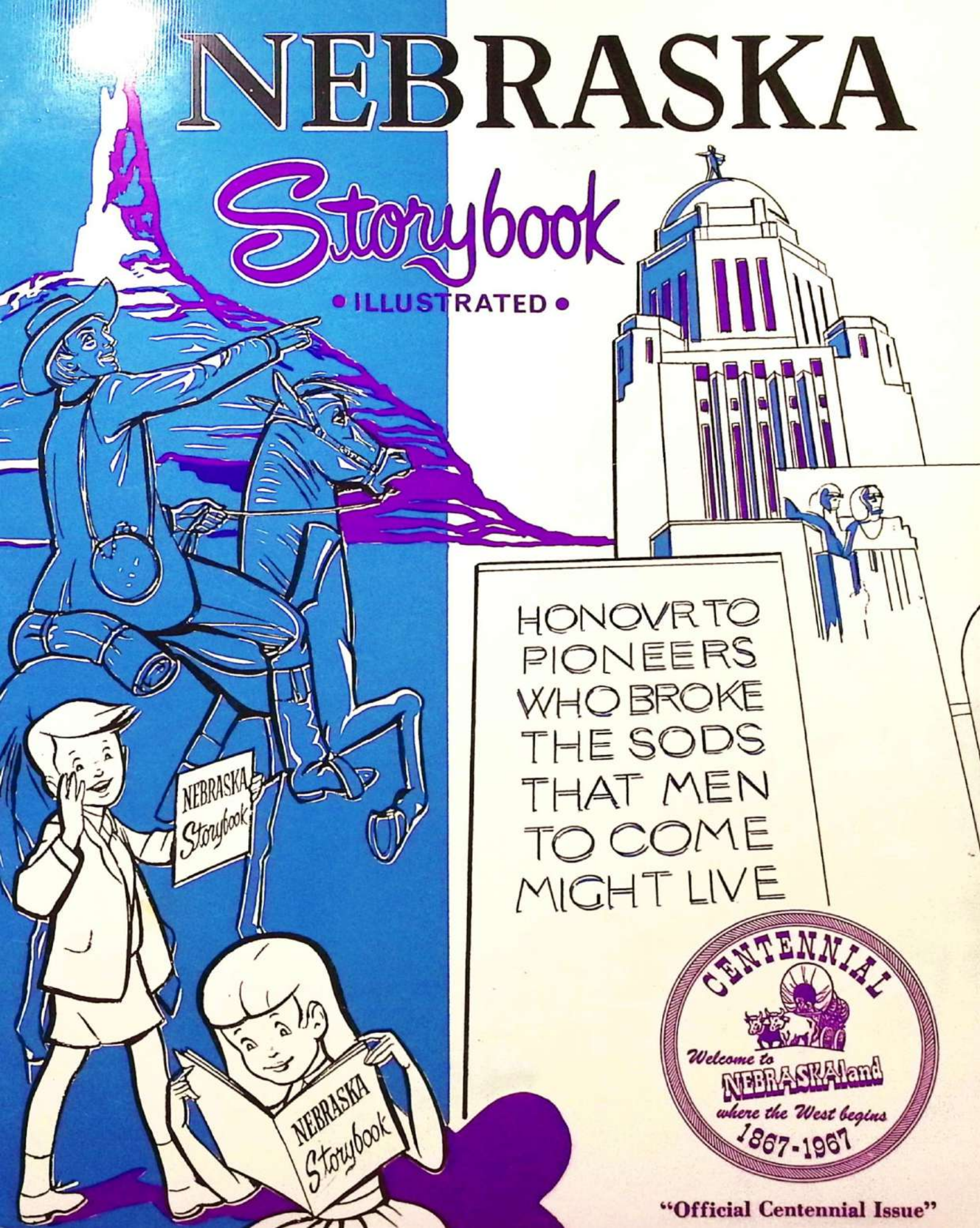


NEBRASKA

Storybook

• ILLUSTRATED •



HONOR TO
PIONEERS
WHO BROKE
THE SODS
THAT MEN
TO COME
MIGHT LIVE



"Official Centennial Issue"



This **Nebraska Storybook** has not been designed for any single audience. It is hoped that visitors to our state will find the book of interest, but residents of Nebraska will benefit from a fresh look at the history of their State. To enhance the beauty of this book some of the illustrations can be colored. Carefully colored, this book will make an excellent addition to your library or as a memento of your visit to the state "where the West begins."

The **Nebraska Storybook** was compiled and written by Dr. Robert N. Manley, assistant professor of history in the University of Nebraska. Dr. Manley is widely known in Nebraska as a result of his many personal appearances and television programs. His interest in Nebraska folk music and folk lore has struck a responsive chord in many Nebraskans.

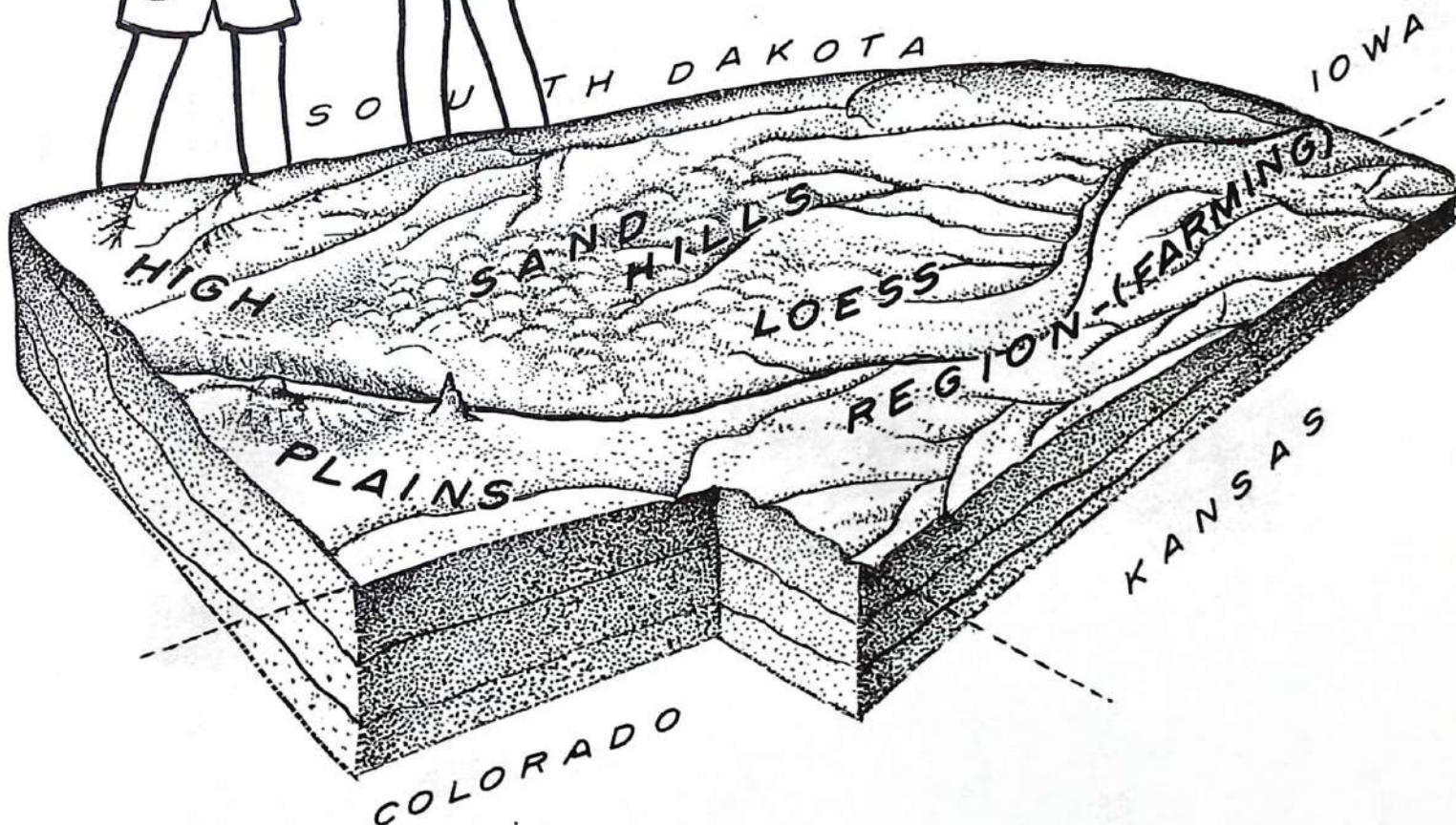
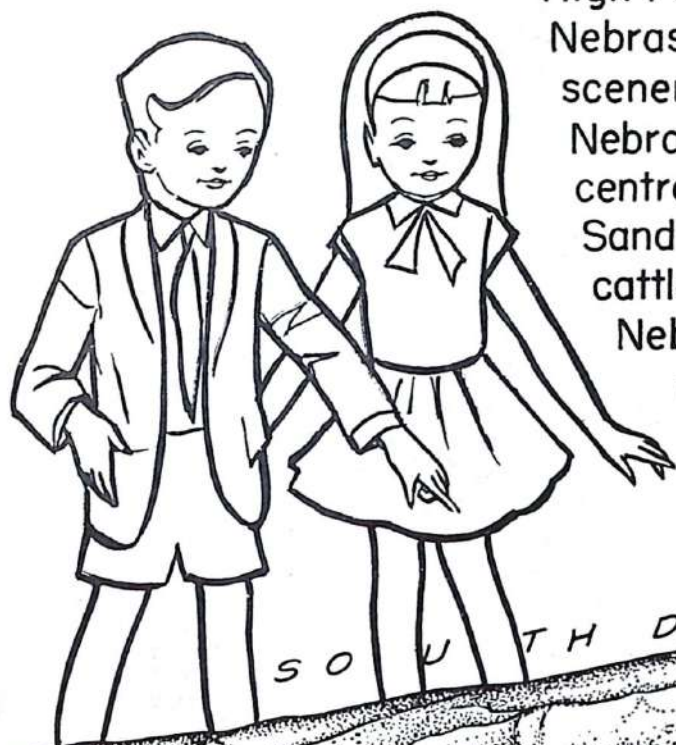
Born in Wisconsin and raised in Villa Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, Dr. Manley came to McCook, Nebraska, in the fall of 1951 to coach and teach in the McCook Senior High School. Subsequently he coached and taught in the high schools in Osceola and Seward, Nebraska. In 1957 he was named by Mu Epsilon Nu, the men's honorary education fraternity at the University of Nebraska, as the State's outstanding male high school instructor. In 1958 he received his master's degree and in 1962 his Ph.D. degree from the University of Nebraska. In 1965 the University Builders Association named Dr. Manley as the recipient of its first Students' Professor Award. Also, in 1965, "Rails West," an educational television series produced by KUON-TV, the University's educational television station, and featuring Dr. Manley, received an Ohio State Television award for excellence.

Dr. Manley and his family have traveled and explored every corner of Nebraska. It is hoped that readers of this book may grasp something of the excitement and drama of Nebraska's history—and that they will be encouraged by the story here unfolded to travel and to see Nebraska first-hand.

Illustrated by
Mr. Emerson Lamb

The author would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Nebraska State Historical Society, Marvin Kivett, director, in securing photographs and other materials upon which many of the drawings were based. Special thanks are extended to the Society's archivist, Mr. William Schmidt, for hours of patient and cheerful assistance.

LET'S LOOK AT NEBRASKA: Nebraska is a large state which stretches from the rich valley of the Missouri River to the High Plains. As you travel across Nebraska you will notice that the scenery constantly changes. Eastern Nebraska is rich farm land. North-central Nebraska contains the beautiful Sand Hills, a wonderful country for raising cattle. Finally, the western part of Nebraska is a high plains region where ranching and dry-farming are carried on.

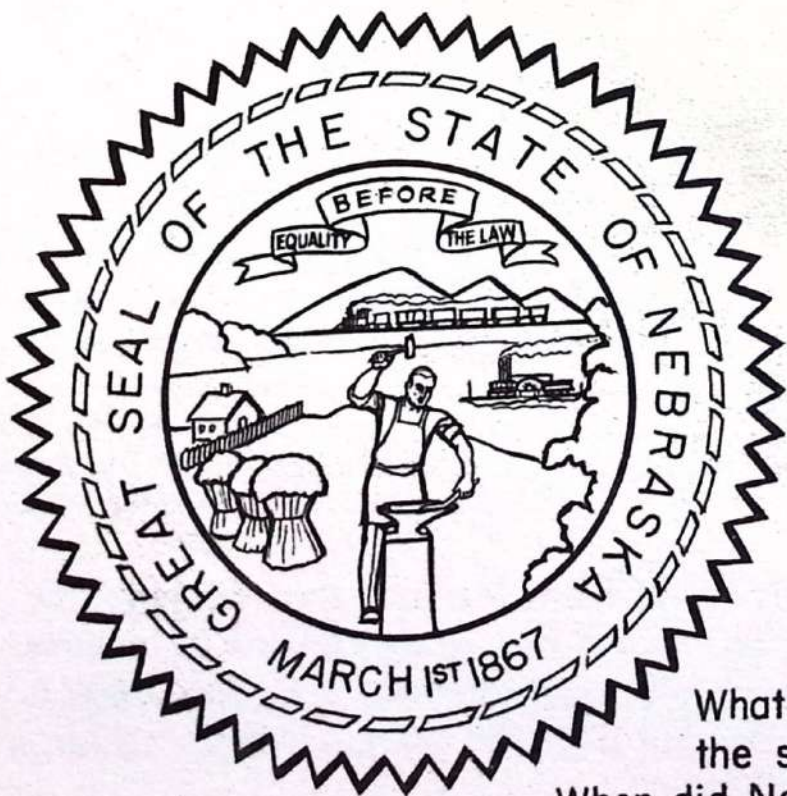


Many of Nebraska's problems result from the fact that Eastern and Western Nebraska are so different. But this geographical difference gives Nebraska the background for a wonderful history. For Nebraska is not only the home of the farmer, but it is also the land of the cowboys and, of course, the Plains Indians.

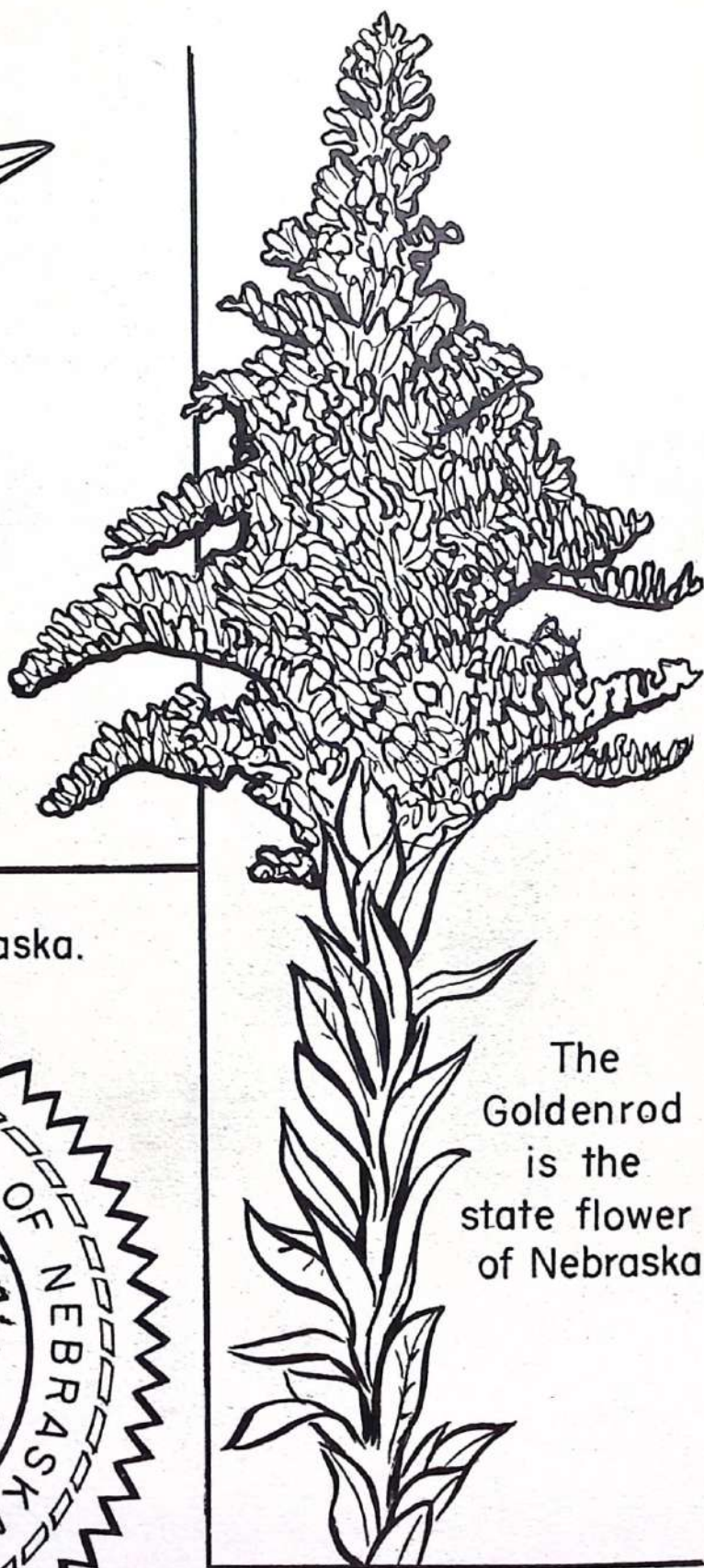
The state bird of
Nebraska is the
Western
Meadowlark.



Here is the Great Seal of Nebraska.



What do the various figures on
the seal represent?
When did Nebraska become a state?

