



An Old Secret



Chapter Four - by Russ and Kay Hively

It was Grant shouting Joe's name. Joe heard his brother call out, "Come here, now!" Joe was startled and a little scared. Grant never seemed to need any kind of help unless it was an emergency. Joe just knew something was wrong.

He found Grant a little farther down stream, standing on the creek bank with the fishing pole in his hands. The pole looked like someone had tried to tie it in a knot. It was bent into a U-shape. Grant yelled for Joe to find the end of the fishing line and grab whatever was on it. And he told Joe to hurry before the line broke.

Joe ran into the creek and followed the line into the water. This section of creek was deeper than most spots, and he soon found himself waist deep in water. Joe saw something move. It was a

huge catfish. Joe got the fish between himself and the creek bank. Then he half carried and half pushed the fish toward his brother. Together Joe and Grant got the fish on shore.

It was a big one. Joe had never seen a fish that big come out of this creek. Grant was absolutely beaming with pride. With that big catfish, and the other fish the boys had caught that afternoon, they decided they had fished enough. A good fishing day, Grant said. All the way to the house, both boys looked at and talked about the big fish.

When they got home, Daddy was just starting chores. Joe stood quietly while Grant explained how he and Joe had been able to land the huge fish. Joe could see Daddy and Mamma were proud of the fish, and proud their two boys had worked together to bring it in.

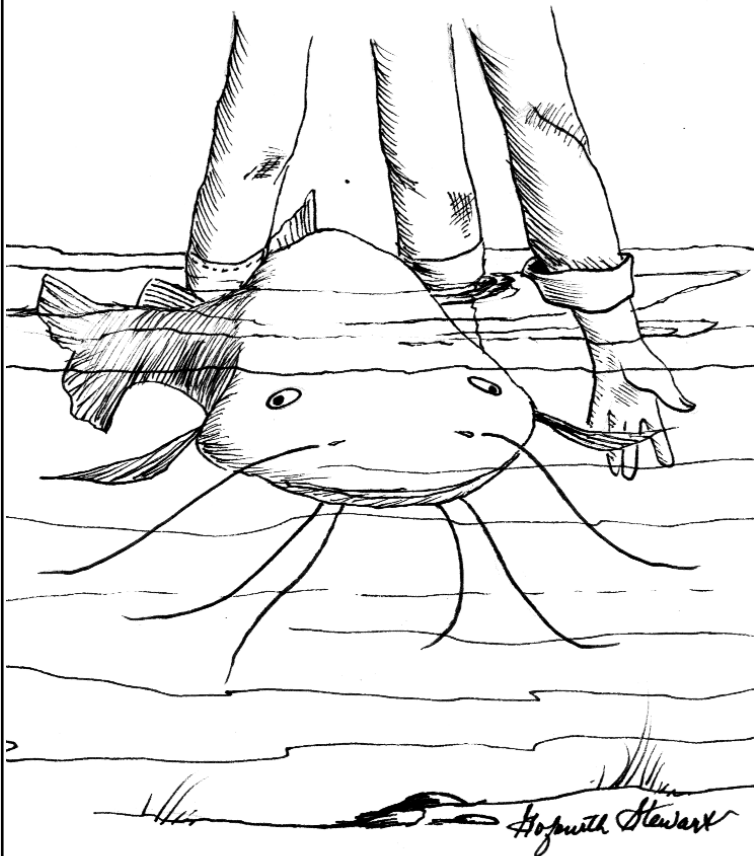
Joe and Grant replayed the fish catching story all through supper. Joe was so excited about the big fish that he almost forgot how tired he was. Pitching watermelons all day was a big, tough job.

After supper the family sat together on the porch and listened to a baseball game on the radio. Suddenly, Daddy was poking Joe with his boot. Joe had fallen asleep, so Mamma told him to go to bed. Joe did not argue. He gave Mamma a hug and said goodnight.

The next morning Joe climbed out of bed and started his chores. He had forgotten about yesterday's surprise on the porch – until Daddy came in for breakfast. Daddy asked the boys if they knew anything strange about the truck this morning. They both said no. Daddy frowned. He said he had parked the truck by the barn after he had taken the final load into town last night. This morning the truck was gone.

Things to Think About and Do

- Joe ran to help Grant when he heard his brother calling him. If you thought there was an emergency, what are some things you should do? Write an emergency contact list and place it by the phone in your home.
- Mr. and Mrs. Porter were proud of the boys for working together to land the big fish. Make a list of 10 things that require people to use teamwork to get something done.



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Next Week: Chapter Five – Where the truck went.