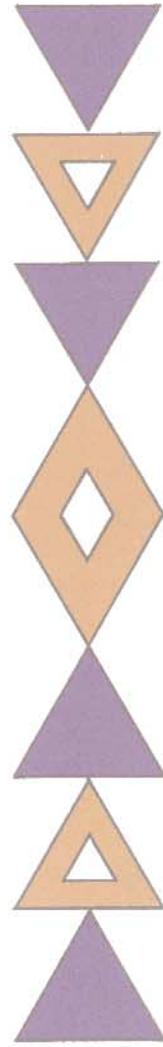
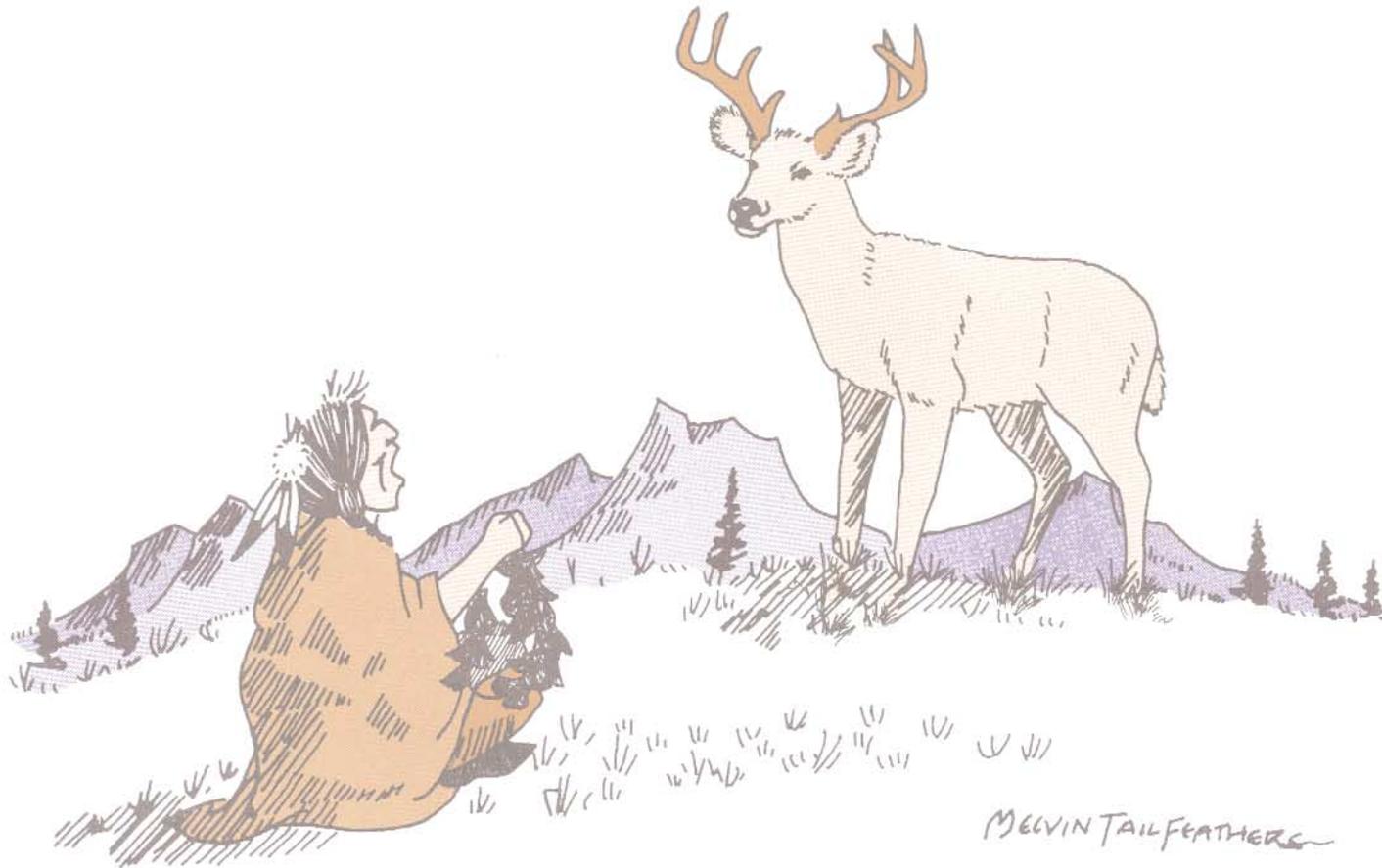
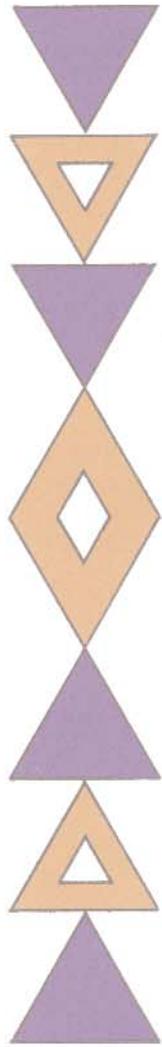


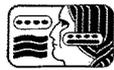
The Blacktail Dance

The Indian Reading Series



THE INDIAN READING SERIES: Stories and Legends of the Northwest is a collection of authentic material cooperatively developed by Indian people from twelve reservations. Development activities are guided by a Policy Board which represents the Indian community of the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program Policy Board members are:

- Warren Clements — Warm Springs
Chairman
- Morrie Jimenez — Klamath
- Joan Kennerly — Blackfeet
- Walter Moffett — Nez Perce
- Emmett Oliver — Quinault
- Bob Parsley — Chippewa
- Lloyd Smith — Warm Springs
- Max Snow
- Jeanne Thomas — Yakima



THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

The Blacktail Dance

Level III Book 3

Developed by the Blackfeet Indians

Written by Joan Kennerly, Carmen Marceau, Doris Old Person, June Tatsey

Illustrated by Melvin Tailfeathers

Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory

Developed by the Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, 710 Southwest Second Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

Copyright ©1978 by the Blackfeet Tribe
All rights reserved.

The work upon which this publication is based was performed pursuant to Contract
No. 400-76-0048, with the Educational Equity Group/Multicultural/Bilingual Division
of the National Institute of Education. It does not, however, necessarily reflect the
views of that agency.

This publication is not printed at the expense of the Federal Government.

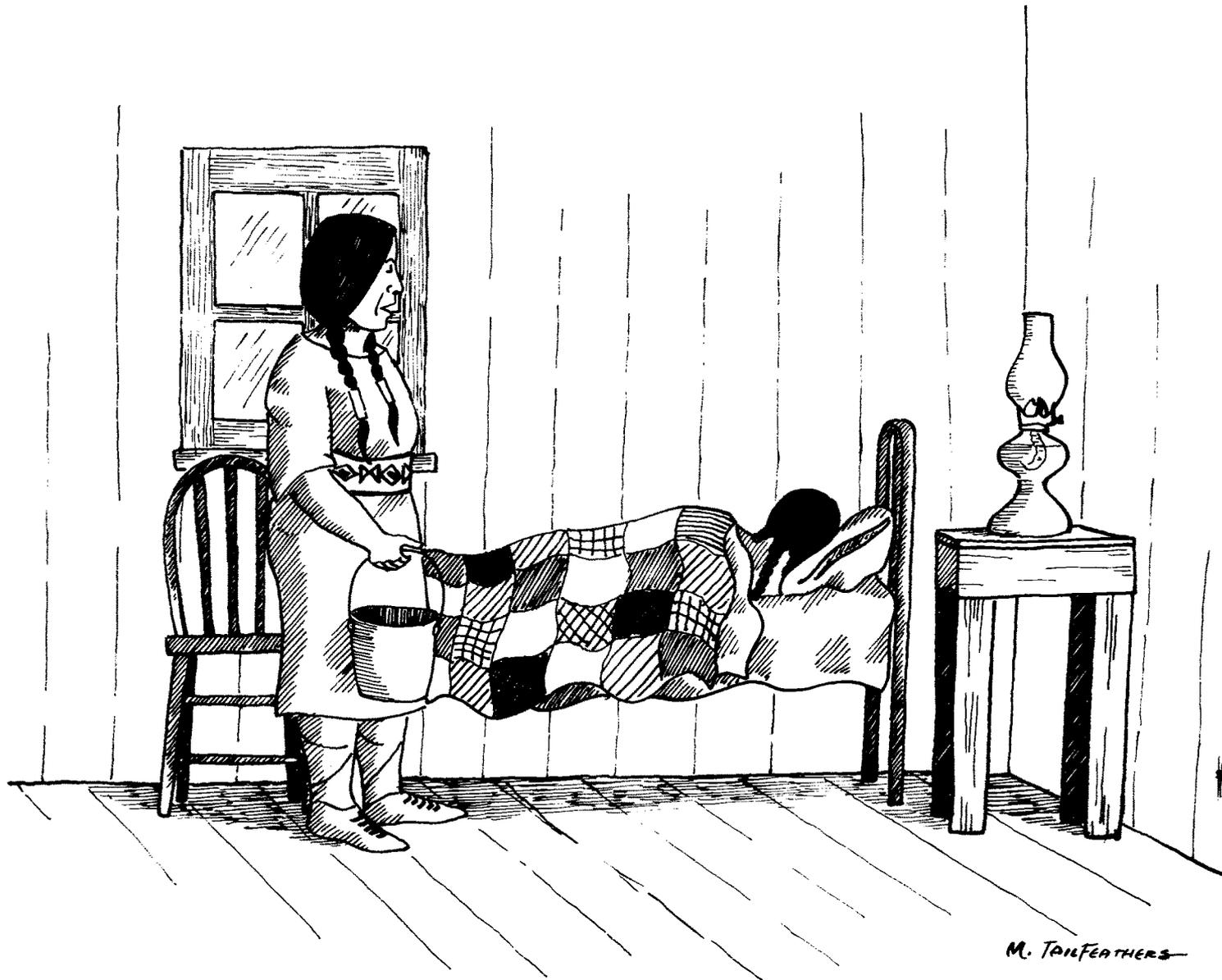
Published by Educational Systems, Inc. 2360 Southwest 170th Street, Beaverton, Oregon 97005

Printed and bound in the United States of America

This story took place in the early nineteen hundreds. It is about the Blacktail Dance, one of the sacred ceremonies of the Blackfeet Indians which is still performed today by some people. The Blacktail Dance ceremony is given to honor a promise made to the Great Spirit, to show gratitude for a promise fulfilled by him or to show thankfulness. It is believed that bad luck will come if the ceremony is not performed as promised.

The Blacktail Dance originated in a dream of a Blackfeet Indian many years ago. In the dream, the person met a deer who told him how to perform this ceremony for good luck. The person was also taught a song for the ceremony.

The Blackfeet Indian people have been great believers in dreams and visions. Many people still have Indian songs which have been handed down from generation to generation in their families. Only the family owners of the songs can start singing them in ceremonies.

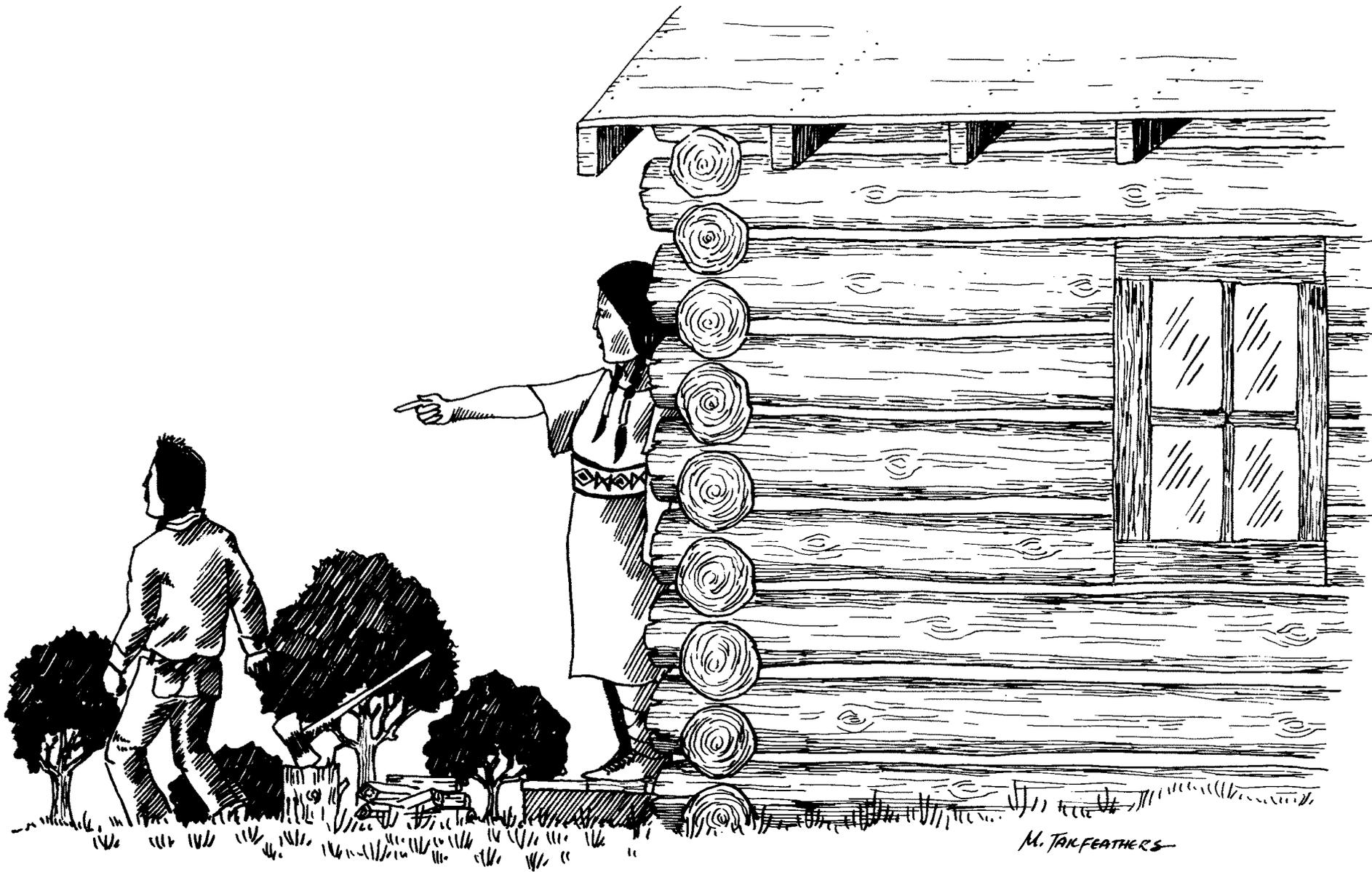


M. TANFEATHERS

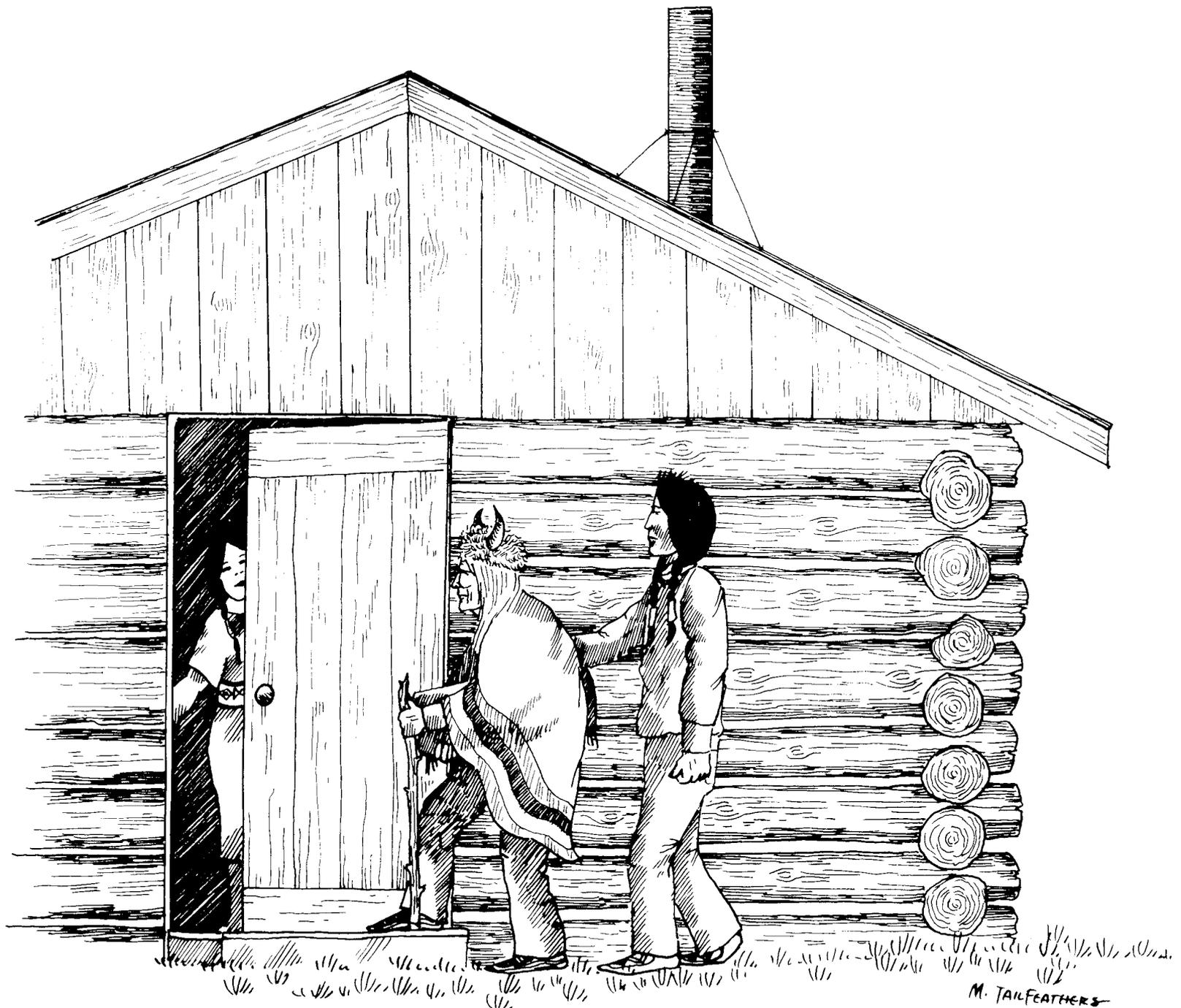
One day, Lone Star Woman called to Eagle Boy,
“Get up, my son, and get some water.”
Eagle Boy did not move or answer.



She walked over to him to see what was wrong.
He was very sick!



She called to her husband,
"Eagle Plume, get the Medicine Man.
Eagle Boy is very sick!"



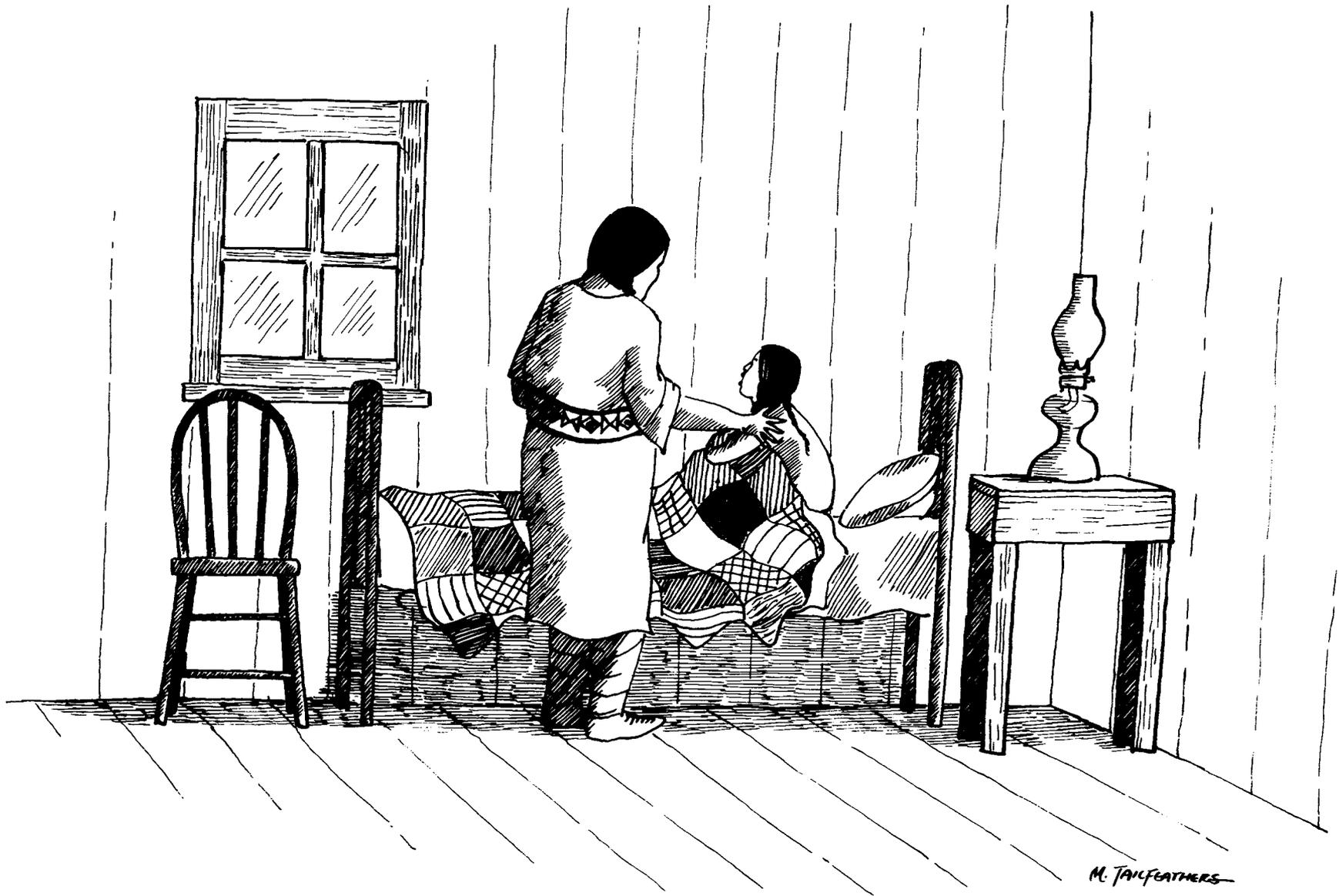
Soon Eagle Plume was back with the Medicine Man.



