

# Good Morning, Mr. President

## Chapter Three - by Kay Hively

On Sunday afternoon, Peggy's family cleaned the log cabin where they would spend the summer of 1937. Their new home had furniture, so they had only brought a few dishes, some bedding, two cooking pans, a box of towels, their clothing and Mr. Jansen's tools.

Before leaving Nebraska, Mr. Jansen had said everyone could bring one personal thing. He brought his harmonica. Peggy's mother chose a sack of quilt pieces. Mike brought his baseball and glove.

Peggy had a hard time deciding what to bring. Finally she decided on checkers and a checkerboard.

As the Jansens worked in their cabin, a man knocked on the door. It was Mr. Foster, the man who had invited them to church. He and his wife had come to visit.

Mrs. Foster told the Jansens about the community building where they could take showers. She also said her own cabin had electricity. She said Peggy's mother could use one of the shelves in her refrigerator. Peggy's mother was happy to hear about the refrigerator.



Before he left, Mr. Foster said that work started on the mountain at seven o'clock the next morning. Mr. Jansen promised to be on time.

For the rest of the day, no matter what she was doing, Peggy kept looking at the faces on the mountain. Before her family had to go back to Nebraska in September, she hoped Mr. Lincoln's face would be there, too.

Peggy was proud that her father would be working on the mountain. He would be blasting holes in the rock so the stone carvers could form Abraham Lincoln's face.

That night before bedtime, Peggy's father showed her a drawing. It marked where Mr. Lincoln's face would be. The drawing also showed that President Theodore Roosevelt's face would one day be carved between Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Lincoln.

When Peggy got into bed, her head was full of thoughts about the Presidents. They must have been very great to be honored in such a big way.

Peggy wanted to know more about these great men. She wished she had left her checkers at home and brought books to South Dakota. Now she would just have to wait until she went back to school. But that seemed like a long time to wait for a book.

As Peggy lay in her bunk she could smell the pine trees. The air coming through the window was fresh and cool. That made her glad to have a big quilt on her bed.

Peggy looked out the window, hoping to see Mr. Washington's face. But the night was too dark. She could see nothing, not even the trees just outside the window. She lay back down on her pillow. She knew Mr. Washington would be there in the morning. And tomorrow, she would be able to watch her father and the other men working to bring Mr. Lincoln to the mountain.

Also tomorrow she wanted to find out if the hills were black. And if so, she would find out why. Peggy knew she better get to sleep because she sure had a lot to do tomorrow.

*Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Produced in partnership with this newspaper and the Missouri Press Foundation with support from Verizon Foundation. Copyright 2002.*

### Classroom Extensions

Things to Think About and Do -

- A. Peggy brought checkers and a checkerboard to South Dakota. Ask an older person to play checkers with you.
- B. Mr. Jansen had a drawing of the four Presidents. Make your own drawing of the four presidents.

**Next Week: Chapter Four - Getting Acquainted**