

Journey to a Brand New State

A Tale of Two Whippersnappers

CHAPTER TWO: Time to Hit the Trail

by Carolyn Estes



Wake up, boys, it's time to hit the trail to our new home," said Mama. "Eat your breakfast and help load the last few things."

Ty and Trevor jumped out of bed, washed their faces and brushed their teeth. "Good morning!" they yelled as they bounded into the kitchen.

Mama was busy fixing their oatmeal and toast.

"It is a good morning," exclaimed Mama. "We have a lot of new experiences ahead of us."

"Don't pick at your food, we need to hurry along."

After they ate and Mama cleaned up the kitchen, they loaded the last of their belongings in the wagon.

Ty and Trevor climbed into the back of the wagon as Pa lifted Boomer up to join them. Then he helped Mama up to the wagon seat before climbing up to join her.

"Everyone ready?" asked Pa.

"Yes!" the boys shouted back. Boomer barked in agreement.

"Giddy up," Pa said to the team. The wagon wheels were set in motion as the team of horses found their stride.

The boys had never been in a covered wagon before. It was made from hickory, oak and maple. Pa told the boys the wagon could carry 2,000 pounds.

Seven wooden hoops called bows were bent from one side to the other. Canvas was pulled across the hoops to keep the rain, wind and hot sunshine out. Pa had rubbed oil on the canvas to make it waterproof.

Inside the wagon were many hooks that hung from the wooden hoops. A gun for hunting, clothes, milk cans, and pots and pans dangled from the hooks.

"Boys, this is a Conestoga wagon," Pa explained. "You're gonna hear some folks call it a spring wagon or a prairie schooner," he added.

"We'll join up with a wagon train in a little

bit," said Pa. "It will be better to travel with a group.

"Who knows, you just might make a lot of new friends while we travel."

Just before lunchtime, the family joined up with the wagon train. Mama fixed lunch while Pa talked with the other men. He came back with four oxen and a milk cow.

"The oxen can pull the wagon better than the horses," Pa explained.

"We'll take the horses with us and I thought you would like to have a cow so we can have fresh milk," he said to Mama with a big smile.

"Let's all go buy the rest of our supplies," Pa said. "Tomorrow, we head out with the wagon train."



Newspaper activities

1. Add this chapter to your scrapbook.
2. Make a list of other supplies you think they will buy. Remember, you don't have a lot of room and there is no refrigerator, freezer or microwave in the covered wagon.
3. Compare your list with your classmates.

Next week: Chapter Three Circle the Wagons

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