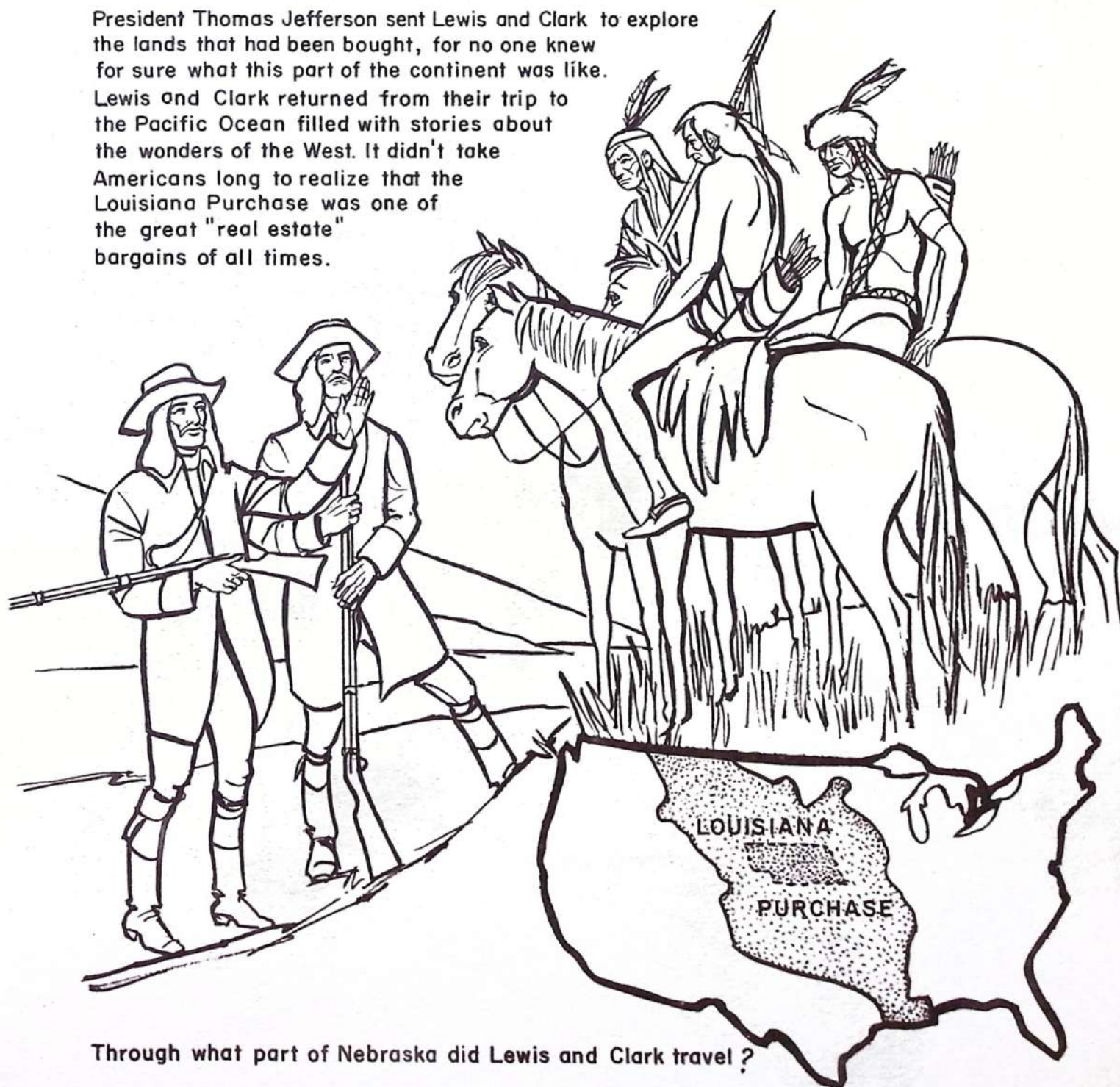


The
Goldenrod
is the
state flower
of Nebraska.

Spanish explorers, the most famous of whom was Coronado, were the first white men to visit the Great Plains. Coronado did not reach Nebraska, but later many other Spanish explorers and traders did. The Spanish were followed by French and English traders, seeking to establish trade with the Indians. Most were also probably seeking gold and silver. So you see many other countries were interested in the American west before the United States purchased Louisiana from France in 1803.

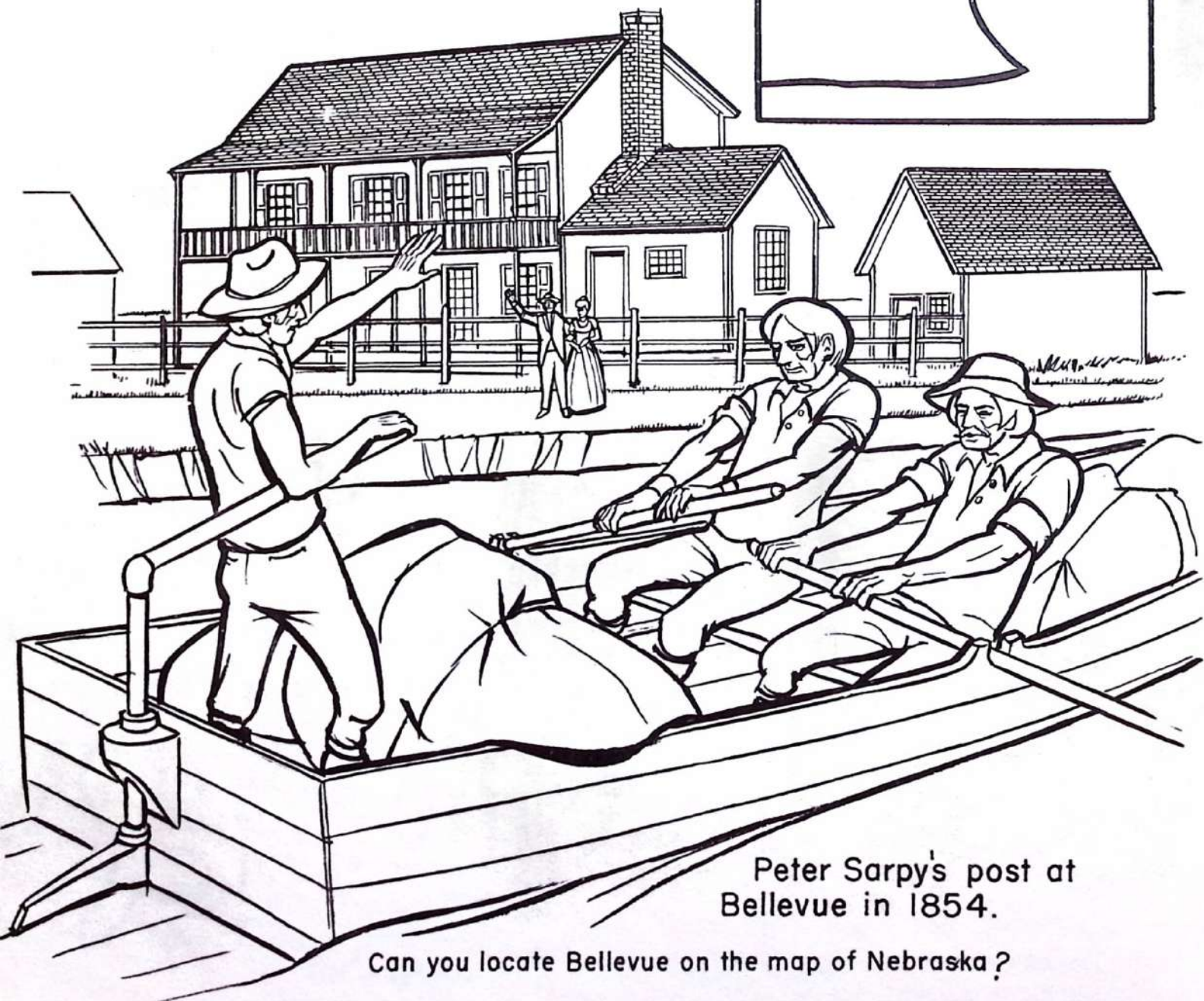
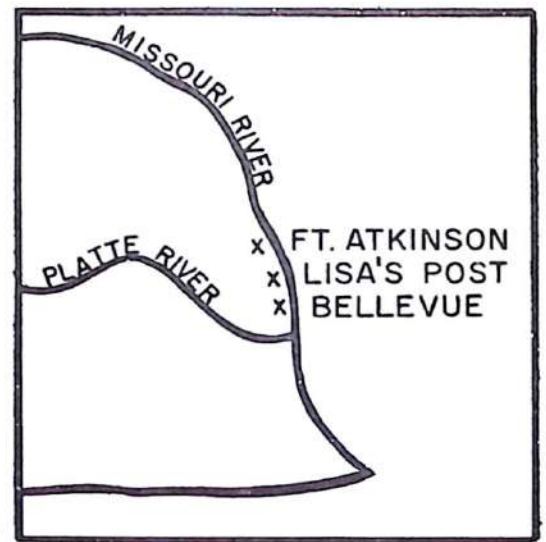
President Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to explore the lands that had been bought, for no one knew for sure what this part of the continent was like.

Lewis and Clark returned from their trip to the Pacific Ocean filled with stories about the wonders of the West. It didn't take Americans long to realize that the Louisiana Purchase was one of the great "real estate" bargains of all times.



Through what part of Nebraska did Lewis and Clark travel ?

Even before Lewis and Clark visited Nebraska, many men had crossed the Great Plains on their way to the Rocky Mountains in search of furs. In time Nebraska became an important part of the fur trade, for Manuel Lisa, one of the most important of the traders, built a post in eastern Nebraska near the site of present-day Omaha. Then in 1819 Fort Atkinson was built at a spot Lewis and Clark had called Council Bluffs. Later another fur post was built and was named Bellevue. Bellevue became the first permanent settlement in Nebraska.



Peter Sarpy's post at Bellevue in 1854.

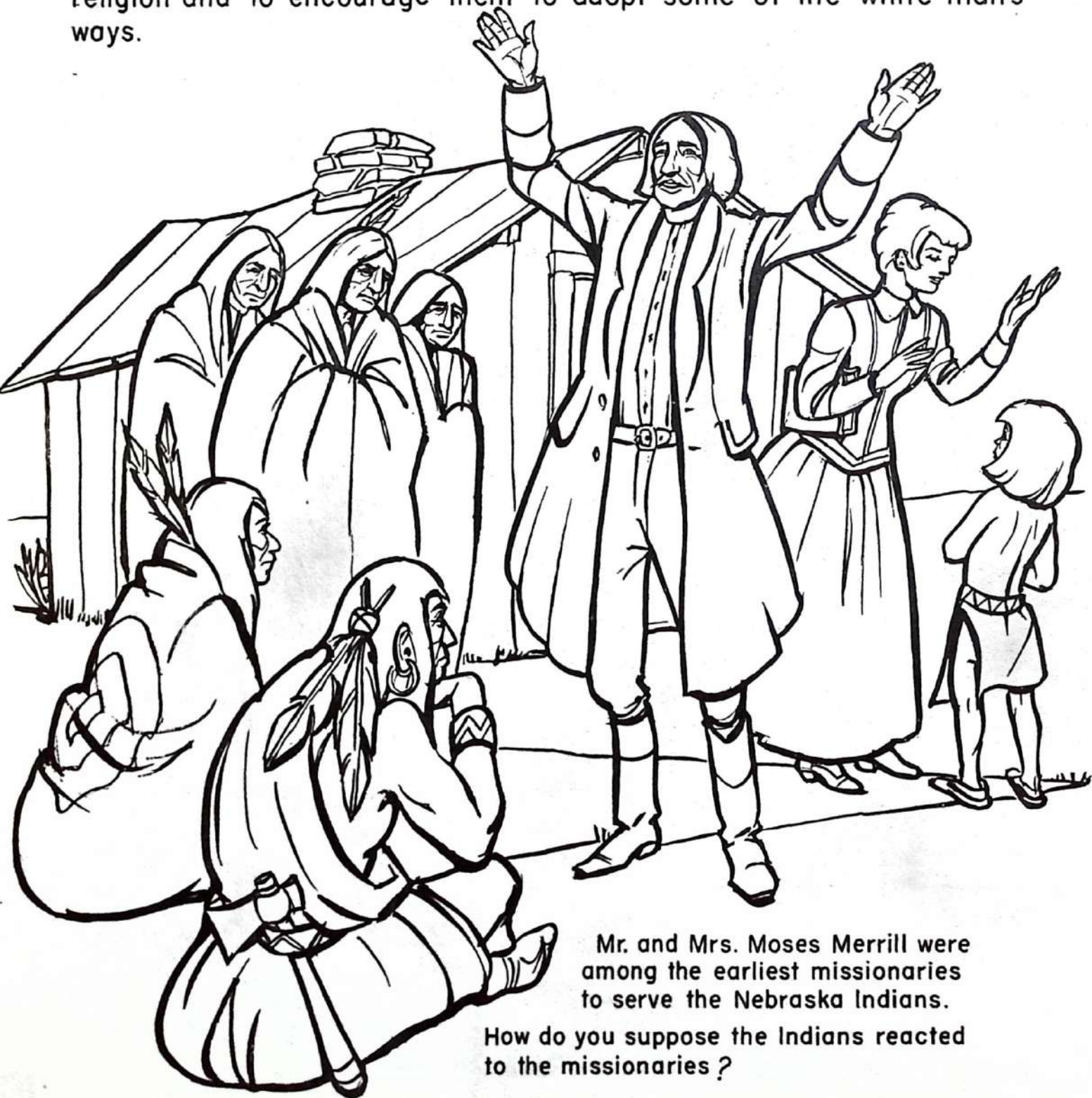
Can you locate Bellevue on the map of Nebraska?

Other explorers came to Nebraska following Lewis and Clark. In 1820 Major Stephen H. Long crossed Nebraska. He found Nebraska to be in large part a dry, treeless plain which he concluded would never be good farming land. So Major Long announced that Nebraska was part of the Great American Desert.



Why did Major Long call Nebraska the Great American Desert?

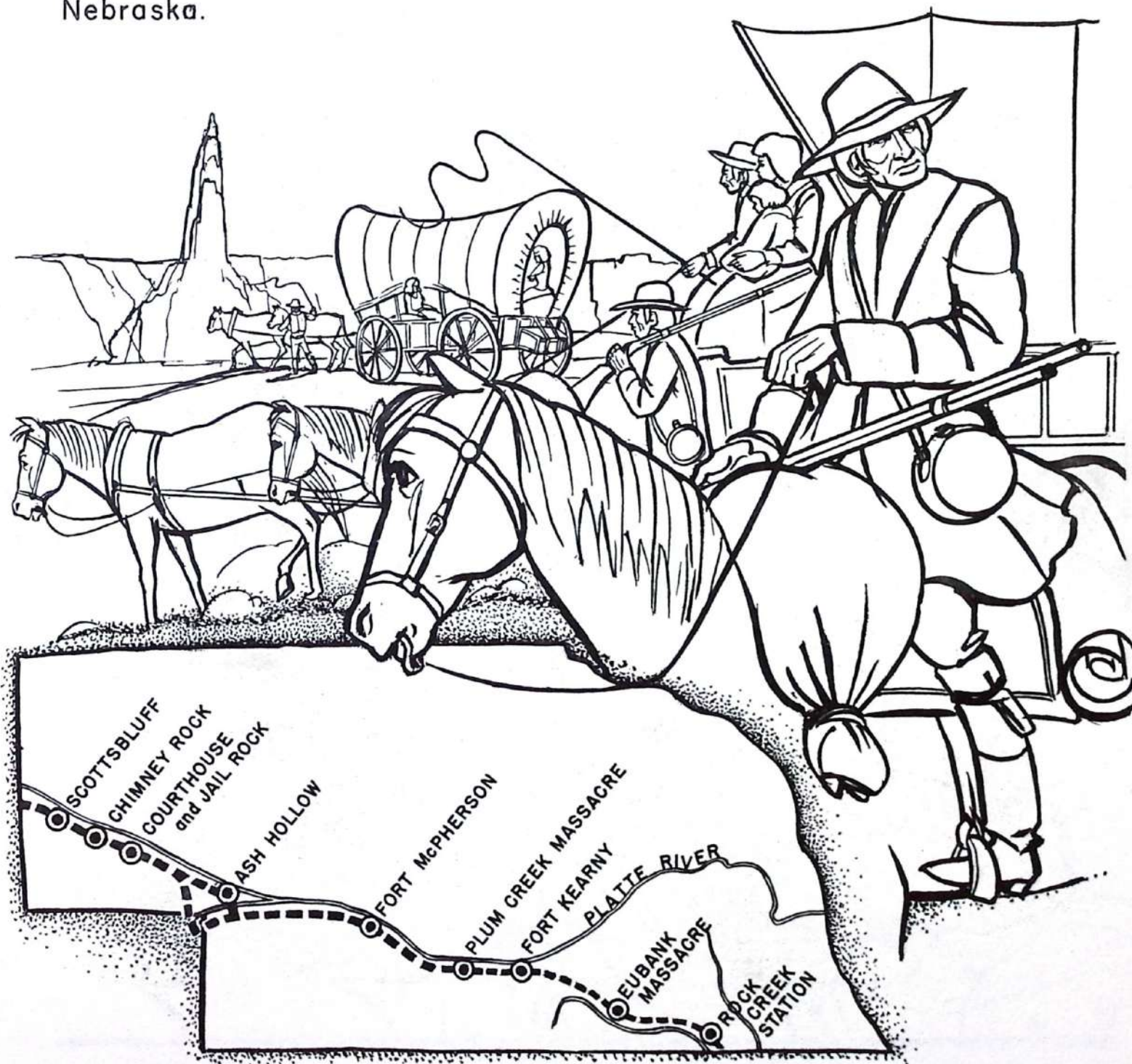
Believing that the land across the Missouri River would never be settled by white men, our government by the 1830's decided to make this region into permanent Indian country. In Nebraska and the other areas beyond the Missouri it was hoped that the Indians could live separately from the white men. Then missionaries were sent to live with the Indians, to teach them about the Christian religion and to encourage them to adopt some of the white man's ways.



Mr. and Mrs. Moses Merrill were among the earliest missionaries to serve the Nebraska Indians.

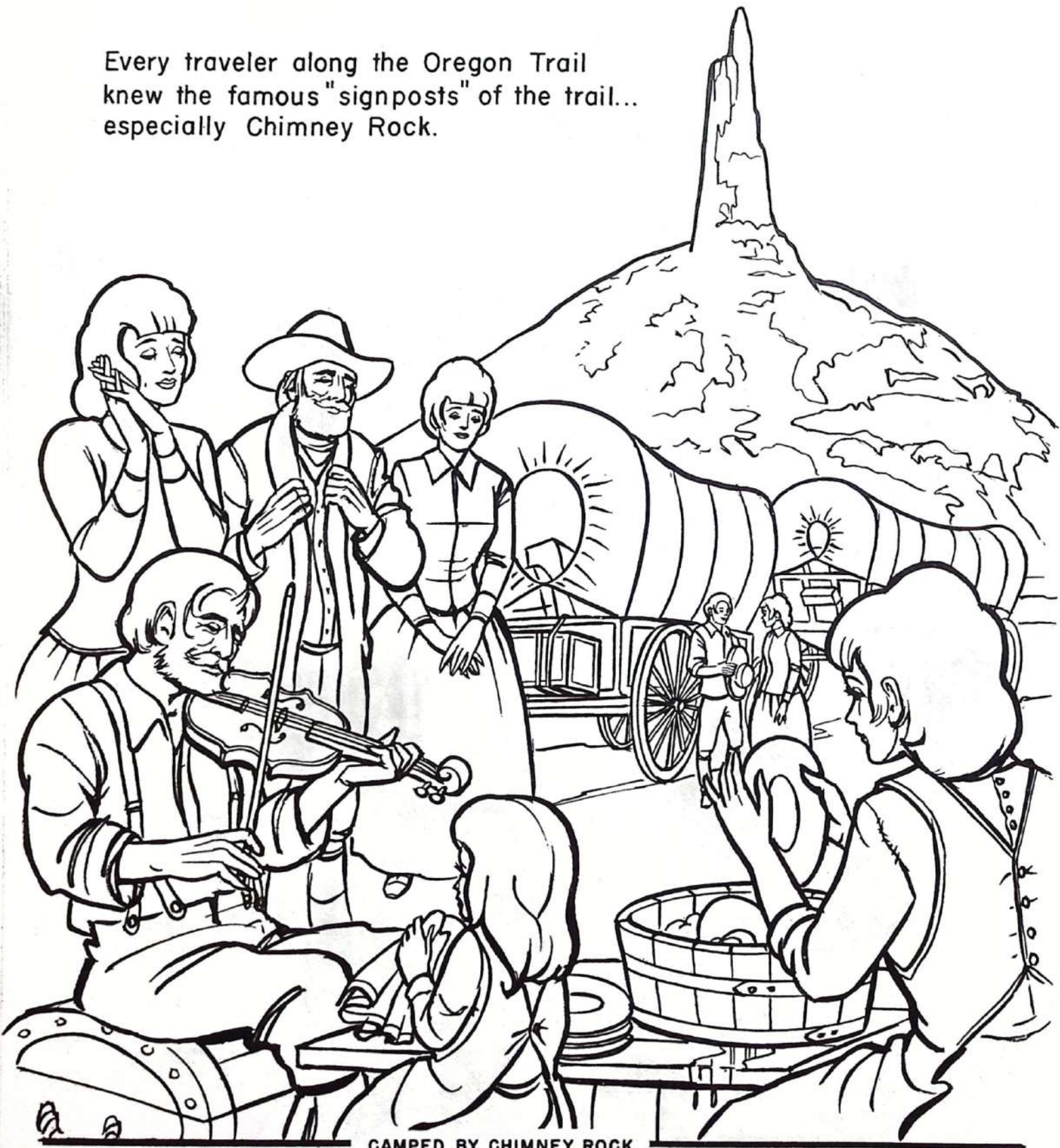
How do you suppose the Indians reacted to the missionaries?

....but by the 1840's thousands of restless Americans were anxious to settle in the rich lands of Oregon and California. Wagon trains began to cross through Indian country and the Great American Desert. Few settled in Nebraska. Nebraska became, however, the Great Way West. These were the days of the Oregon Trail in Nebraska.



How long do you think it took for the pioneers to cross Nebraska in their covered wagons?

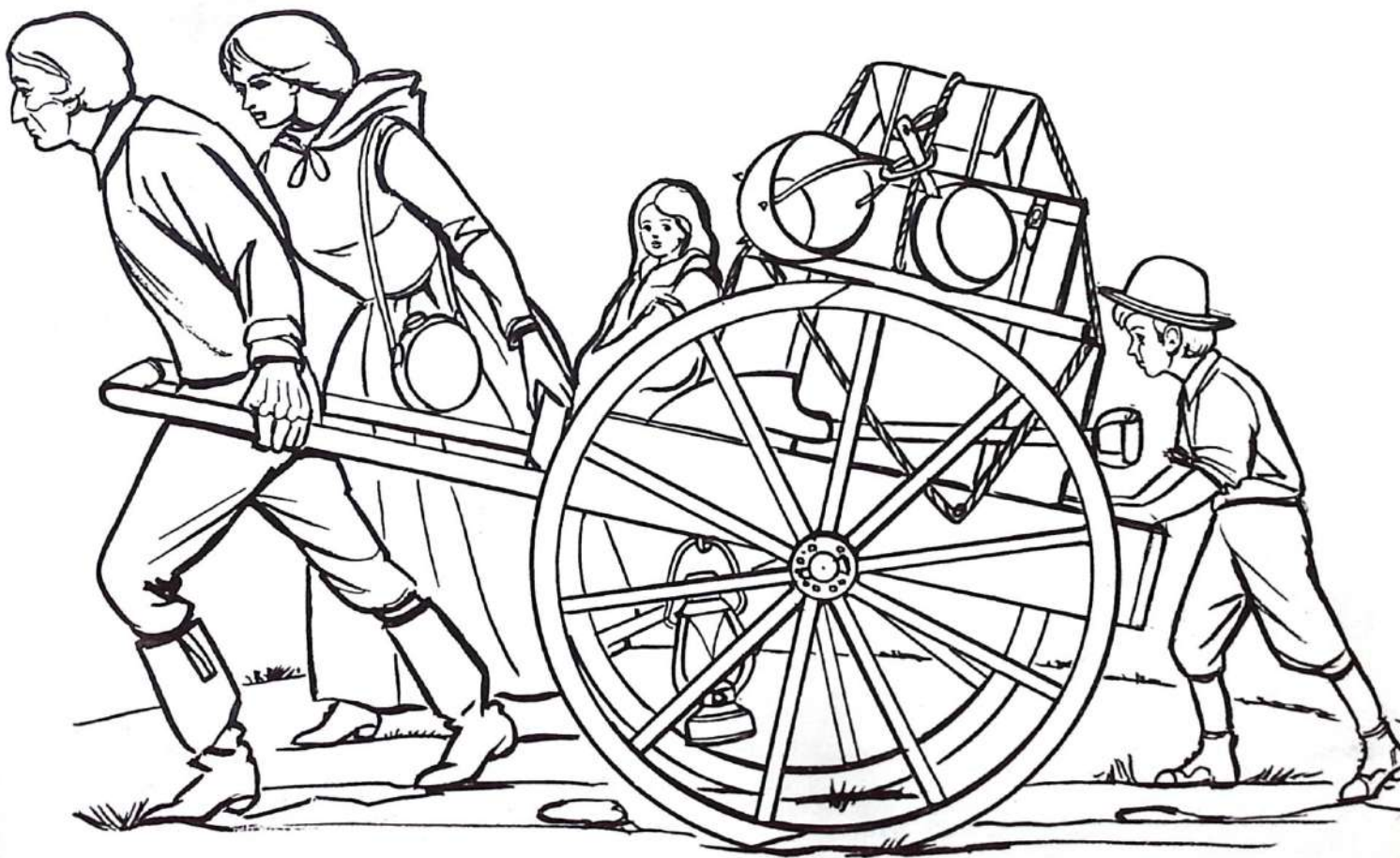
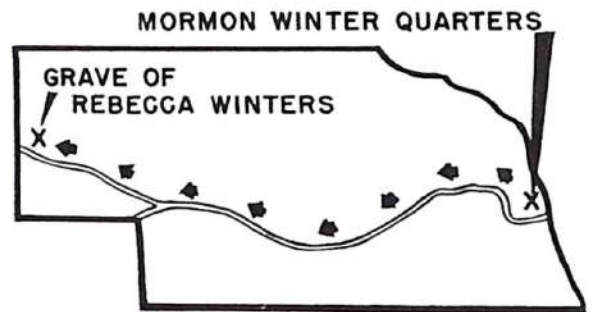
Every traveler along the Oregon Trail
knew the famous "signposts" of the trail...
especially Chimney Rock.



CAMPED BY CHIMNEY ROCK

Do you think Chimney Rock is a good name for this rock formation ?

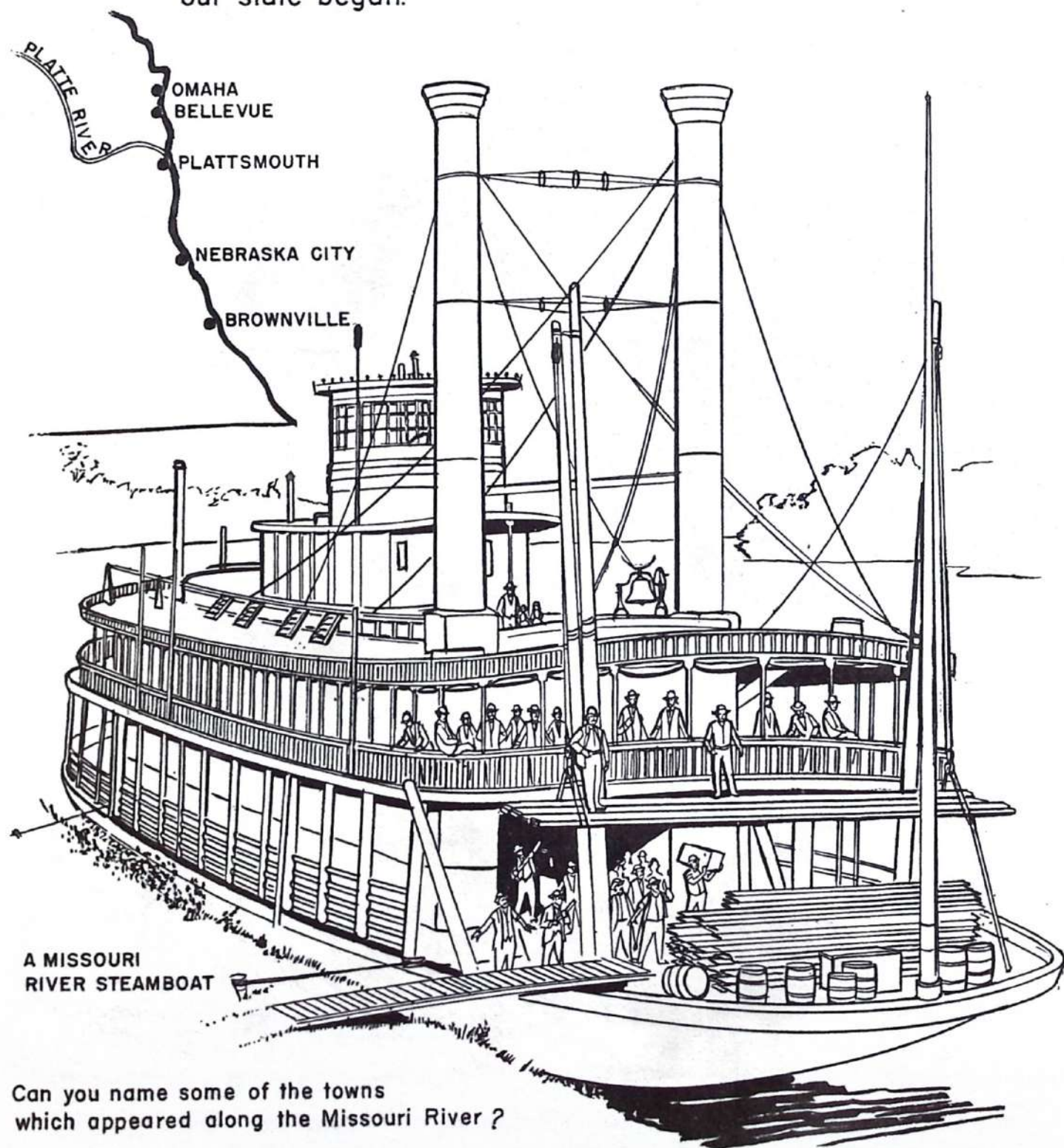
After 1846 another famous trail crossed Nebraska. This one, the Mormon Trail, left Mormon Winter Quarters on the north side of present-day Omaha, and followed the north side of the Platte River. The Mormons were on their way to the Salt Lake Valley where they hoped they could follow their religion without interference. In the 1850's thousands of Mormons walked across Nebraska, their belongings heaped in two-wheel carts. These Mormons were called the Handcart Pioneers.



THE MORMON HANDCART PIONEERS

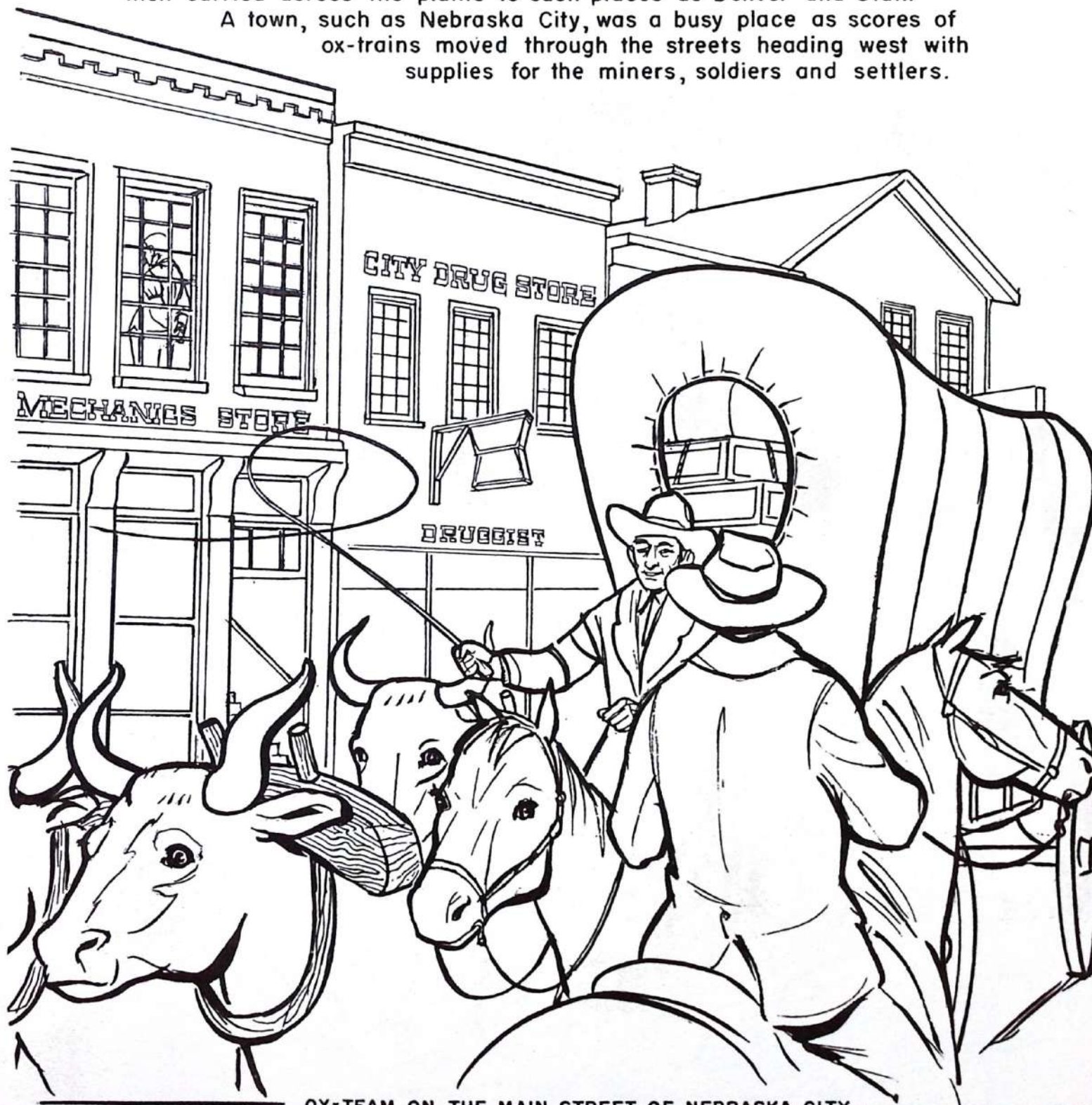
Why did the Mormons travel on the north side of the Platte River instead of joining the emigrants on the Oregon Trail?

In 1854 Nebraska Territory was organized. Many early settlers came to Nebraska by steamboat. So we note another important trail into Nebraska... the Missouri River. Many river towns sprang up in Eastern Nebraska, and here is where the development of our state began.



The Nebraska river towns became jumping-off places for those going farther west... By the 1850's the towns were bustling centers of activity, especially because freighting companies operated out of most of them. Steamboats unloaded supplies, which wagons, drawn by horses, mules or oxen, then carried across the plains to such places as Denver and Utah.

