will Ben defy his heritage and lose his beloved family’s love and support by rejecting their religious fundamentalism? Will they condemn him and shun him as a heretic? How will Ben cope with confusion about his sexuality without being guilt-ridden, inhibited, closeted, or shunned, filled with self-loathing?

Published by New York City-based Page Publishing, MD Gage’s book is a compelling novel exploring the innocence of childhood and a young boy’s growing self-awareness in a world that is fundamentally hostile to his truth.

Readers who wish to experience this engaging work can purchase “The Formative Years of Benjamin Bird” at bookstores everywhere, or online at the Apple iTunes store, Amazon, Google Play, or Barnes and Noble.
For additional information or media inquiries, contact Page Publishing at 866-315-2708.

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