

Journey to a Brand New State

A Tale of Two Whippersnappers

CHAPTER ONE:

The Adventure Begins

by Carolyn Estes



Come along, boys," said Mama. "It's time to pack your belongin's for our move to our new home. We're goin' to live on a farm with red dirt and beautiful sunsets."

"Why do we have to go?" asked 10-year-old Ty. "I like living here."

"I don't want to move," said 4-year-old Trevor. "What will happen to Boomer?"

"Don't worry, Trevor. Your dog is goin' with us," Mama reassured him.

"We have to move because your pa needs a new job," Mama told them.

"Times are a-changing. Being a blacksmith is not making as much of a livin' as it used to. Folks have fewer horses for him to shoe.

"Besides, the city is no place for you boys to grow up," she added.

The family lived in Kansas City. It was a busy city in the early 1900s. Businesses were springing up everywhere.

The city people no longer rode their horses or buggies everywhere in town. They could get on the electric trolleys to move about the city.

East met West at Kansas City. Drovers herded cattle in from Texas. At Kansas City, the cattle were loaded into rail cars to be shipped east. People heading west by wagon usually stopped in Kansas City for supplies.

It didn't take long for Ty and Trevor to pack their clothes in the feed sacks Mama handed them.

They were excited when they looked out a window and saw Pa sitting in a new covered wagon pulled by a team of horses. They ran out of the house to greet him.

"Hi, Pa," said Ty. "How soon are we leavin'?"

"At first light tomorrow," said Pa. "Load up your sacks and help Ma bring some

other things out to the wagon. We'll load up everything else after we eat a bite of supper, then we'll feed and water the team and put them up for the night."

Mama put fried chicken, smashed potatoes and green beans on the table while Ty and Trevor put out the plates and forks.

"We need to eat a good meal tonight," said Mama, "Cooking on the trail will be a lot different than cooking in our house.

"I'll have to learn how to cook over a campfire until we get to our new home," she said.

Pa came in and the family sat down for their last supper in Kansas City. Later Pa unhitched

the horses and tied them to the hitching post for the night. The boys watered and gave the horses some grain and hay.

"Let's get ready for bed, you little whippersnappers," Pa said. "We have a long day ahead of us tomorrow!"



Newspaper activities

1. Create a scrapbook with a front and back cover and at least 10 inside blank pages. Clip this story from your newspaper and glue or attach it to the first blank page.
2. Look through your newspaper for the homes and land for sale. What are the highest and the lowest priced homes listed? Do the same for land. Record what you find in your new scrapbook.

**Next week: Chapter Two
Time to Hit the Trail**

Provided by
Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation