

CAPTAIN OF THE UNIVERSE

CHAPTER 7

by Kay Hively

Eddie was glad that Thanksgiving was less than a week away. The big turkey his mother had been feeding had gotten very mean. When the Hubble children came out of the house, that old tom turkey would flap his wings and launch an attack.

Mr. Hubble was on a trip to St. Louis, but Eddie knew that when his father got home he would take care of Mr. Tom Turkey. Next week, Eddie smiled, that old turkey would be roasting in his mother's oven. All the grandparents were coming to the Hubble Ranch for Thanksgiving dinner and there would be nothing left of that old bird.

Sure enough, as soon as Mr. Hubble got home he took a "chicken catcher" and hooked the old turkey by a leg. Then, with a heave ho, shoved it into the wood shed and locked the door tight.

The next morning Eddie and his family got up early. With Thanksgiving only a few days away, Eddie's mother needed to shop.

Eddie was happy to go to town in the big wagon. He also was happy that Thanksgiving was coming. But today, November 20, 1897, he was more excited than usual.

Today was Eddie's eighth birthday.

When all the children were dressed and in the wagon, Mr. Hubble headed the horses toward Marshfield. Eddie's mother had covered the back of the wagon with a nice thick woven rug. She also had put two heavy quilts in the back.

It was cold in the Ozarks and the children liked to snuggle under the old quilts in the wagon.

Once they got to town, Mrs. Hubble and Lucy went shopping. Eddie, Henry and their father strolled around town, visiting friends and listening to the gossip. They

stopped at Mr. Hubble's law office to check on things. Then, they went to Grandfather James' drug store to meet Mrs. Hubble and Lucy.

Grandfather James shook hands

with Eddie's dad and asked about the trip to St. Louis. Then Grandfather gave Henry two sticks of candy.

Eddie was puzzled because his grandfather did not give him candy. But then his grandfather called him into the back room.

There, Grandfather James gave Eddie a package and wished him a happy birthday. Eddie was surprised. Then he remembered that Grandfather had given Henry a baseball and bat for his birthday, and he had given Lucy a doll buggy.

When Eddie and Grandfather James returned to the front part of the store, Eddie's mother and Lucy were there with all their packages. Everyone watched Eddie open his gift.

It was the best gift Eddie ever had. It was a telescope. Grandfather James said it was the best one he could find. But he said it would have to be assembled.

Eddie knew just the right person to help put all the pieces together. He would ask Grandpa Hubble to help him. Then everyone could look at the moon and the stars just like real astronomers.



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CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS — THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AND DO

- Draw a picture of the Hubble wood shed and put that mean old turkey beside it. Then make up a Thanksgiving menu. What would you cook besides a turkey?
- Look in an encyclopedia and read about telescopes. Look for pictures of little telescopes and very big telescopes. Make a toy telescope. You may use something like a paper towel tube or a round tube that potato chips come in.

**NEXT
WEEK
CHAPTER
EIGHT
A Big
Bang**