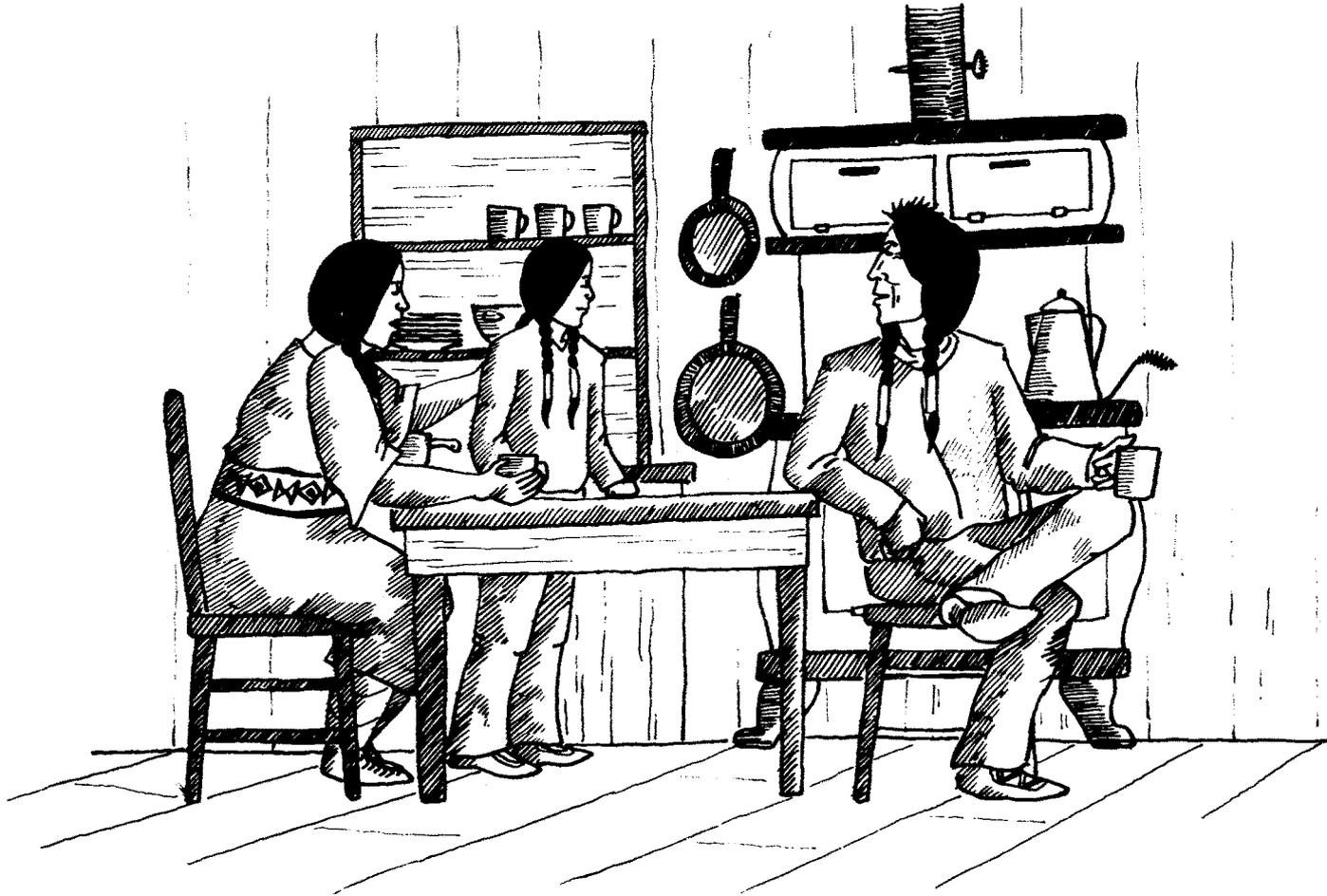
The Medicine Man started doctoring Eagle Boy while the drummers sang medicine songs.



