

A Check List
of Outstanding Western Americana

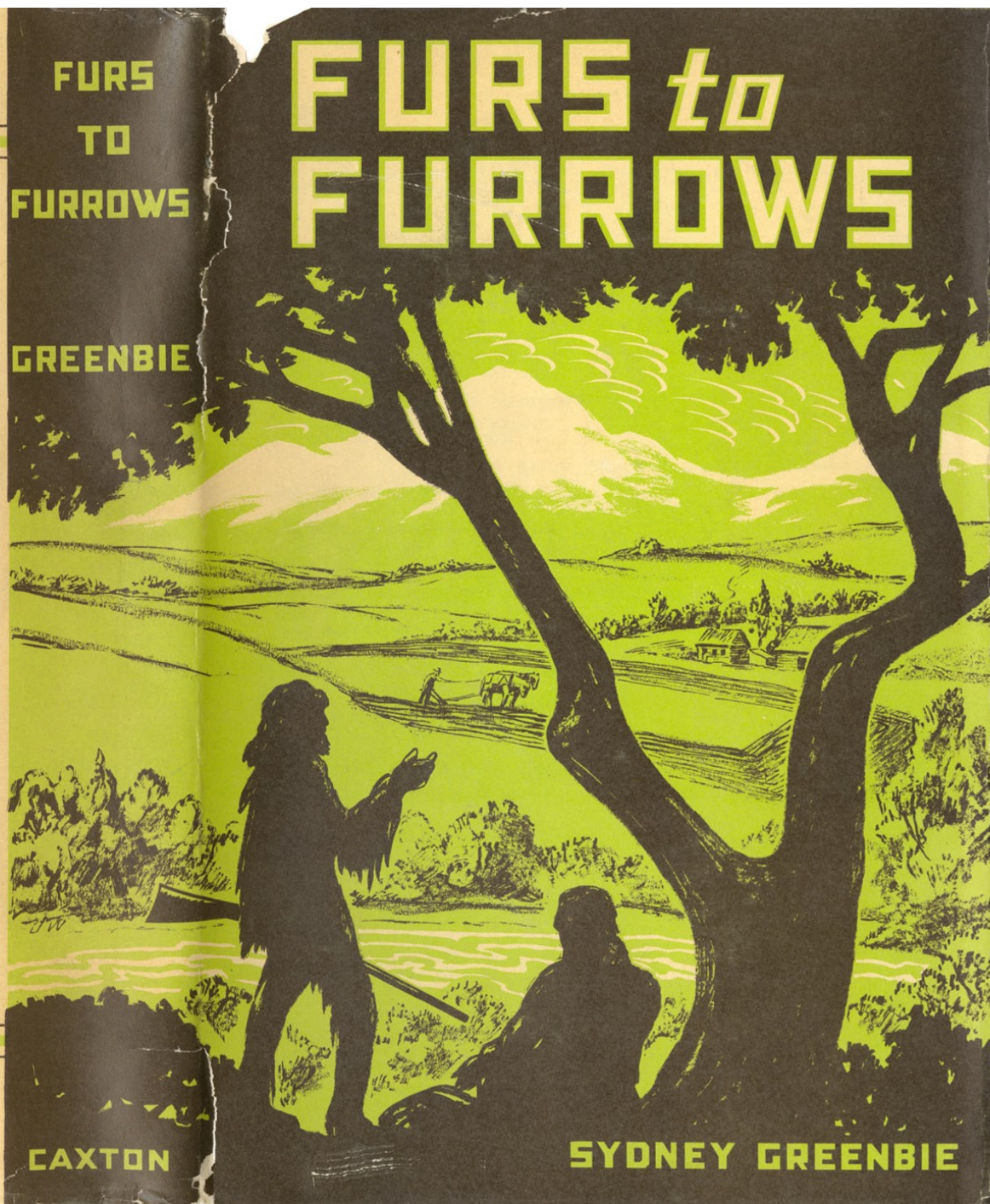
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SYDNEY GREENBIE

This is the story of life beyond the frontier before the plow engraved UNITED STATES upon the West. As four notes give the theme to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, so through this story run three or four motifs of which the chapters, "Rendezvous at Wind River Mountains," "Wiving in the Wilderness," and "The Horse Rides the Indian" are dominant. The harmony of American freedom, of loyalties in love without marriage, of precision in the wilderness without law, of Indian waywardness made fleet by the horse—these things shine out above frontier irresponsibility with infinite splendor. The heroic measurements of men like Colter and Carson, the diversity of genius amidst stark loneliness, the vast range of enterprise and achievement, give point and meaning to what we have called rugged individualism. But behind all this was a public policy of far-reaching significance. The foresight of Washington's determination to keep America free from entangling alliances on the frontier; the astuteness of Jefferson's plan for exploring Louisiana before he made the Purchase; the tragedy of Indian relations; the triumph of the plow—all this makes our history of the utmost significance to civilization. No American should be unaware of its slightest meanings.



SYDNEY GREENBIE brings to the writing of this story of our West not only memories of his own boyhood on the frontier, but a life-long study and interest in American history. Furthermore, since America is the consummation of world civilization, a personal knowledge of the shapes, the smells, and the colors of other cultures contributory to our own is essential. In this the author brings many years of travel and residence in New Zealand, Australia, Japan, China, Indo-China, India, Egypt, Europe, and South America to bear upon his understanding of American culture. As a writer and lecturer, he has visited nearly every state in the Union. He was a member of the Columbia River Historical Expedition in 1926, and was taken in as a member of the Aricara Indian tribe, given the name of Saka-de-paw.