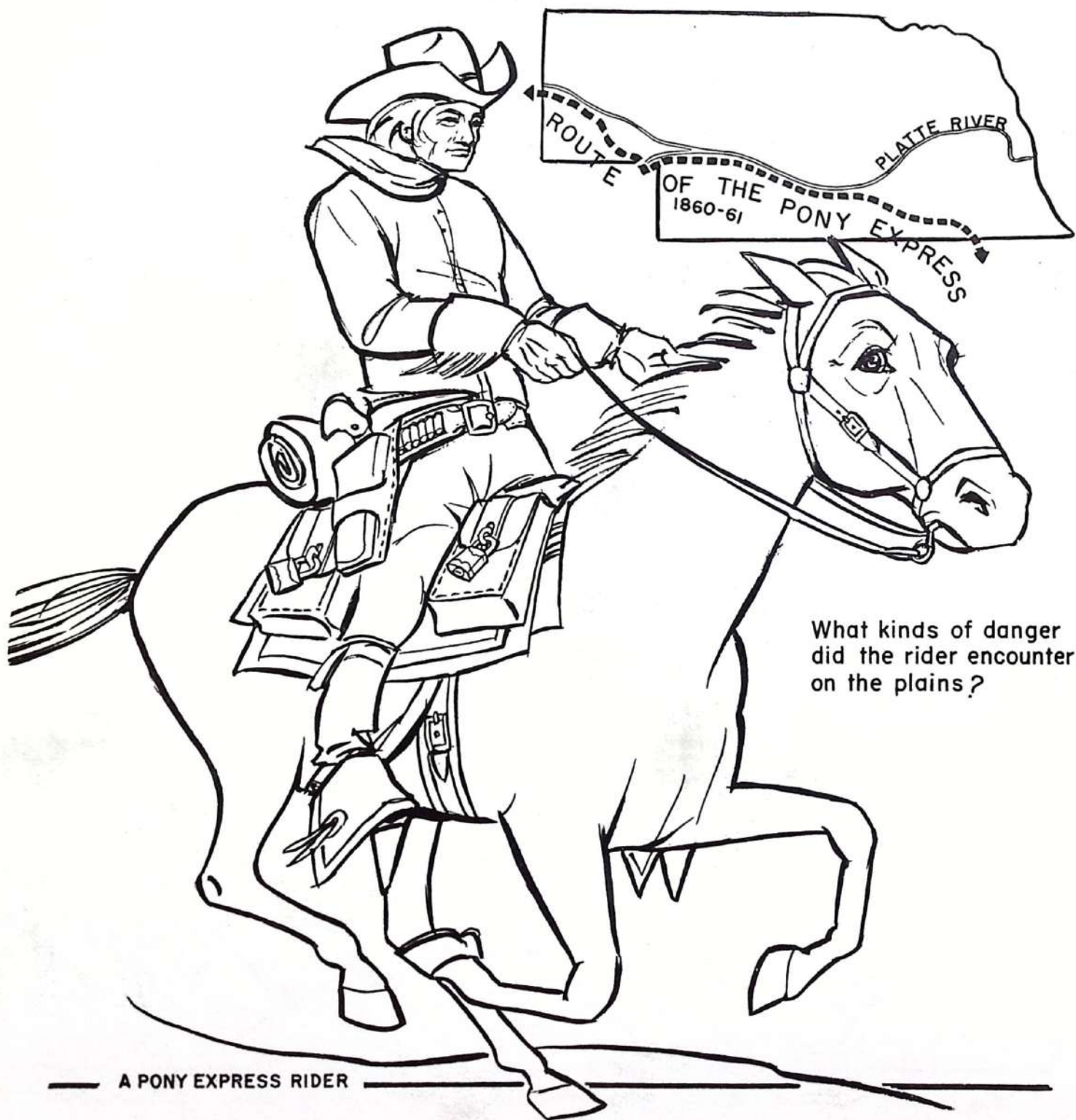
A town, such as Nebraska City, was a busy place as scores of ox-teams moved through the streets heading west with supplies for the miners, soldiers and settlers.



OX-TEAM ON THE MAIN STREET OF NEBRASKA CITY

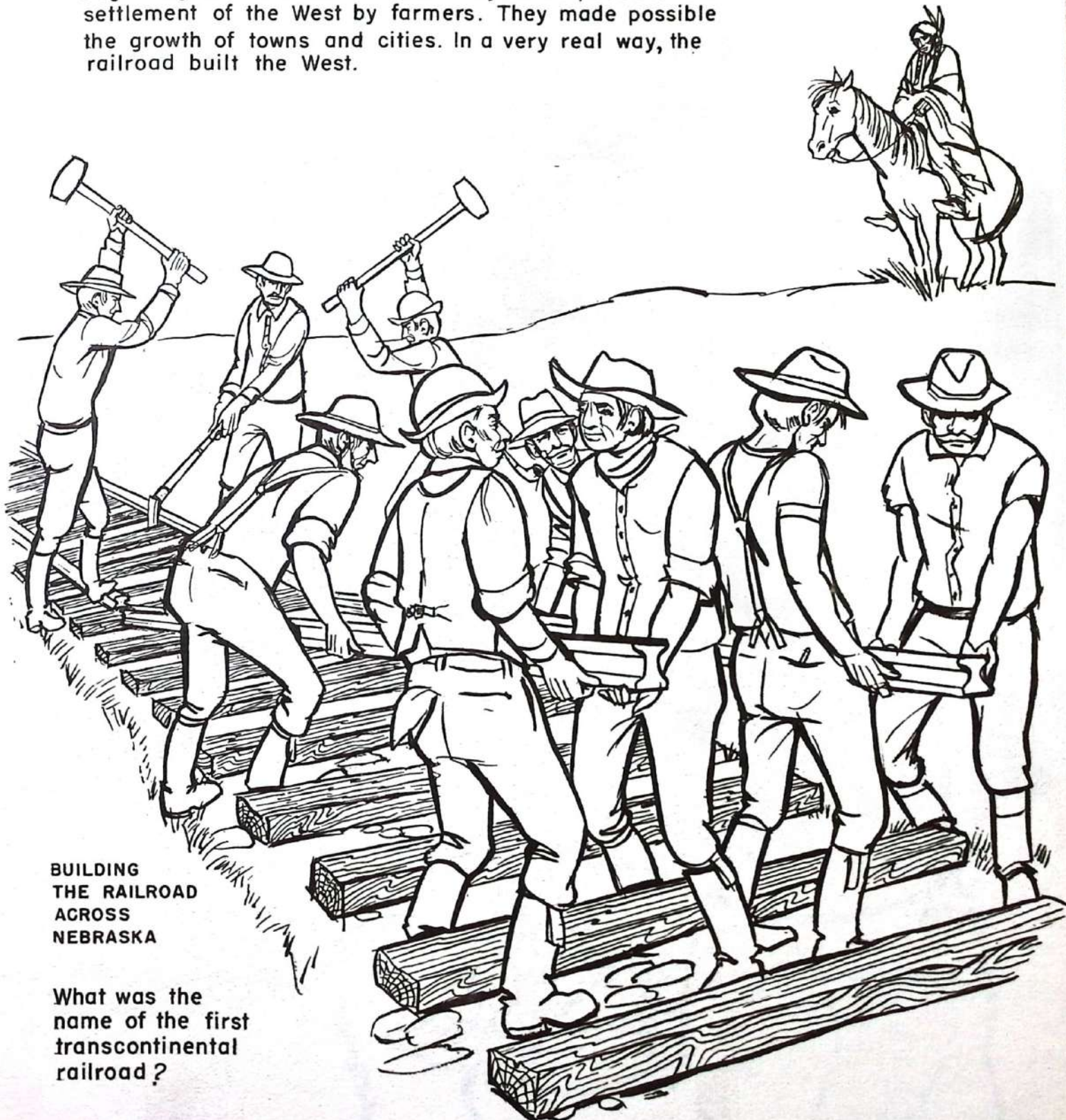
Why do you suppose the men who drove the ox-teams were known as bull-wackers?

The western settlers quickly realized the vastness of the nation. Those who settled in California wanted better and quicker communication with the east. The Pony Express was an attempt to solve the problem of communication.



A PONY EXPRESS RIDER

But the Pony Express was not entirely satisfactory. Neither were the ox-teams and the stage coaches. The people of the West wanted cheaper and better transportation, and this, of course, meant they wanted the railroad. By the end of the Civil War railroads were being constructed in the West by gangs of men, many of them immigrants. The gleaming rails marked the beginning of the modern West. They made possible the settlement of the West by farmers. They made possible the growth of towns and cities. In a very real way, the railroad built the West.



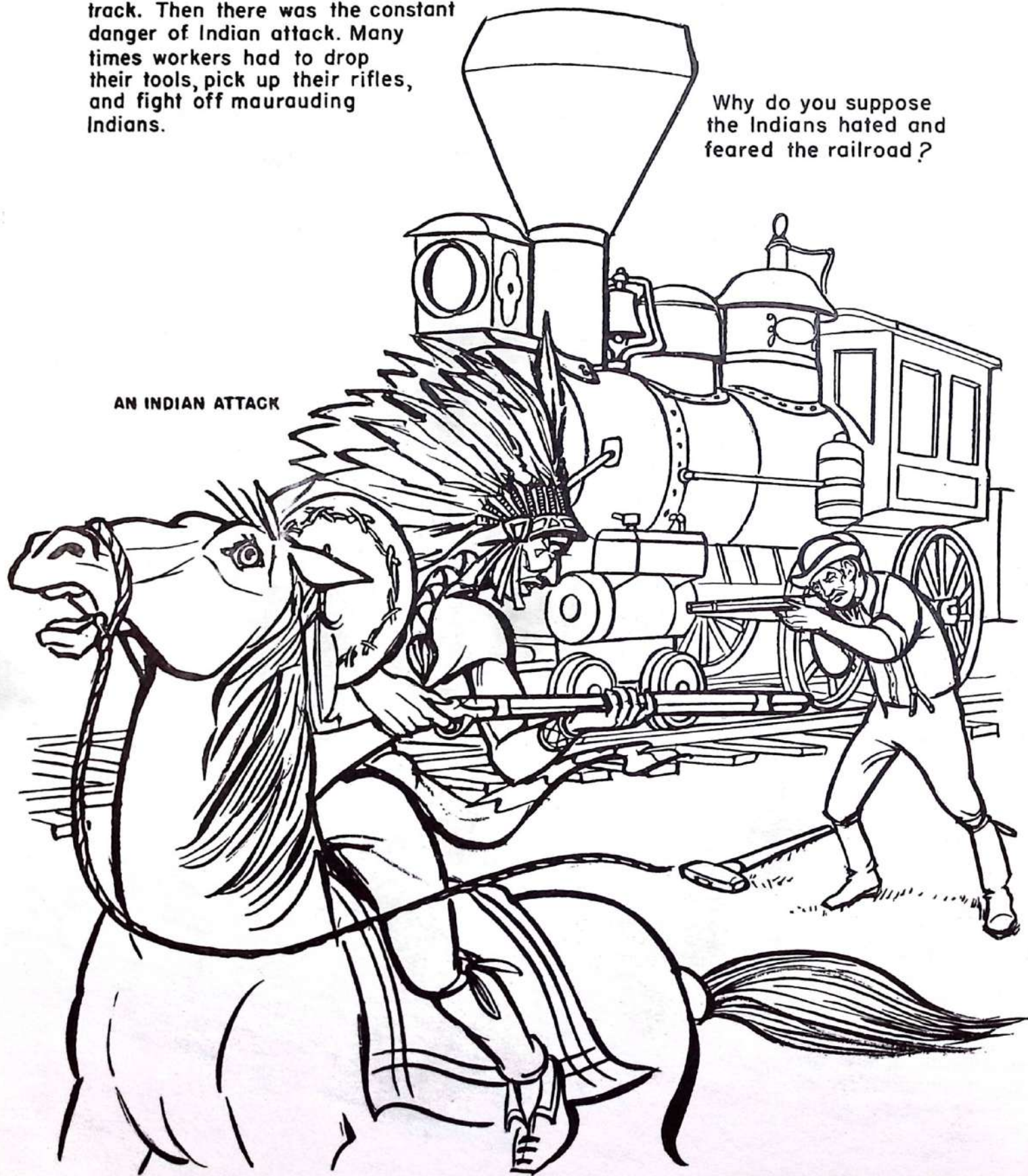
BUILDING
THE RAILROAD
ACROSS
NEBRASKA

What was the
name of the first
transcontinental
railroad?

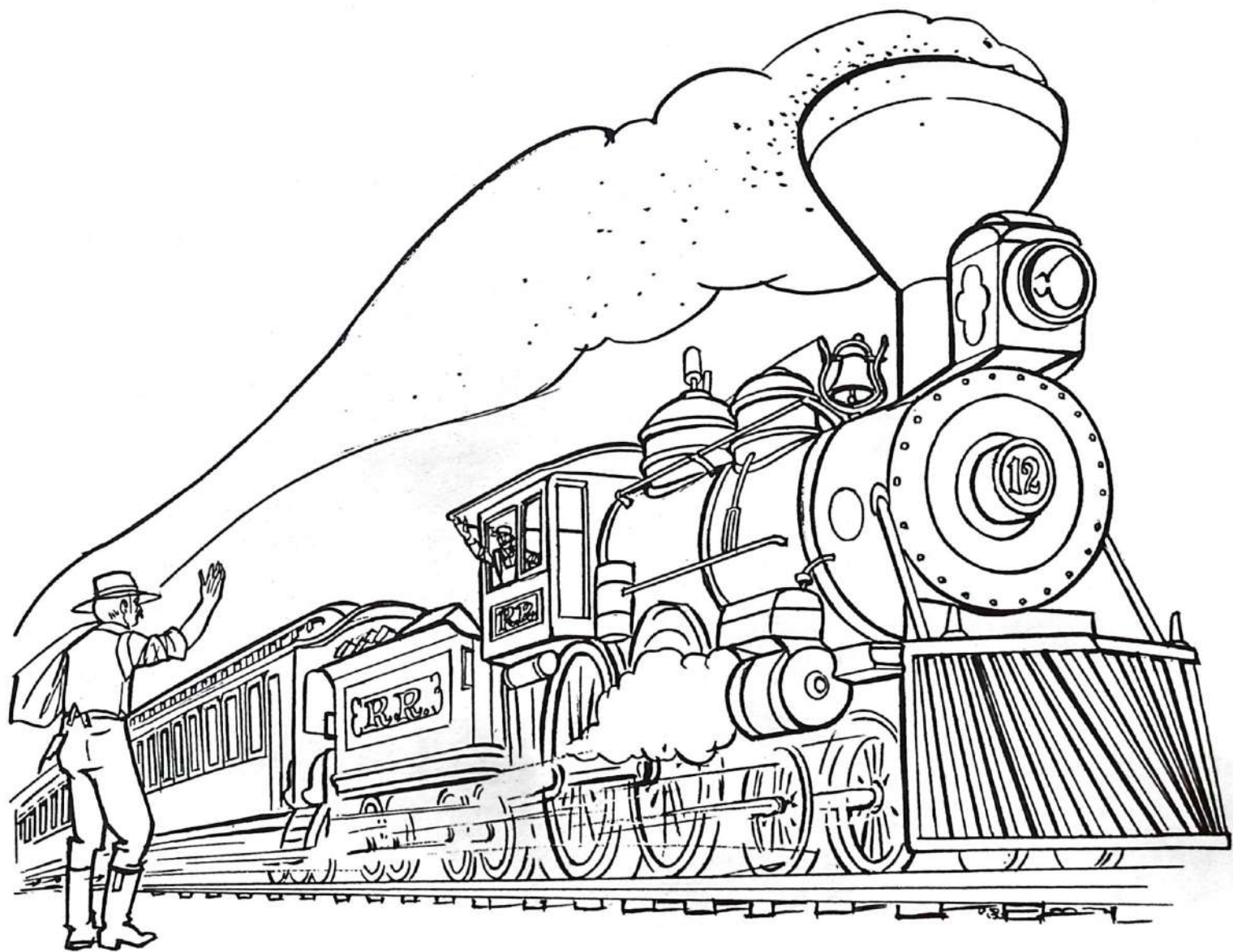
There were many problems involved in building the railroad in Nebraska. All the supplies... rails, ties, and other materials... had to be carried from the Missouri River to the end of the track. Then there was the constant danger of Indian attack. Many times workers had to drop their tools, pick up their rifles, and fight off marauding Indians.

Why do you suppose the Indians hated and feared the railroad?

