

Silver and Gold

Chapter Six – by Kay Hively

As the Indian man and the little girl approached Molly on the path, her heart beat fast. Could Lulu be in the sack?

Soon Molly came face to face with the man. Neither of them spoke to each other. The man smiled then reached down and took the little Indian girl's hand. Molly looked at the man, but she just couldn't bring herself to smile.

After she had passed by the man and his little girl, Molly ran all the way home. Still running when she jumped upon the porch, Molly crashed into the door. As the door flew open, it banged loudly into a chair standing nearby. Mrs. Hankins, who was fixing lunch, whirled around to see what caused the noise. And, to Molly's delight, Lulu streaked across the floor and dodged under the stove, as she always did when she was startled.

Molly was happy to see Lulu. But she suddenly felt ashamed to think that her mother might sell her cat to the Indian man.

As Molly sat down to eat, Captain Hankins came home for his lunch. Molly was always happy to see her father in his uniform. She thought the dark blue pants and the shirt with shiny gold buttons were handsome. She liked her father all the time, but she especially liked him in his uniform.

While the family ate, Captain Hankins said that an Indian family had come to the fort and asked to spend the winter. This family

usually moved with their tribe to a special winter quarters, but this year, the family could not go with the other Indians.

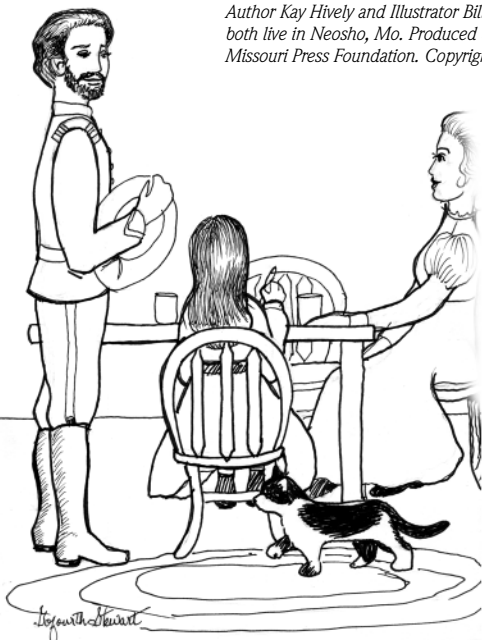
Molly's father said the mother was ill and could not travel. The Indian man, who was named Black Feather, wanted to stay near the fort to care for his wife and their two children. Black Feather had offered to work at the fort to help buy food at the commissary.

Captain Hankins said the family included a father, mother, little girl and baby boy. The fort's commander had agreed to let the family stay in the fort. The colonel said Black Feather could put his tent near the stables and help take care of the army horses and bring in firewood. Each week, the family would be given a box of food and wood for their fire. The colonel also ordered the quartermaster to give the Indian family three big blankets.

Mrs. Hankins asked her husband if the family could stay warm enough in their tent this winter. Captain Hankins smiled and told his wife not to worry. He said the Indians had strong tents that were kept warm by a very small fire. And, with the tent set up in the fort, it would be warmer than it would be out on the windy plains.

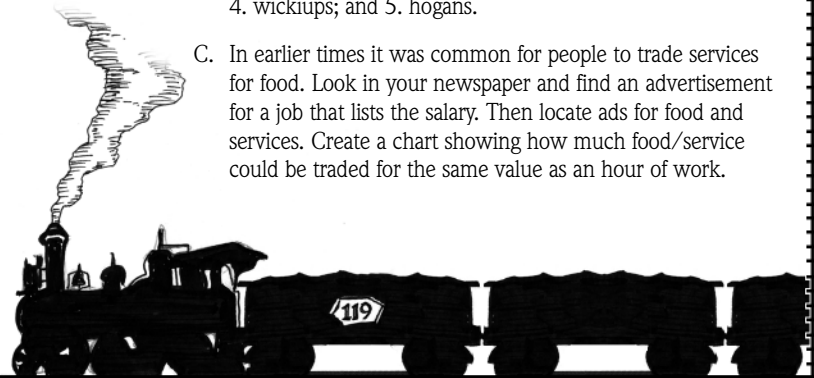
The captain assured Molly and her mother that the Indian family would be just fine.

Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart both live in Neosho, Mo. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2007.



Things to Think About and Do

- Molly has a cat. Do you have a pet? Does it run away when there is a loud noise? Draw a picture of your pet or of an animal you would like for a pet.
- Native American Indians built many kinds of houses. Learn which tribes lived in 1. wigwams; 2. teepees; 3. pueblos; 4. wickiups; and 5. hogans.
- In earlier times it was common for people to trade services for food. Look in your newspaper and find an advertisement for a job that lists the salary. Then locate ads for food and services. Create a chart showing how much food/service could be traded for the same value as an hour of work.



Next Week: Chapter Seven – Little musicians