

CAPTAIN OF THE UNIVERSE

CHAPTER 5

by Kay Hively

On his way home, Eddie fell asleep in his father's buggy. He was very tired after such a big day. He had ridden with his grandparents from Springfield, had dinner with all his family, and played with his brothers and sisters.

It was dark when the family arrived home. His father carried Eddie into the house and put him to bed.

The next morning, Eddie was up early. His father was eating breakfast so Eddie sat down with him. Mr. Hubble was a lawyer and his office was in Marshfield. But the family lived on a farm in the country. Because they had horses, their home was called the "Hubble Ranch."

When it was time for his father to leave for work, Eddie helped hitch a horse to the buggy. As he drove away, Mr. Hubble promised to take Eddie and his brother for a horseback ride when he got home.

After Mr. Hubble was gone, Eddie's mother sent him and his brother, Henry, out to do chores. Eddie liked to gather eggs, but there were not many in the nests. His mother said the old hen was hiding a nest in the woods. One day, she said, the mama hen would come marching through the yard with her babies. Eddie was eager to see a chicken parade.

When he had gathered all the eggs, Eddie went to the garden where his mother was working. He and Henry helped fill her basket with tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans and cabbage.

Eddie told his mother about his trip to Springfield. He told about the books his grandmother had read. He told about walking at night with his grandfather, and about playing with his new friends.

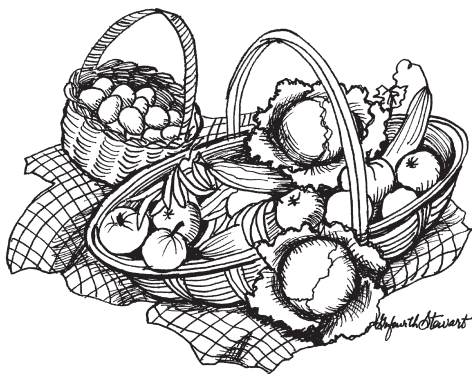
Eddie asked his mother if she would read adventure books to him like his grandmother had done. He said he had decided to become a captain in the sky. He said when he grew up he would invent a machine that would let him fly like a bird through the air. Eddie's mother only smiled. She knew there would never be such a thing in all the world.

After lunch, Eddie and Henry went outdoors to play. Their favorite game was hide and seek. All afternoon they hid in the hay stacks, in the barn loft and in the horse stalls.

The sun was low in the sky when Mr. Hubble drove into the yard. Quickly, he got into his old clothes and saddled two horses. Henry climbed on one horse and Mr. Hubble climbed on the other. Eddie scrambled up behind his father.

Like three wild cowboys, they went riding through the pasture. Eddie loved to ride. Sometimes they went so fast that his hat flew off his head.

While he was riding with his father, Eddie forgot about flying through the air. On the back of a horse he felt like he was king of the Hubble Ranch.



Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Produced in partnership with this newspaper and the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2001.

CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS — THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AND DO

- Why couldn't Eddie find very many eggs? Most eggs come from the store in a box that holds one dozen eggs. How many is a dozen? How many numbers can you find that divide evenly into a dozen? What is a baker's dozen?
- What kind of animals might have been found in the Hubble's barn? Draw a farm scene and include at least four animals that might be found on a farm.

**NEXT
WEEK
CHAPTER
SIX
Jump
School**