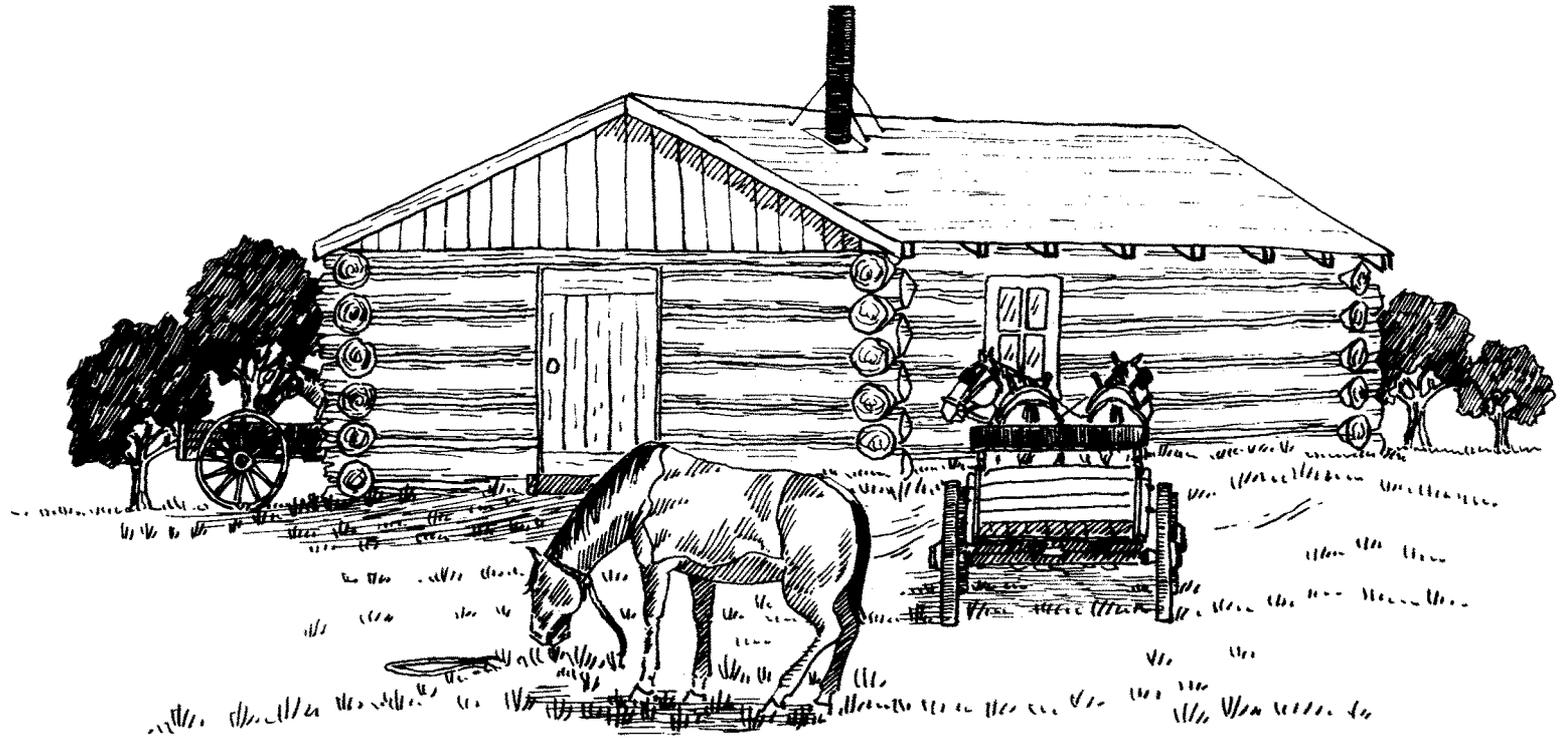
Lone Star Woman made a promise to the Great Spirit.
“If my boy gets well, I will give a Blacktail Dance
in his honor.”



After a few days had passed, Eagle Boy sat up
and asked his mother for something to eat.
Soon he was up and around.



“Eagle Plume, now it is time to give the Blacktail Dance to give thanks for our son getting well,” said Lone Star Woman.



Eagle Plume invited the people.
They gathered that evening at his house.



When everyone was there, the Blacktail Dance began.
Eagle Plume started praying.
Then he sang two Blacktail songs.
These songs had been given to him by his mother and father.



Next the fire was made.

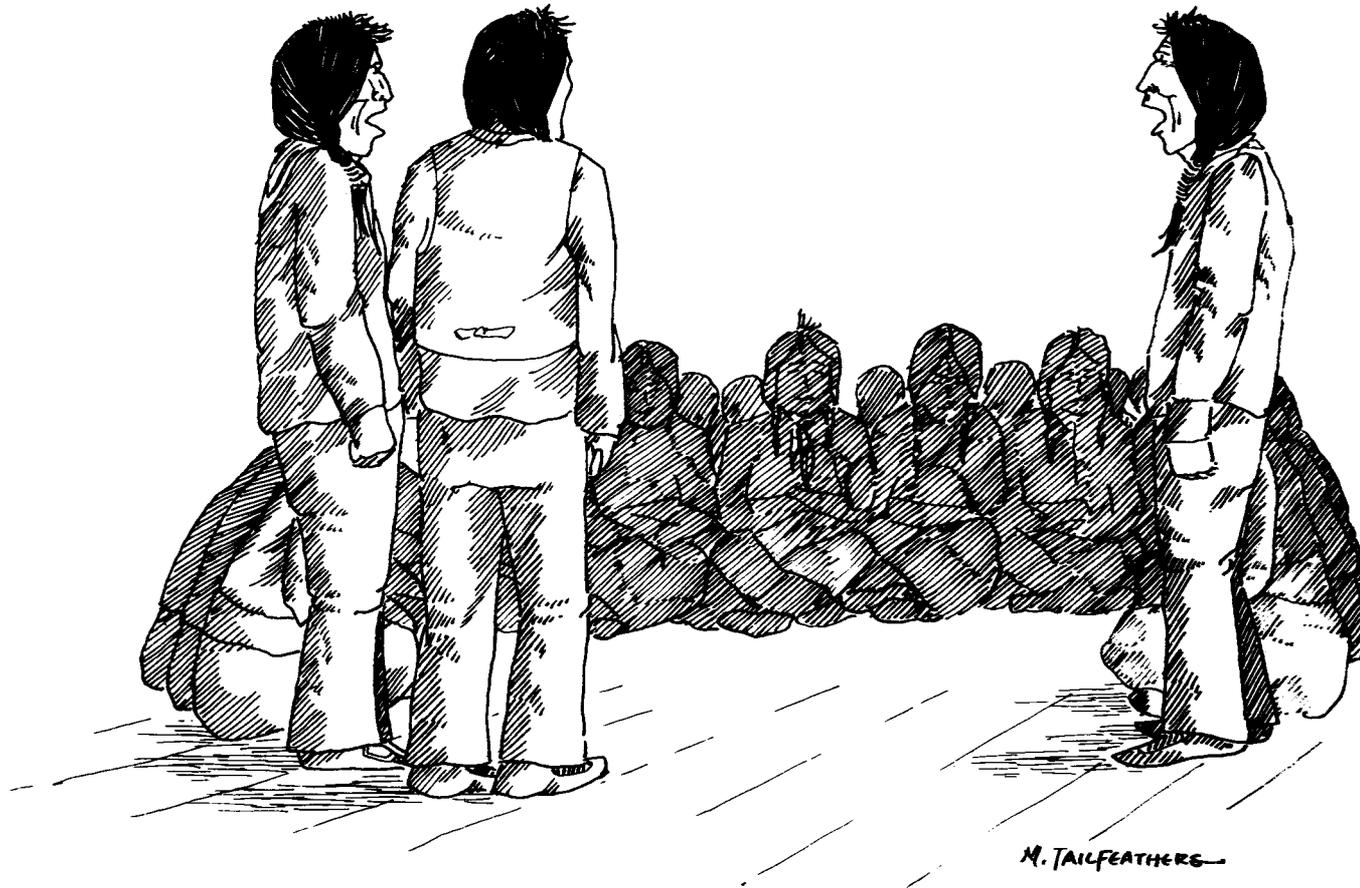
Lone Star Woman placed a hollow rock filled with hot coals
in the middle of the room.



