



## “*The American Countryside*”

### **-Radio’s Slice of Americana-**

The “American Countryside” radio program is a daily, syndicated radio feature heard on a network of almost one hundred radio stations across the nation. In the fall of 1996, Andrew McCrea, host of the show, began the first weekly broadcasts on KFEQ in St. Joseph, Missouri. The show quickly became popular with the listening audience and the format was soon switched to a daily schedule and grew to include nearly one hundred affiliates.

Each year McCrea crisscrosses the nation to put together the 260 features that make up the annual broadcasts. He has interviewed a great variety of guests over the years... Emmy and Grammy winners, Hall of Fame athletes, Iditarod sled dog mushers and even the rooster crowing champion!

The program has won five Oscars in Agriculture from the NAFB. McCrea’s award winning work has taken him to the NASA launch pads at Cape Canaveral and to remote areas of Costa Rica and Nicaragua to chronicle the plight of Central American coffee farmers.

In 2003, McCrea detailed some of those features in his book “American Countryside: Where Does Lost Luggage Go... and other inspiring stories from across the land.” It is an insightful book about leadership based on the stories featured on the radio program. Those features include historical interviews with Weldon Hamilton, survivor of the Bataan Death March and John Ianacone, the last surviving member of the Hindenburg ground crew.

2004 produced another book based on the radio broadcasts, “The Man Who Was President For a Day.” The features, both for radio and the book, seek to make presidential history fun and relevant to everyday life. McCrea highlighted little known, yet important events that shaped each man’s stint in office, leaving listeners and readers with important points they can put to use in their own lives. McCrea’s third book, “God’s Perfect View”, was released in 2006.

In addition, McCrea’s broadcast work is heard on the Westwood One radio network where he is a frequent contributor to *America in the Morning* with host Jim Bohannon. He continues to help operate the family ranch in northwest Missouri and also travels the nation to speak to many groups each year on leadership topics.