AN INDIAN ATTACK



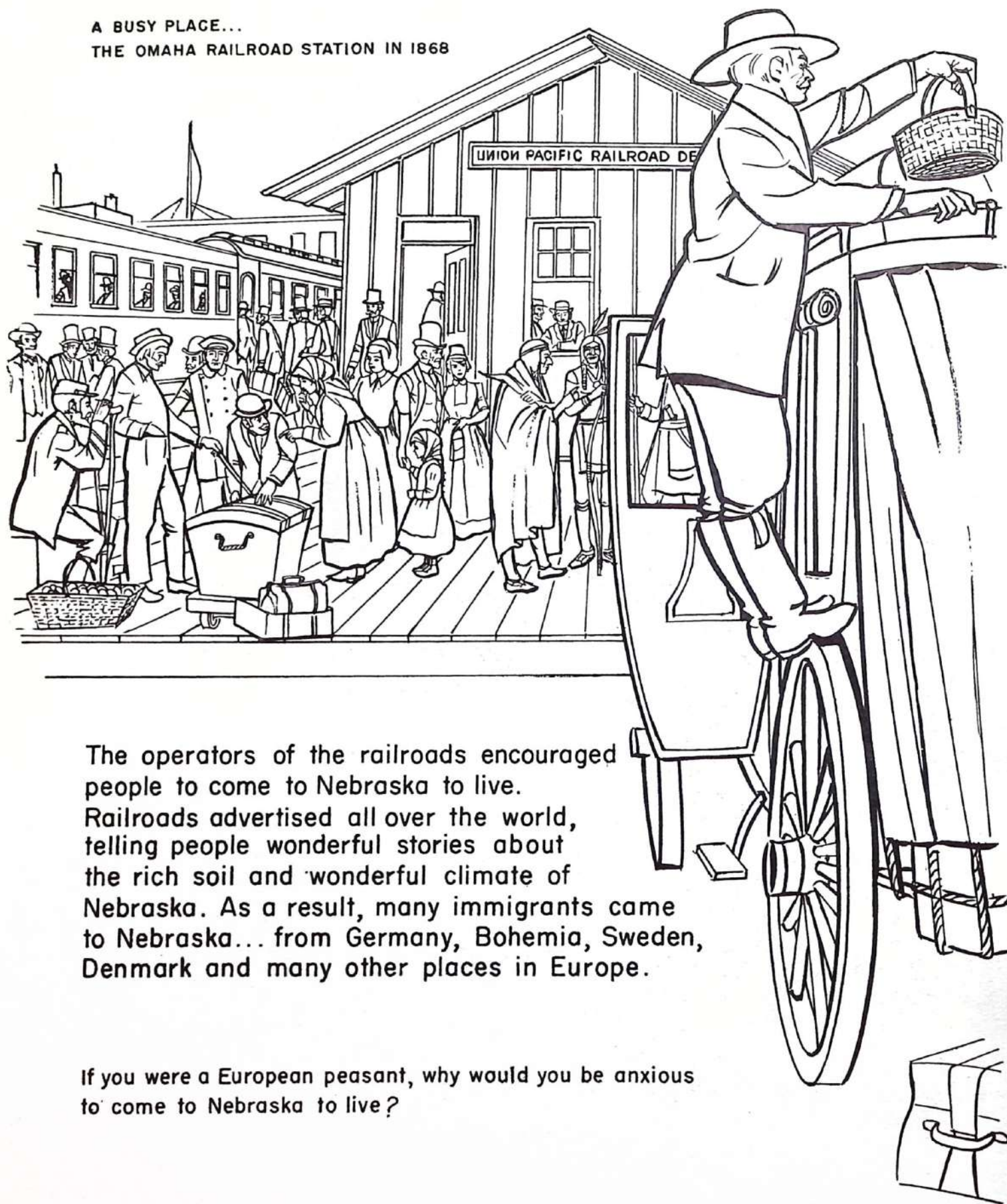
Despite all the problems, the railroads were quickly built. Soon locomotives chugged across the prairies of Nebraska, bringing settlers and supplies, and carrying the products of Nebraska's farms to Eastern markets.



A LOCOMOTIVE ON THE PLAINS

The locomotives were often called "IRON HORSES." Do you think this was a good name?

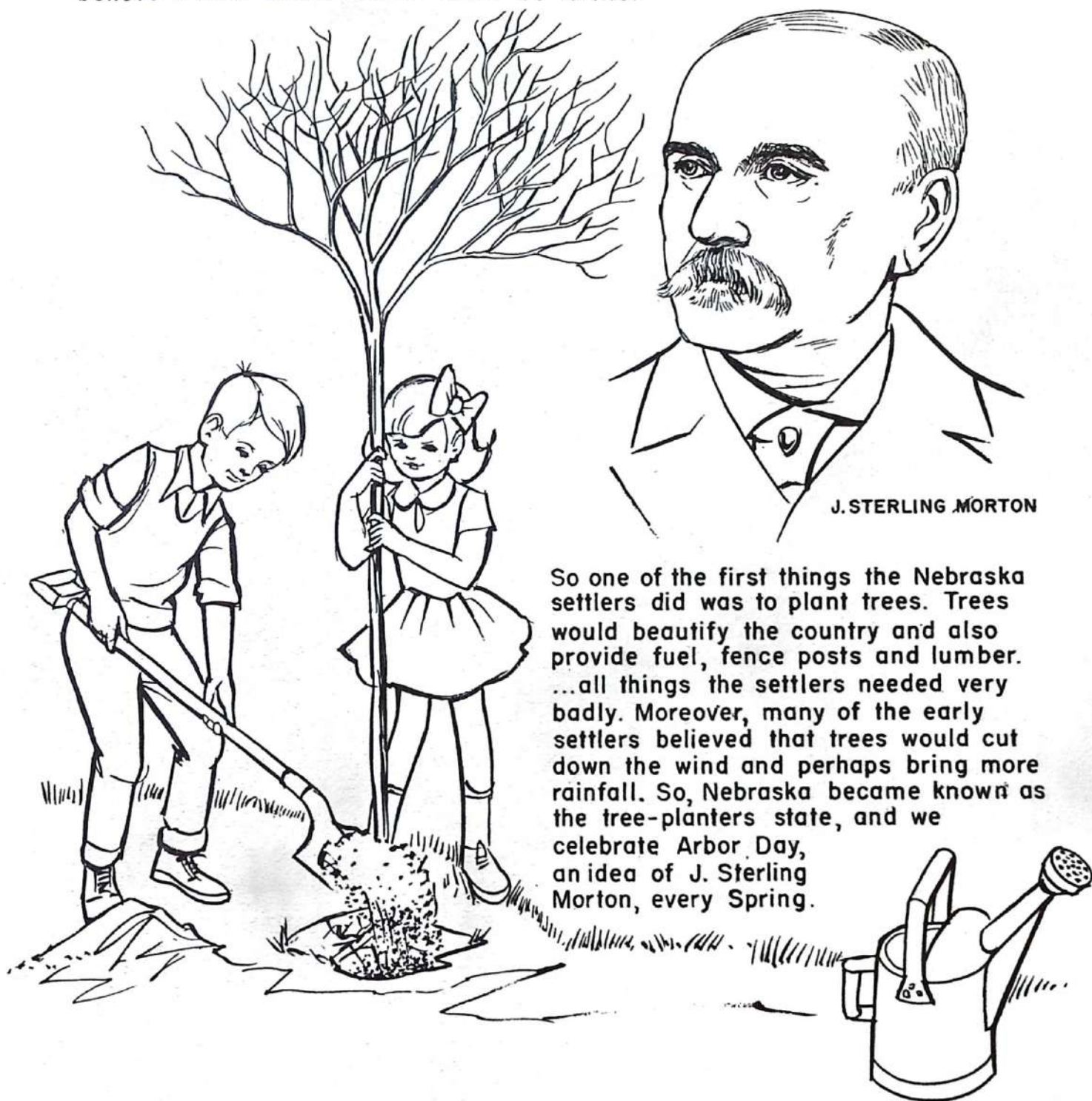
A BUSY PLACE...
THE OMAHA RAILROAD STATION IN 1868



The operators of the railroads encouraged people to come to Nebraska to live. Railroads advertised all over the world, telling people wonderful stories about the rich soil and wonderful climate of Nebraska. As a result, many immigrants came to Nebraska... from Germany, Bohemia, Sweden, Denmark and many other places in Europe.

If you were a European peasant, why would you be anxious to come to Nebraska to live?

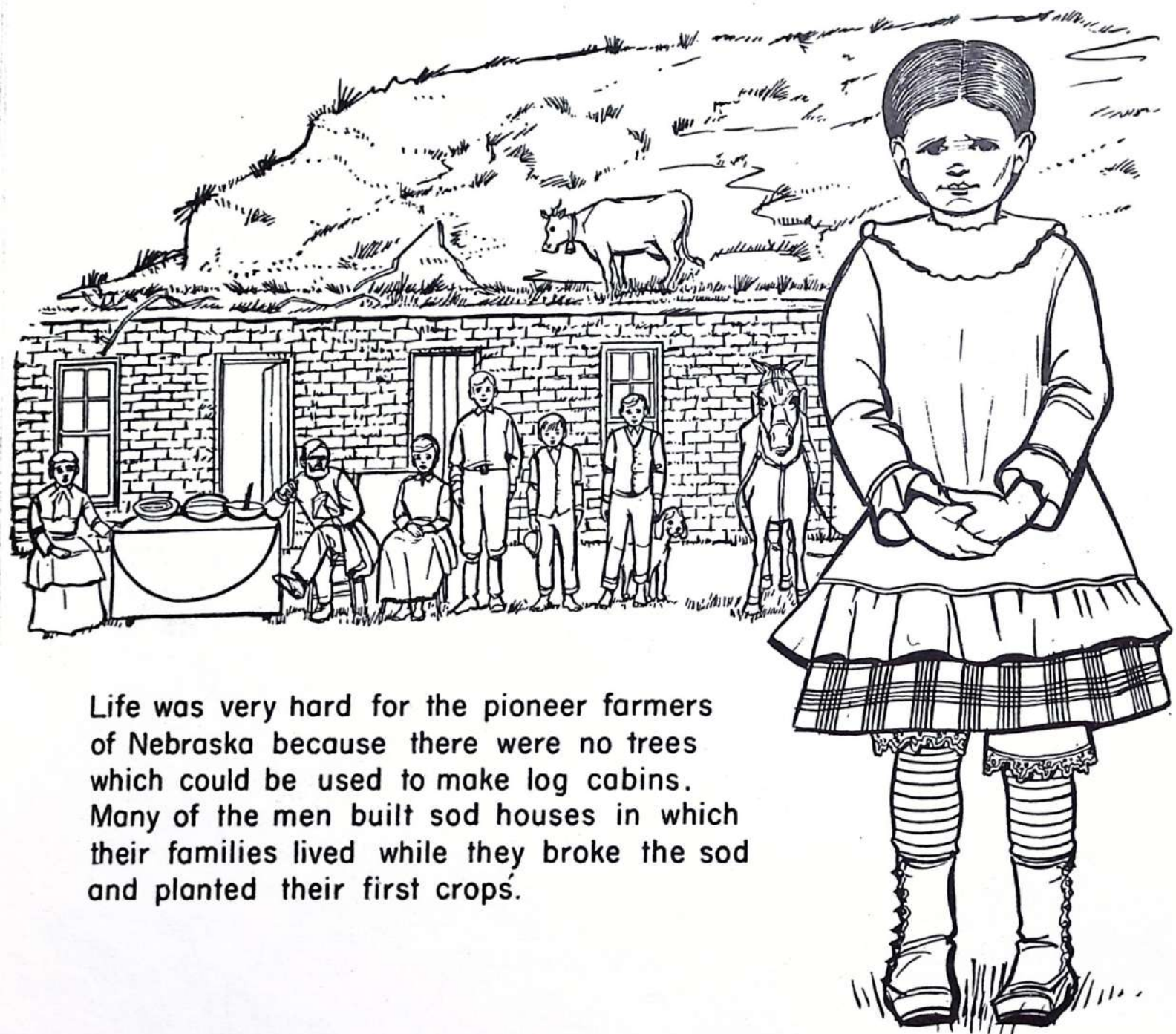
Do you remember what Major Long called Nebraska? He called it The Great American Desert and said that no one would ever be able to make a living here by farming. One reason he didn't think much of Nebraska was because there were very few trees: and since he came from the East, Major Long didn't believe a land without trees could be fertile.



So one of the first things the Nebraska settlers did was to plant trees. Trees would beautify the country and also provide fuel, fence posts and lumber. ...all things the settlers needed very badly. Moreover, many of the early settlers believed that trees would cut down the wind and perhaps bring more rainfall. So, Nebraska became known as the tree-planters state, and we celebrate Arbor Day, an idea of J. Sterling Morton, every Spring.

Where did Mr. Morton live in Nebraska? Why did the settlers plant trees?

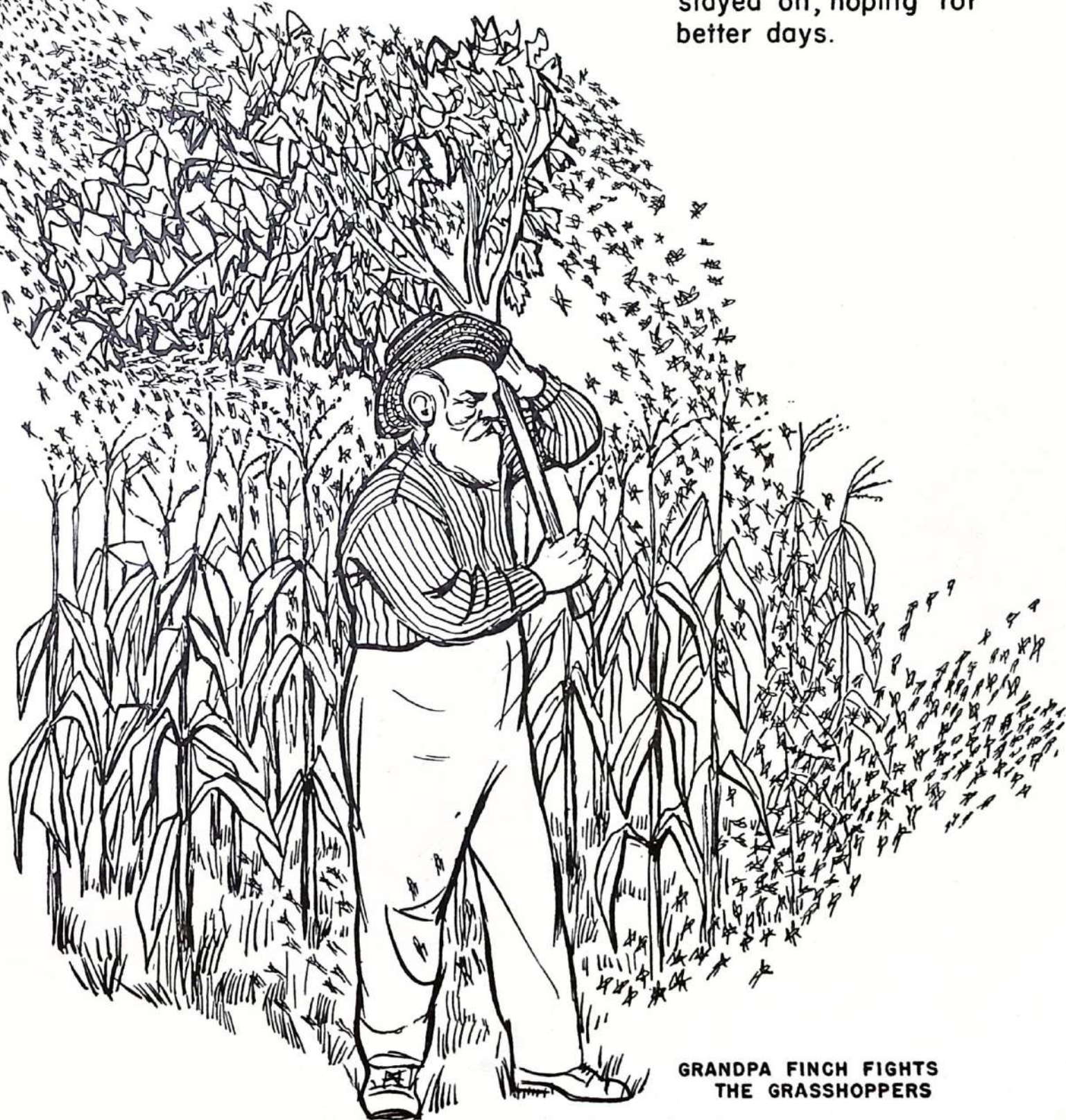
A NEBRASKA SOD HOUSE



Life was very hard for the pioneer farmers of Nebraska because there were no trees which could be used to make log cabins. Many of the men built sod houses in which their families lived while they broke the sod and planted their first crops.

What do you think it was like to live in one of these soddies?

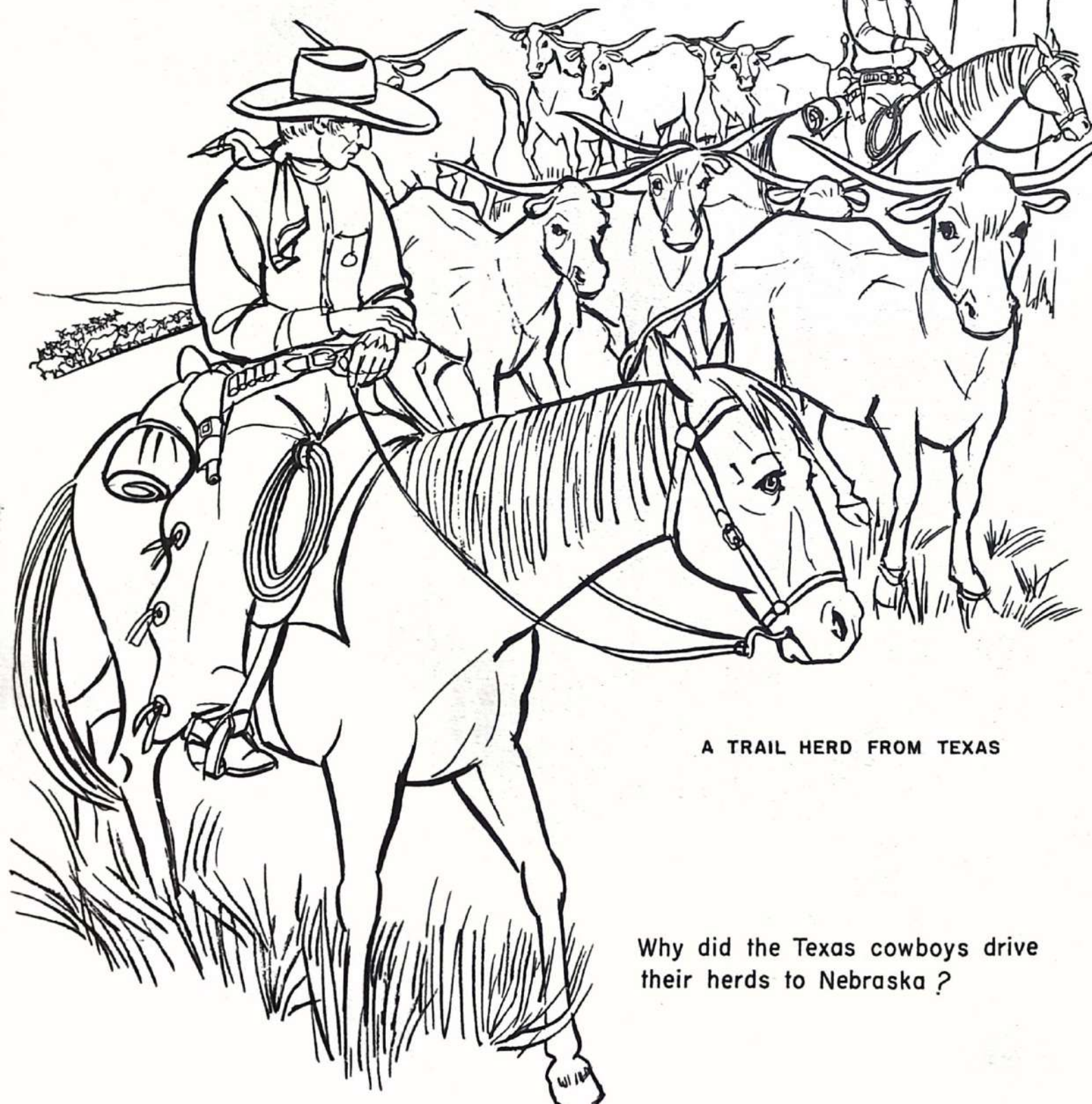
In the 1870's grasshoppers came to Nebraska. Descending in huge clouds, the insects ate the crops of the pioneer farmers. Many settlers were discouraged and left Nebraska, but many others stayed on, hoping for better days.



