

# Journey to a Brand New State

## A Tale of Two Whippersnappers

CHAPTER SIX:

### A New Home in Red Dirt Land

by Carolyn Estes



**W**ake up, you little whippersnappers!" Pa shouted. "We are going to find our new home today."

Ty and Trevor couldn't believe their ears. Had Pa said they would find their new home today? They scrambled out of their blankets and slipped into their overalls.

"We'll leave the wagon train today," said Pa. "The scouts told me Guthrie is just to our south. We need to go there for some supplies and then on to our new farm."

Even Boomer got excited. His tail was wagging so hard against the canvas it sounded like someone beating a drum.

Mama took stock of what supplies were left. She made a list of things to get at the general store. Pa and the boys got the livestock and wagon ready.

After a short ride the family entered Guthrie.

Guthrie sprung to life overnight when the federal government opened the Oklahoma Territory for settlement. The town even had the first municipal electrical station west of the Mississippi. The station could supply electricity for 7,000 light bulbs! However, people who lived outside town still used candles or lanterns.

Pa dropped Mama off in front of the general store.

Pa and the boys drove around town looking at all the beautiful buildings. After an hour they came back to pick up Mama. She was standing in front of the store with her purchases.

"Let's get loaded so we can get on our way," said Pa.

Ty got down and helped Mama hand up the goods.

They were on the trail for about two hours when Trevor spotted a creek.

"Hey Pa, that looks like a good place to camp," he said.

"Yes, boys, that is Cottonwood Creek," Pa said. "We'll be at our new home in just a jiffy."

The wagon soon came to a stop near the creek and a dugout house that was nearly complete. There was a grove of trees and lots

of grass. Boomer jumped out of the wagon and ran in circles, sniffing everything.

"Welcome to our new farm," exclaimed Pa.

"You mean this is ours?" cried Mama. "It's beautiful!"

"Yes, I bought it from a man who staked his claim during the land run," said Pa. "His wife died. He didn't want to finish the house and live here by himself"

"We'll live in the wagon and the dugout 'til we can build something better," Pa explained.

"Hey, Trevor, it looks like we have our own swimming hole right close. Let's go see it," said Ty.

The boys and Boomer started off to see the creek.

"Just a minute, you whippersnappers.

There's work to do before dark," Pa said, laughing. "You'll have plenty of time to play later."

The boys helped set up camp for their first night at their new home.



Photo courtesy of Shattuck Windmill Museum in Shattuck, Okla.

### Newspaper activities

1. Add this chapter to your scrapbook.
2. What kinds of tools do you think the family will use in setting up their new home? Make a list.
3. Search through your newspaper for items that could have been used at the new homestead.

### Next week: Chapter Seven Land of Adventure

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