

“While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”—Genesis 8:22

Penn County, Indiana, like all rural areas in the early 1900's, is in the process of changing forever. The horse and buggy days are fading away, as are the mores of the Victorian era. With WWI on the winds of the American landscape, the children of the one room schoolhouse begin to drift apart.

Four generations of the Krouse family, like many families, have seen their share of hard times as pioneers of the Midwest, working vast amounts of land. However, Will Krouse, a dairy farmer, has everything he's ever dreamed of – until now. Confronted with a seriously ill wife, and four children too young to be of help with the family farm, he's on the verge of mental breakdown.

Doctor Earl Slayer Jr. is the son of the late Doctor Earl Sr., a kindly man who accepted pigs, chickens, and eggs as payment for his house calls. Doc Jr. is looking for wealth at any cost, and sees Will as a pawn to accomplish his goals, with Will's wife, Rebecca, as his prize.

Will and Doc are destined for a place called Long Pointe – an asylum for the insane, a Victorian building hiding secrets inside the bowels of its inner sanctum. Doc has a scheme, and Will, unfortunately, gets entangled in its web.

Two of Will's childhood friends, twins who “flat-back” in the rooms upstairs at Honey Boy's Tavern, are his only outside confidants. Sheriff Wendell Gates, a lifelong friend of both Will and Doc, is torn between good and evil as Penn County's lawman.

Scattered Harvest is about men and women at their best and worst. It's a story about faith and hope, with a labyrinth of trials and tribulations sometimes devoid of any or all human kindness. A superb work of storytelling, *Scattered Harvest* touches the heart, the mind, and the soul from cover to cover.

A lifelong Hoosier, Thomas Ray Crowel has published two commercial books: *Simple Selling: Common Sense That Guarantees Your Success*, and *Dirty Little Tricks: How Salespeople Are Robbing*

You Blind. At the request of a Hollywood movie producer, he has written a screenplay based on *Scattered Harvest*. Thomas says he was blessed being born and raised in Indiana at a time in history that stories from the early 1900's were still fresh in the minds of many old-timers. As a young boy, all he had to do was sit a spell and listen to the rich tales being handed down.