**GRANDPA FINCH FIGHTS
THE GRASSHOPPERS**

Why did the settlers hate the grasshoppers? Do you suppose Grandpa Finch was able to save his corn from the 'hoppers?

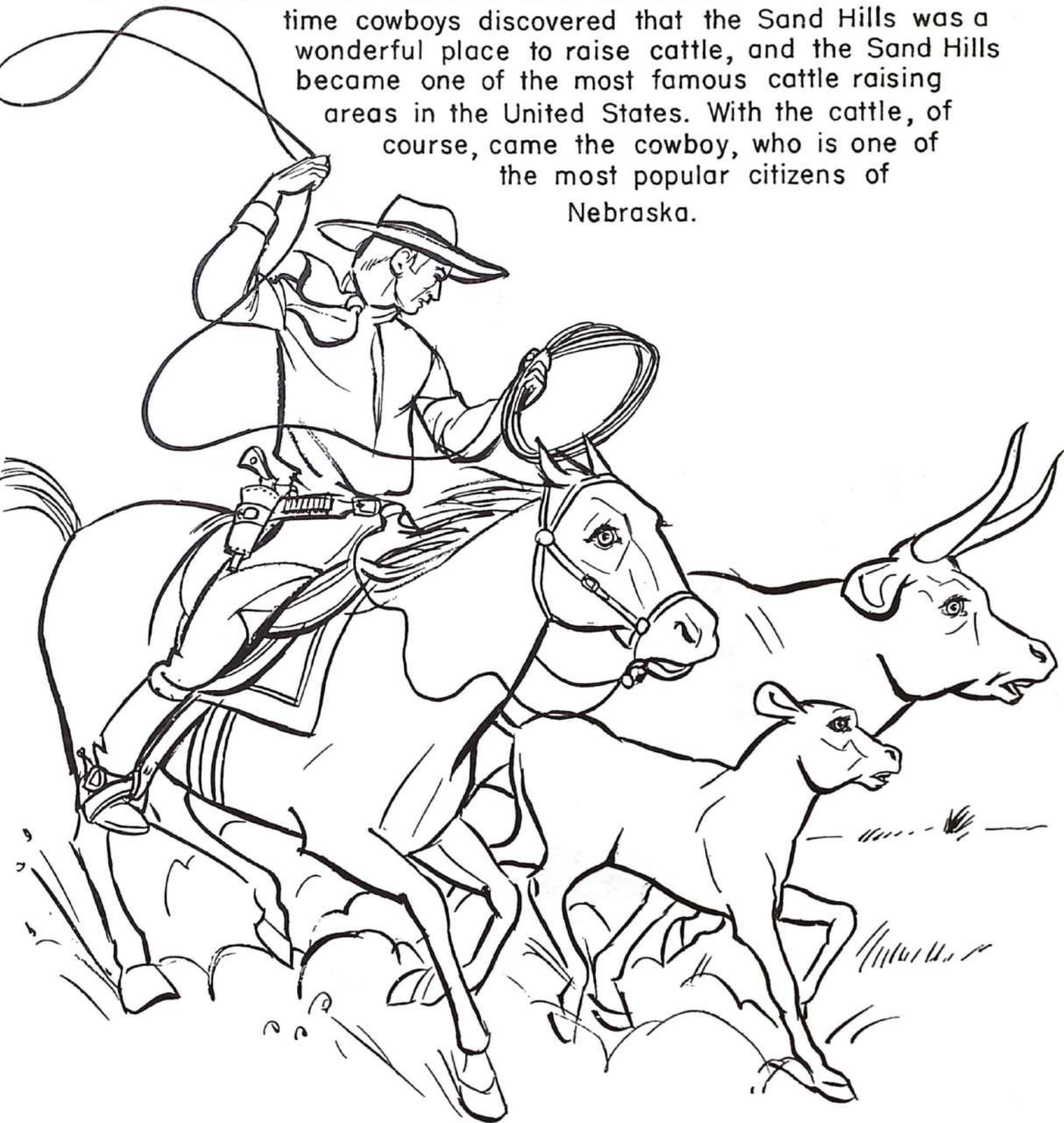
While the pioneer farmers were struggling to make a living in eastern Nebraska, the cattlemen and cowboys came to central and western Nebraska. To Ogallala, Kearney and North Platte came the Texas cowboys and the herds of Long-horn Texas cattle.



A TRAIL HERD FROM TEXAS

Why did the Texas cowboys drive their herds to Nebraska ?

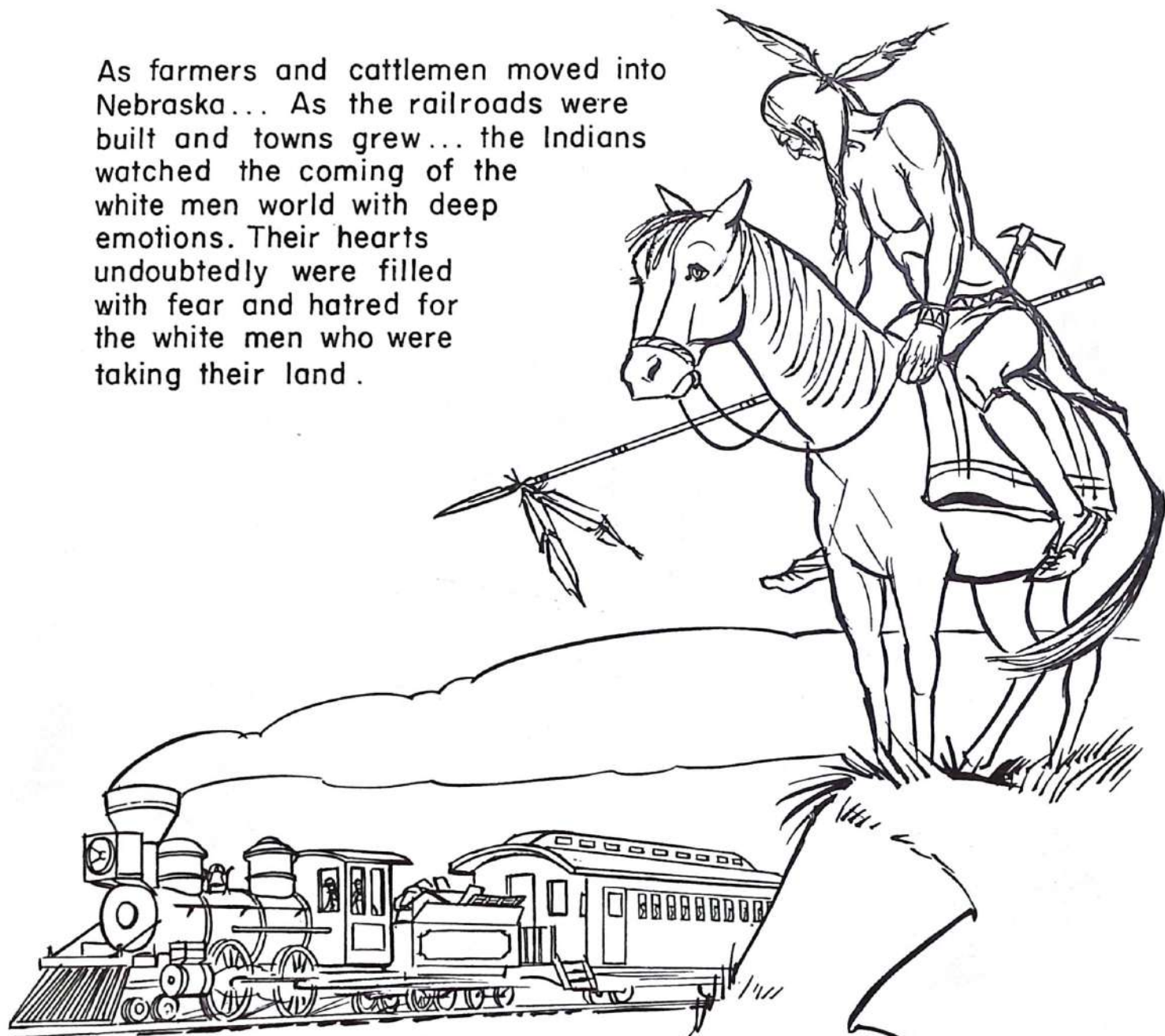
In the 1870's cattle ranches were established in Nebraska. In time cowboys discovered that the Sand Hills was a wonderful place to raise cattle, and the Sand Hills became one of the most famous cattle raising areas in the United States. With the cattle, of course, came the cowboy, who is one of the most popular citizens of Nebraska.



THE LIFE OF A COWBOY

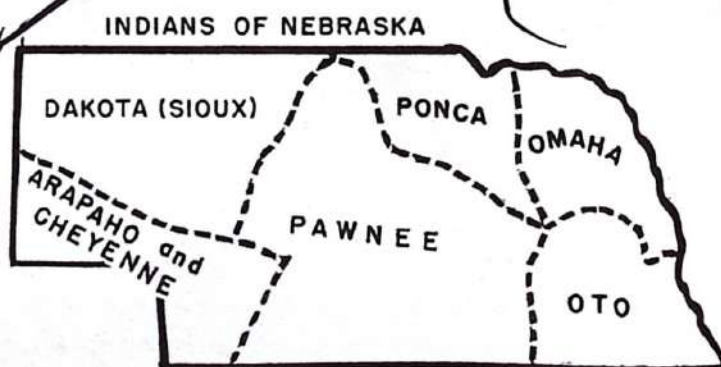
Do you think the life of a cowboy was exciting? Can you think of any reasons why you might not want to have been a cowboy?

As farmers and cattlemen moved into Nebraska... As the railroads were built and towns grew... the Indians watched the coming of the white men world with deep emotions. Their hearts undoubtedly were filled with fear and hatred for the white men who were taking their land.



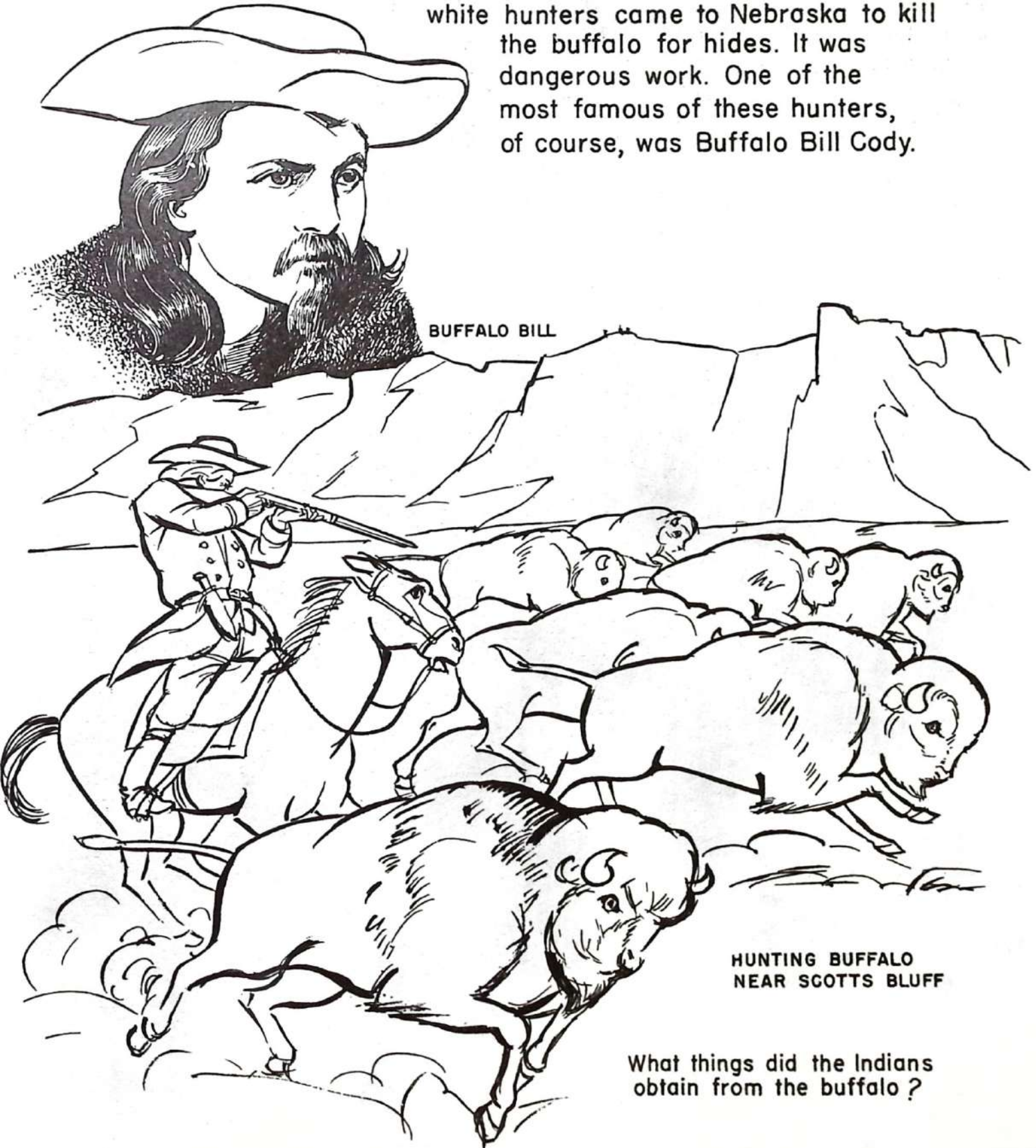
WATCHING THE IRON HORSE

What were some of the famous Indian tribes of Nebraska?



The Indians became especially angry when white men began to kill the buffalo. As you probably know, the Indians depended upon the buffalo for all sorts of things. In a very real sense, the buffalo supported the plains Indians. By the 1870's hundreds of

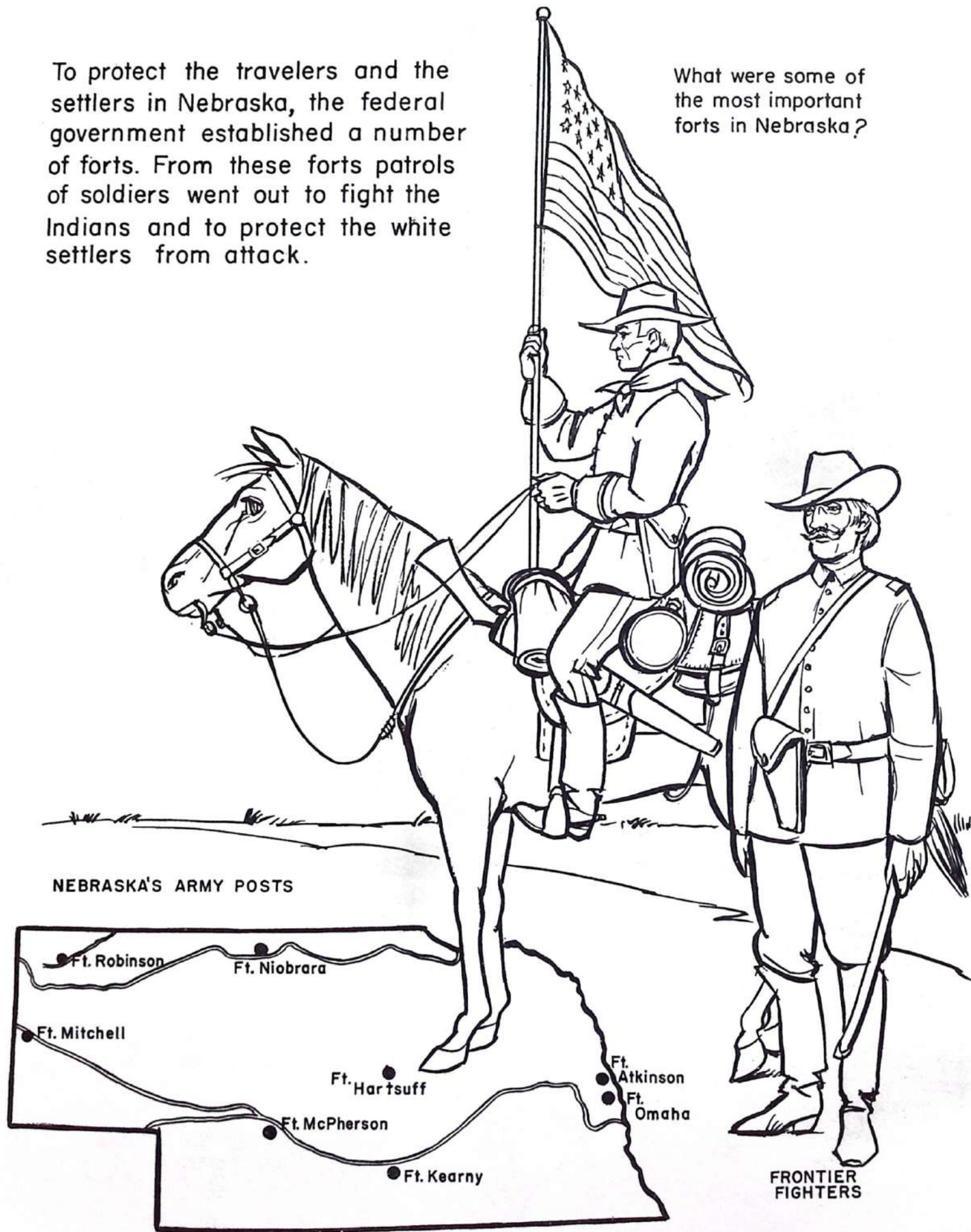
white hunters came to Nebraska to kill the buffalo for hides. It was dangerous work. One of the most famous of these hunters, of course, was Buffalo Bill Cody.