She put sweet grass on the coals to make it smoke.
The smell of the sweet grass filled the room.



One by one the people went up to get blessed with the smudge. This would cleanse their minds and bodies for the ceremony.



Eagle Plume and his helpers sang four Blacktail songs.
Then it was time to eat.



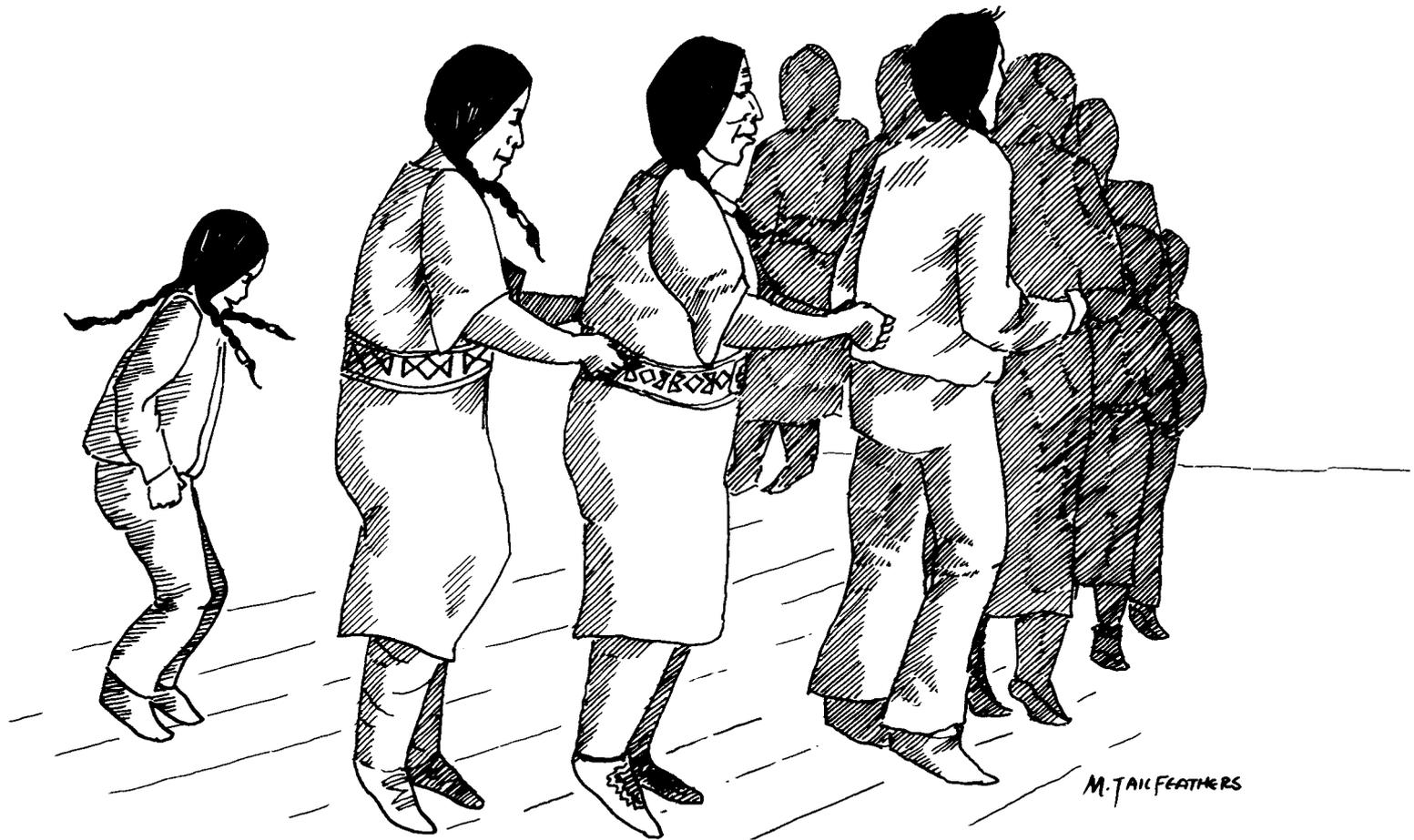
The women brought in the food.
There was Indian fry bread, berry soup, boiled dried meat,
pemmican and peppermint tea.



After the feast, Eagle Plume went to the middle of the floor. He held some sacred deer hoofs in his hands.



Eagle Plume shook the hoofs as his helpers shook bells.
The people felt the sacred meaning of the dance
in their hearts.
They wanted to dance.



Eagle Plume started to sing his song.

Everyone stood and danced in a circle.

They moved up and down like deer to the beat of the song.

After Eagle Plume had finished his song,

Aimsback stood up, prayed and sang his song.

The people danced.

