

Journey to a Brand New State

A Tale of Two Whippersnappers

CHAPTER EIGHT:

Celebration of Statehood

by Carolyn Estes



Wake up, Mama! It's statehood day," yelled Ty. He and Trevor were already in their best clothes. It was November 16 and they were ready to go to Guthrie for the big celebration.

"Oh boys, we have to eat first. We'll be gone almost all day," said Mama as she got out of bed.

Pa brought the team and wagon around while Mama made breakfast.

Boomer howled when the family drove away without him.

The ride into Guthrie was exciting. There were wagons full of people and horseback riders on the trail.

When they arrived in town, the boys couldn't believe their eyes. Thousands of people packed the streets.

"You two whippersnappers stick close to us," said Pa. "I don't want to lose you in this crowd."

The family found a place to stand near the steps of the Carnegie Library on Oklahoma Avenue.

Everyone waited for the telegram from Washington, D.C. A cheer went up when the telegram arrived. President Roosevelt had signed the proclamation making Oklahoma the 46th state!

Charles Haskell became Oklahoma's first governor at the swearing-in ceremony. There was also a symbolic wedding of Oklahoma Territory with Indian Territory.

At noon a parade left the library area and marched to Mineral Wells Park. The family followed along.

"I smell something good," said Trevor.

"So do I," said Ty. "I think they are serving food, Mama!"

"So they are," Mama said. "Come along, we'll get in line."

They were soon eating barbeque, bread, pickles, and drinking lemonade.

After a long day of fun it was time to go back to the farm. The tired boys stretched out in the back of the wagon on the way home.

"Trevor, do you see that hawk making circles in the sky?" said Ty.

"I do!" said Trevor.

"I wonder what it would feel like to fly?" he added.

"I don't know and I don't think we'll ever find out," Ty said with a giggle.

It was near dark when the family got home. After the animals were put up for the night, Pa lit a campfire. The family gathered around it and Boomer snuggled in between the two boys. He had missed his family.

Trevor gave Boomer a tidbit of barbecue he had saved in his pocket.

"I hear a coyote," said Ty.

Boomer perked up his ears and looked around.

"I think he is singing about this great land," said Pa. "I bet he's happy he has

plenty to eat and water to drink, just like us."

In the distance they could hear a train whistle pierce the still night air.

"You think there are lots of people on that train, Pa?" asked Trevor.

"Yes, a lot of people are going home after the big shindig today," Pa said.

"This is a day people will talk about for a very long time," added Mama.

"I'll remember it forever and ever!" said Trevor.

"So will I," Ty said with a big smile.

Boomer gave Ty a big lick. He liked living in Oklahoma, too!



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