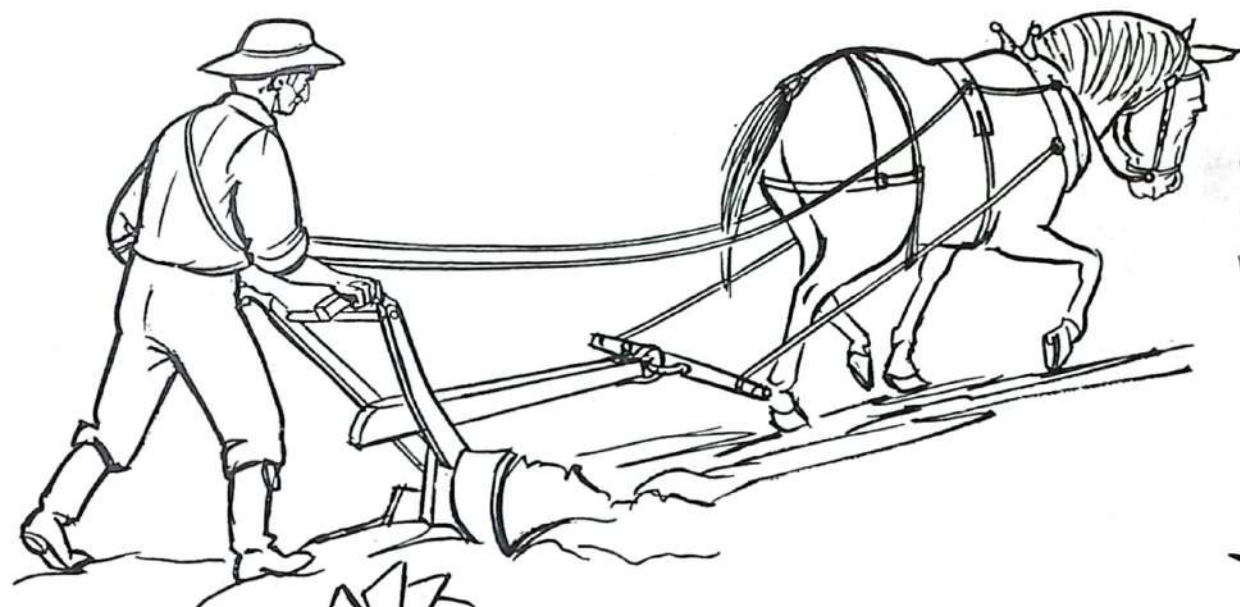
What things did the Indians obtain from the buffalo?

To protect the travelers and the settlers in Nebraska, the federal government established a number of forts. From these forts patrols of soldiers went out to fight the Indians and to protect the white settlers from attack.

What were some of the most important forts in Nebraska?

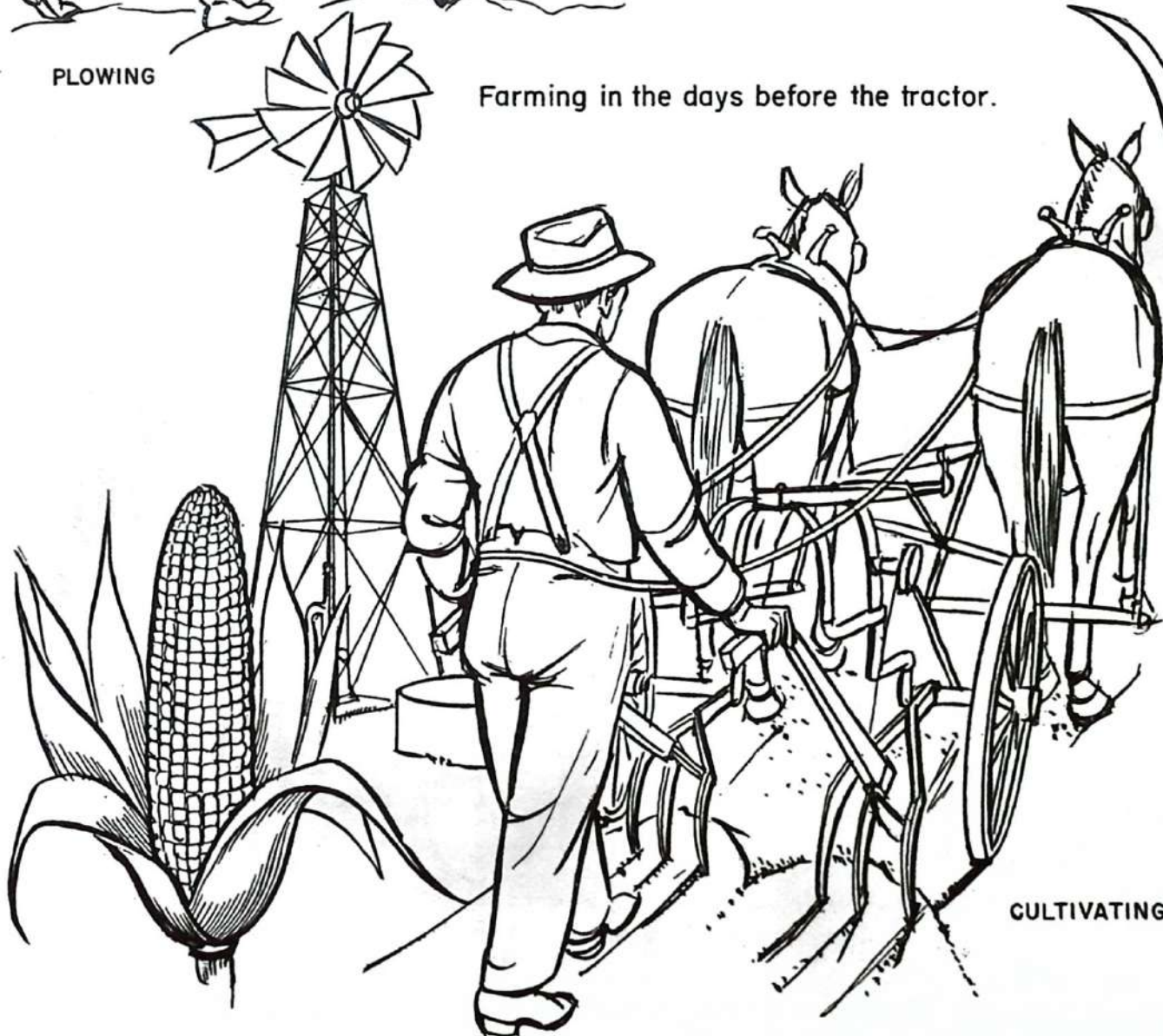


Gradually the settlers moved into Central and Western Nebraska.
In these days the farmers worked the land with horses.



PLOWING

Farming in the days before the tractor.



CULTIVATING

While the men and boys worked in the fields, the women and girls worked very hard in the farm kitchens. They didn't have the conveniences we have in our kitchens today. They cooked on coal stoves, and their water came from a pump, but wonderful food came from the kitchen.



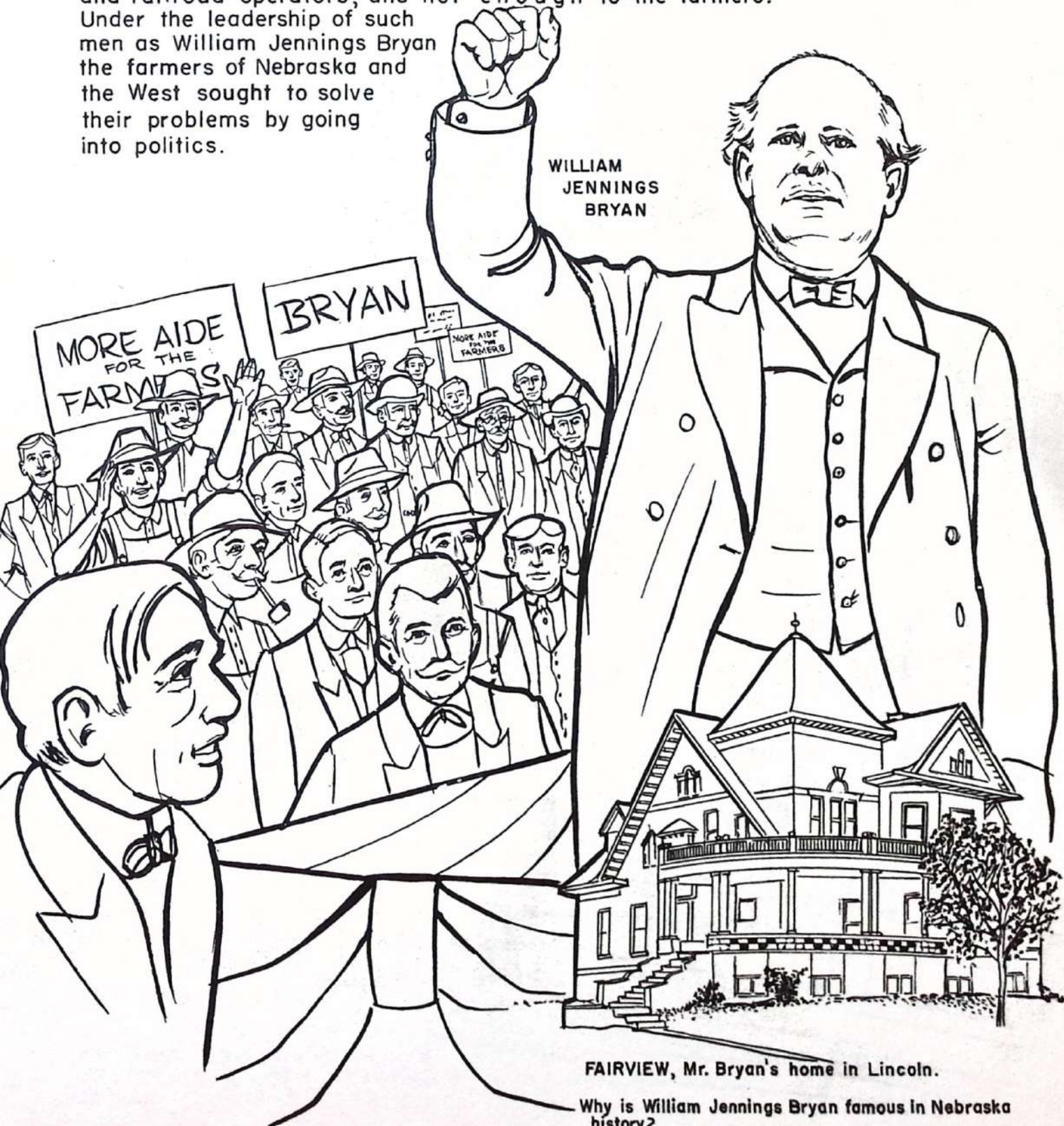
MEALTIME IN A FARM KITCHEN

Does this look like your kitchen at home today? What things are different?

Hard work and new machinery helped encourage the agriculture development of Nebraska, but sometimes everything went wrong. By the 1890's Nebraska farmers were very discouraged. Prices were low: the rates charged by the railroads were high: and then, came the drouth.

The unhappy farmers of Nebraska at this point decided to go into politics, believing that the government gave too much help to the factory owners and railroad operators, and not enough to the farmers.

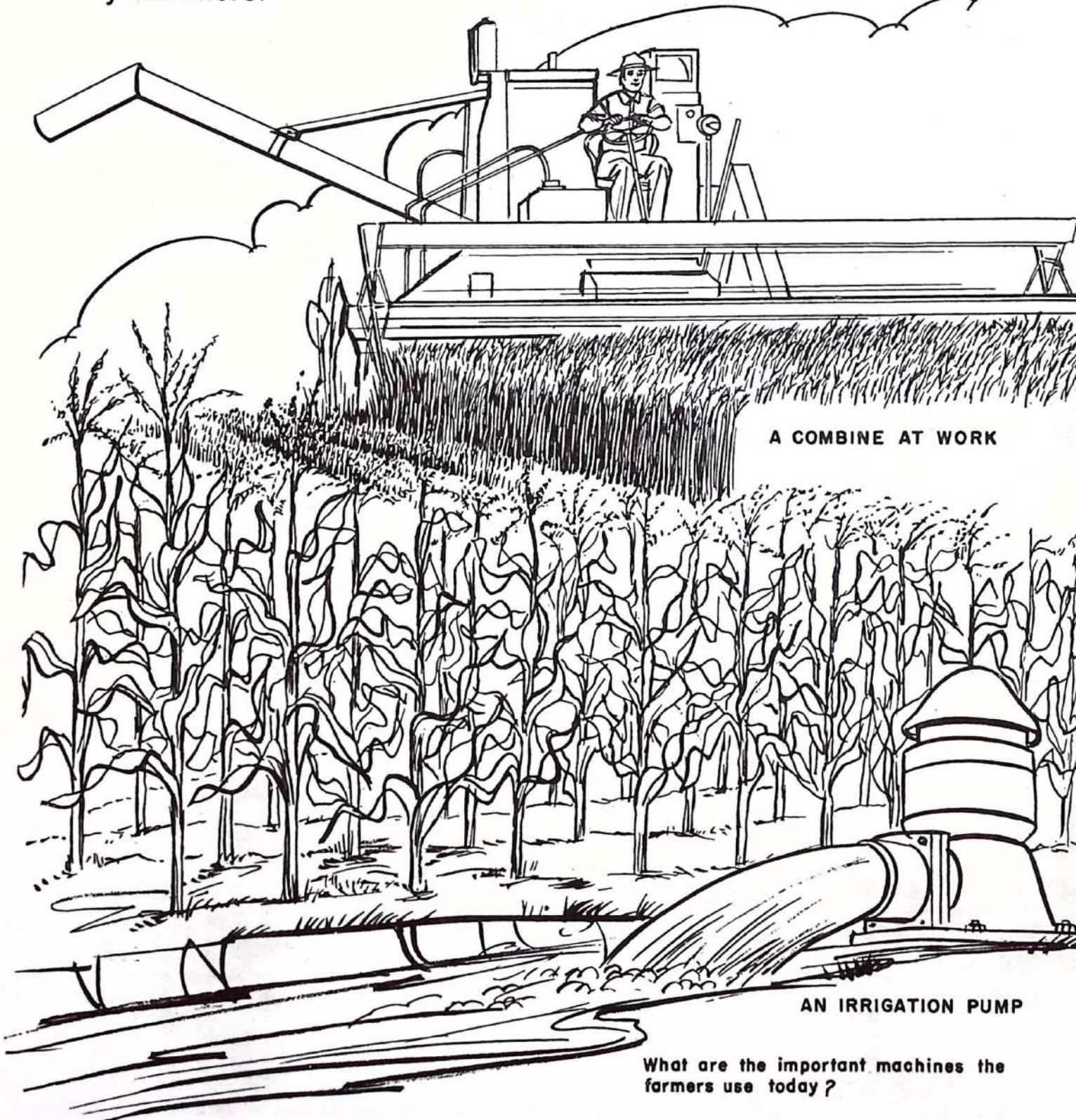
Under the leadership of such men as William Jennings Bryan the farmers of Nebraska and the West sought to solve their problems by going into politics.



FAIRVIEW, Mr. Bryan's home in Lincoln.

Why is William Jennings Bryan famous in Nebraska history?

After 1900 Nebraska farmers became more interested in farm machinery and scientific agriculture. They adopted new ways of farming. They used new kinds of machinery. They planted new crops, and, perhaps most important, many farmers started using irrigation which provided water for their crops during the dry summers.



