

# HANNAH'S DIARY

## A Tale Of The Pony Express

### Chapter Five – by Kay Hively

It was chilly when Hannah and her mother started to town one Saturday in October. Hannah wore her new coat. Her mother had a shawl on her shoulders. Both wore gloves.

Hannah felt very grownup in her new coat. As the two ladies passed the Cole house, Robert came charging out the front door. He waved to them and wished them a good morning. He had finished his chores at home and was on his way to the Pony Express office.

When they got downtown, Hannah and her mother shopped in several stores and then walked down to the river. Hannah's father was waiting for them. Quickly he opened his office door and escorted the ladies in out of the cold.

Things were very busy on the wharf. Hannah's father said there was much cargo to deliver up and down the Missouri River before the water turned to ice.

Hannah watched the men working, and she looked at all the boats docked at the shore. Each boat was special. Some were very plain. Others were flashy and colorful. Most of them carried only cargo, but some also had passengers. Hannah thought it would be fun to ride on a riverboat.

When it was time for Hannah and her mother to go home, Mr. Evans had an announcement. Next Saturday, he said, the showboat would come to St. Joseph.

It was a long week for Hannah, but finally the big day came. She and her mother did not go shopping that morning. Her father came home for dinner and then walked his family back to town. As they neared the river, Hannah's eyes lighted up.

There, in front of her father's office, was the showboat. Hannah had never seen anything so bright and beautiful. It was painted

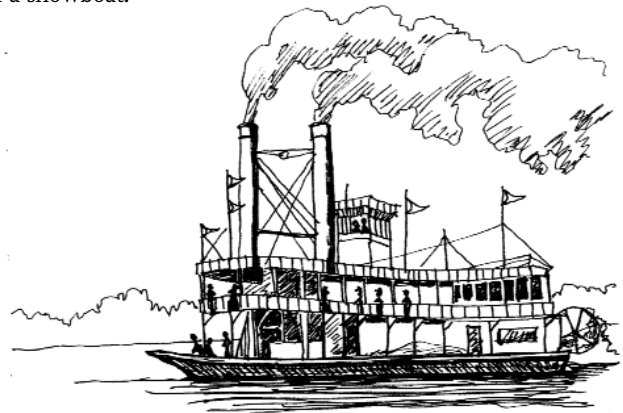


with every color in the rainbow. Flags were flying from every post and knob, and happy music was coming inside from the boat.

When the show began, Hannah and her parents were entertained with music, stories, jokes, funny skits and even a magic show. Everyone in St. Joseph seemed to be on the showboat. It was the best time Hannah ever had.

That night, a tired Hannah wrote in her diary:

“Dear Diary, The showboat came to town today. It was the best thing I ever saw. Papa liked the dancing girls. Mother liked the sad song. I liked the banjo player best of all. I wonder if Betsy has been on a showboat.”



## Classroom Extensions

### Things to Think About and Do –

- A. Hannah's mother wore a shawl to town. Do you know what a shawl is? Use the dictionary and look up the word "shawl."
- B. Why can't riverboats go up and down the river in winter? If you rode on a riverboat, what would you see as you traveled? Write about a short trip on a riverboat.

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**Next Week: Chapter Six – Something shiny for Christmas.**