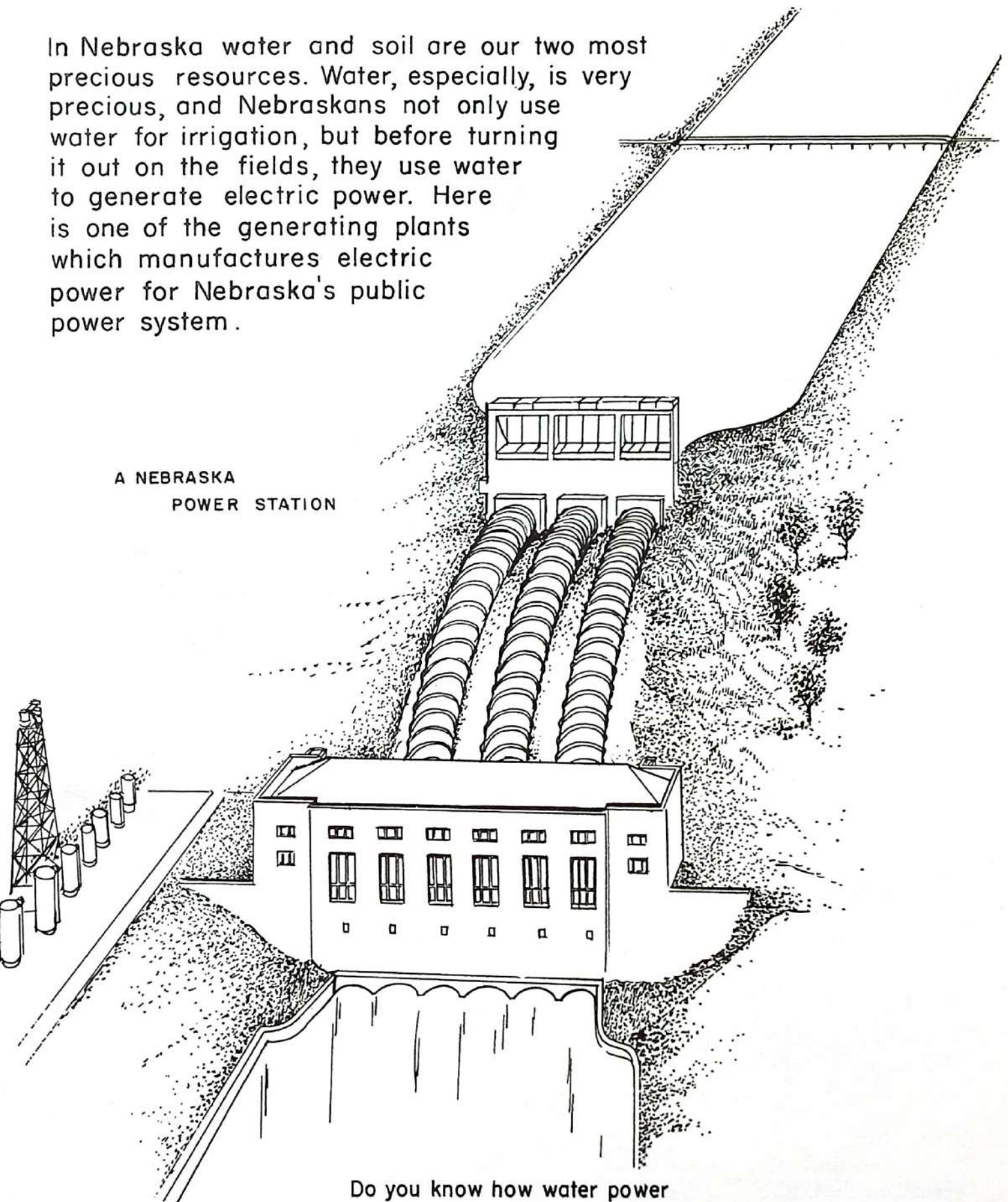
A COMBINE AT WORK

AN IRRIGATION PUMP

What are the important machines the farmers use today ?

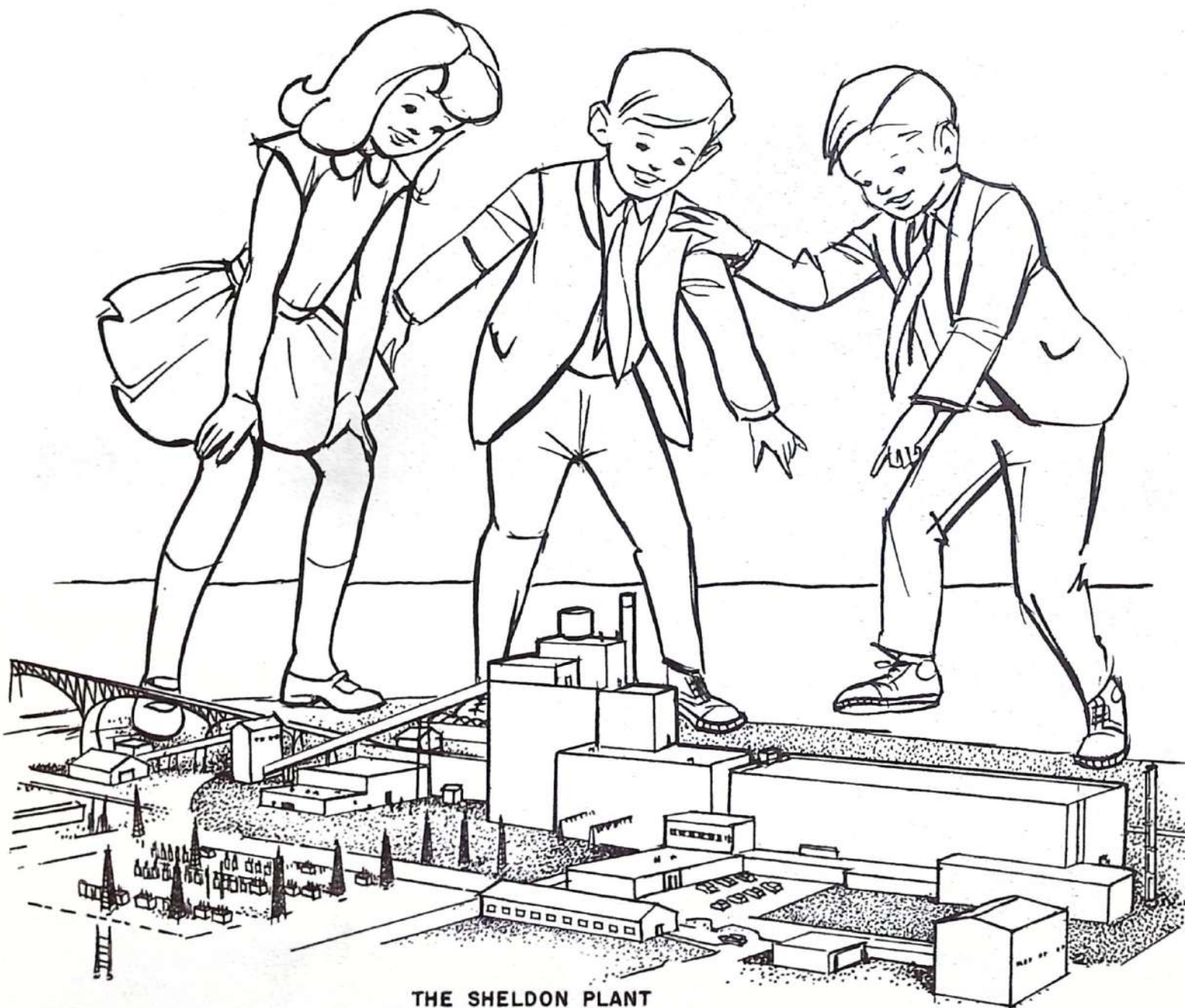
In Nebraska water and soil are our two most precious resources. Water, especially, is very precious, and Nebraskans not only use water for irrigation, but before turning it out on the fields, they use water to generate electric power. Here is one of the generating plants which manufactures electric power for Nebraska's public power system.

A NEBRASKA
POWER STATION



Do you know how water power
is turned into electric power ?

An exciting future awaits us in Nebraska. As more industry comes to our state, we must find new sources of power. The Sheldon station, which makes electricity through atomic energy, gives us a glimpse of the tomorrow in which all of us will share when our lives are made more abundant because of the achievements of science.



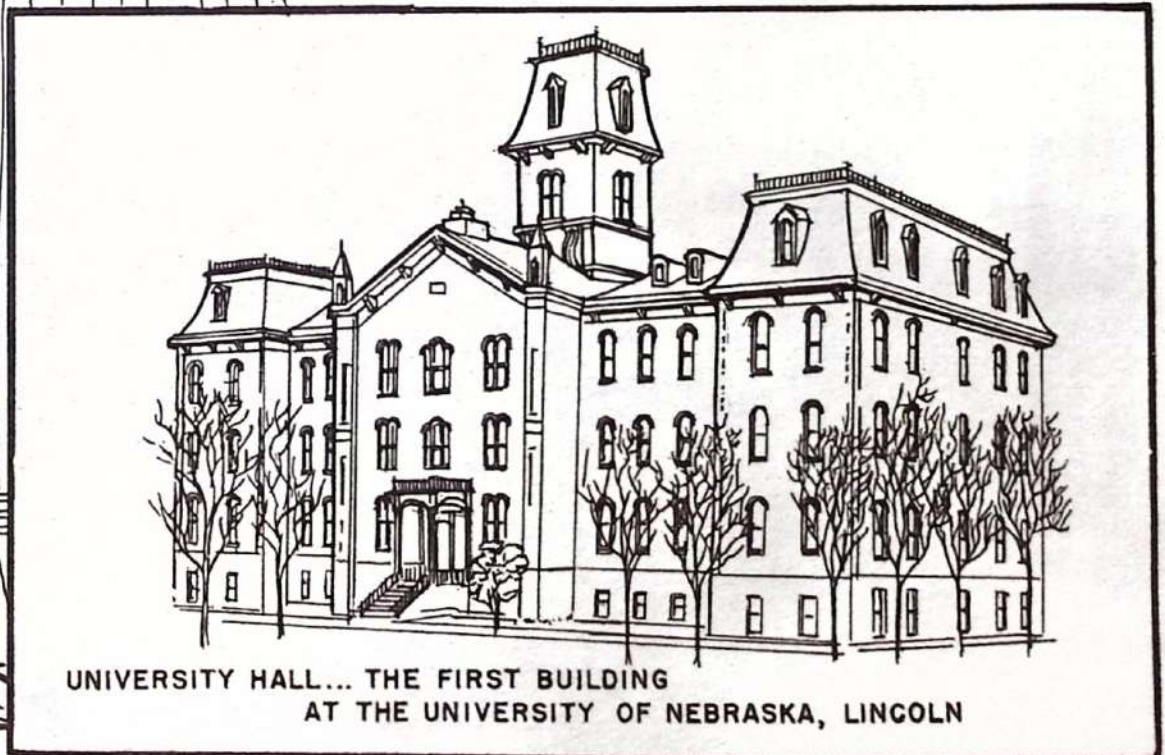
THE SHELDON PLANT

Why is it important for Nebraska to encourage industry to locate here ?

Your future in Nebraska is bright because we Nebraskans believe in good education for our children. Even in pioneer days, the settlers tried to send their children to school. In 1871, the University of Nebraska opened its doors to the youth of the state.



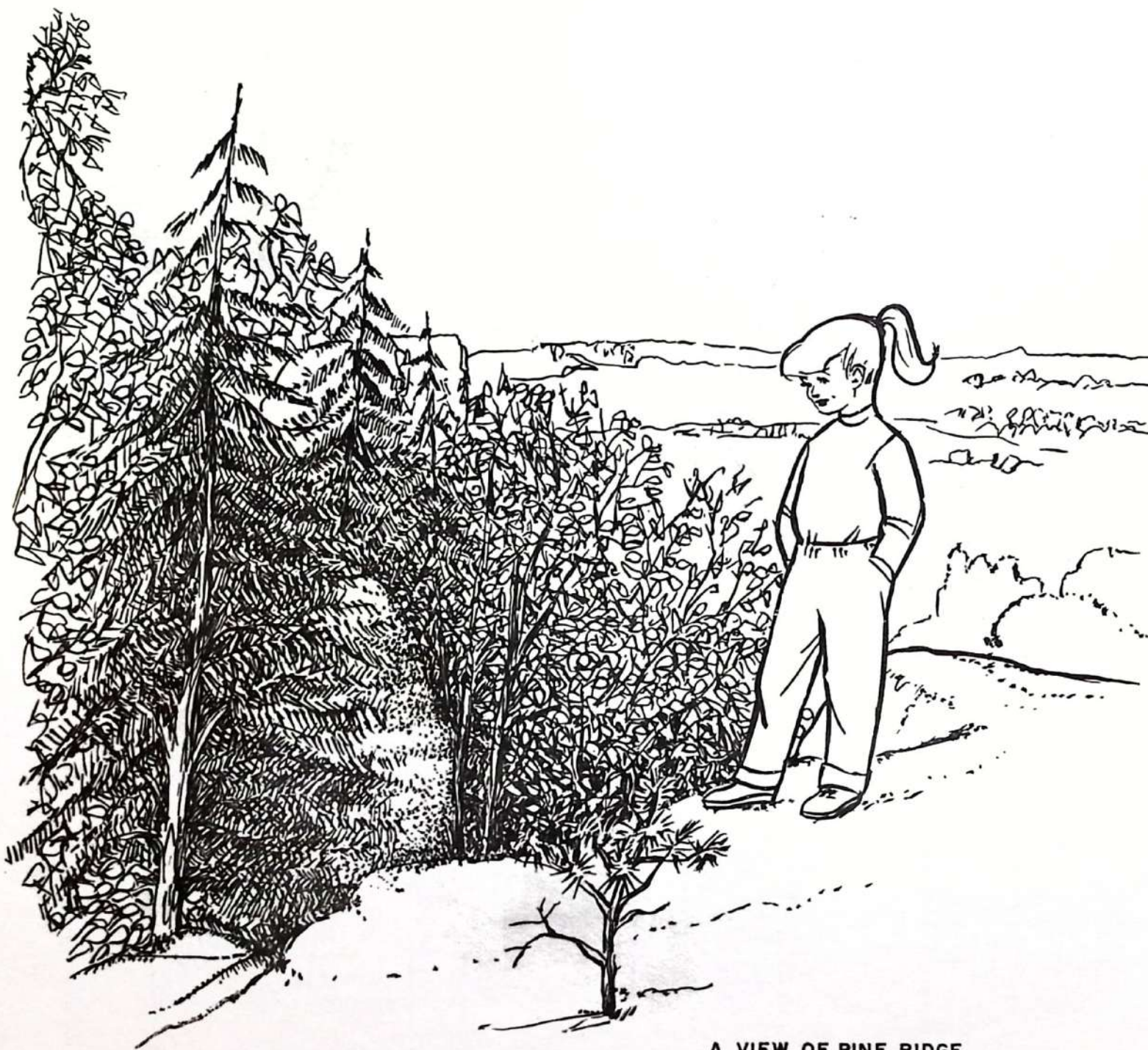
A SOD SCHOOLHOUSE IN WESTERN NEBRASKA



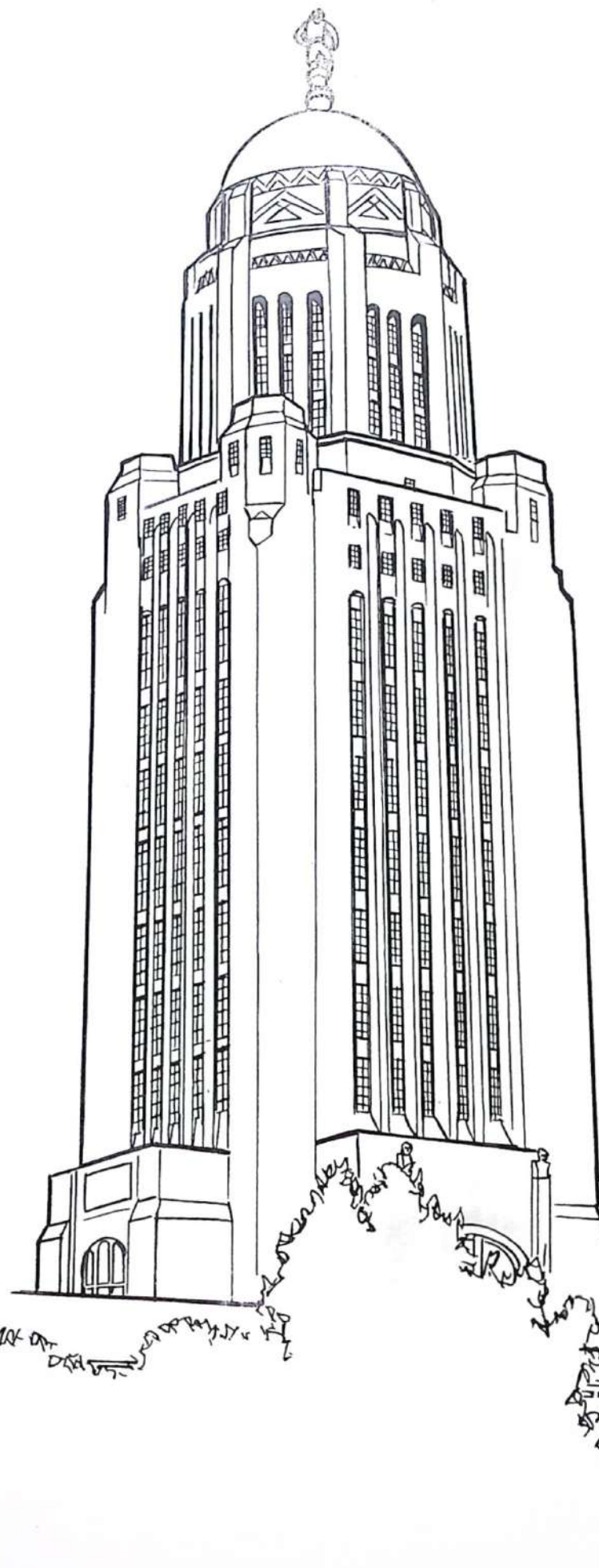
UNIVERSITY HALL... THE FIRST BUILDING
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, LINCOLN

Why do you suppose the people of Nebraska are very interested in education?

We are very proud of our beautiful state. We hope many people from other states will visit Nebraska and spend their vacations here, sharing with us such beautiful places as the Pine Ridge of Northwest Nebraska...



A VIEW OF PINE RIDGE



Nebraskans are proud that their state has a unicameral system of government. They are also proud of their beautiful state capitol building, which to all of us represents the hope and the pride of the pioneers.

THE STATE CAPITOL AT LINCOLN

What is the name of the statue at the top of the capitol ?