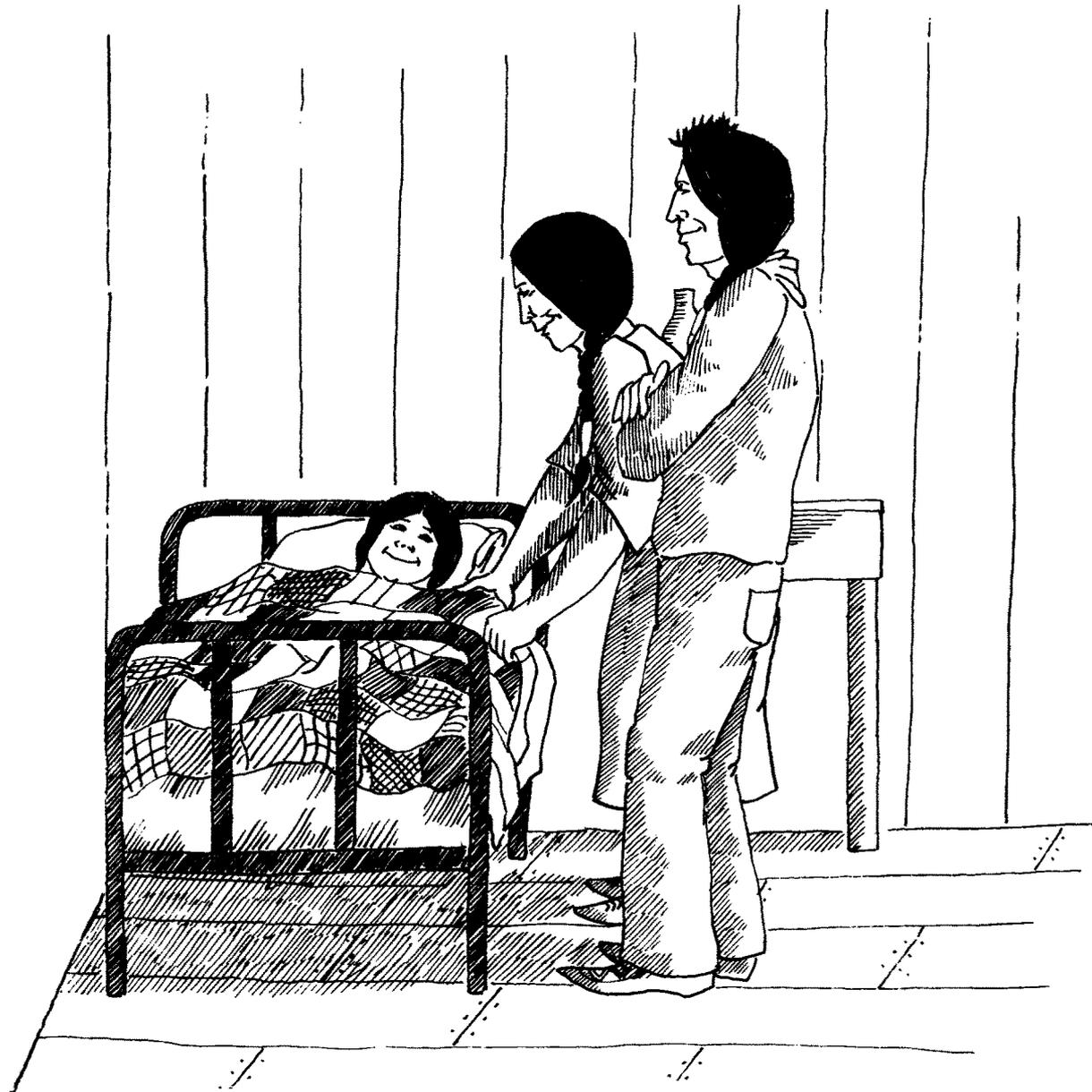
This went on and on as each person who had a song of his own
took his turn.



Eagle Plume warned, "Do not fall down, my friends,
or bad luck will fall upon you."
The dancing went on until early morning.



Finally, Long Fingers sang the Morning Song.
Everyone knew it was time to go home
because no one was allowed to dance
after this song was sung.



Lone Star Woman put a happy Eagle Boy to bed.
The Indian parents were thankful that Eagle Boy was well
and their promise had been fulfilled.



JOAN BULLSHOE KENNERLY

Mrs. Kennerly has twenty years of teaching experience in the Blackfeet and Northern Cheyenne public school systems and was the first runnerup for the 1972 Montana Teacher of the Year. She received her B.A. in education from Northern Montana College and her M.A. in education from Arizona State University. She was responsible for establishing Native American Day for the State, and was appointed by the Governor of Montana to serve on the Commission on Post Secondary Education. She also was the Chairperson of House Joint Resolution 60, which established the Master Plan for Indian Education for the State of Montana. She has two children.



JUNE BULLSHOE TATSEY

Mrs. Tatsey is a Blackfeet Indian with sixteen years experience in teaching grades one through eight and pre-school in the public school system on the Blackfeet Reservation. She received her B.S. in education from Northern Montana College and her M.A. in guidance and counseling from the University of South Dakota and the University of Montana. She was the reading supervisor and is now vice-principal at K.W. Bergen Elementary School in Browning, on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.



CARMEN BULLSHOE MARCEAU

Mrs. Marceau is a Blackfeet Indian with eighteen years teaching experience. She has had one year experience in guidance and counseling on the Blackfeet Reservation and is principal of Browning Elementary School. She received her B.S. in education from Northern Montana College and her M.A. in guidance and counseling from the University of South Dakota and the University of Montana.

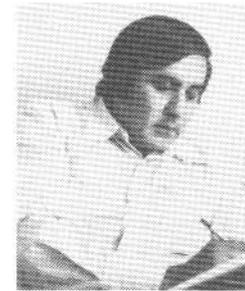


DORIS BULLSHOE OLD PERSON

Mrs. Old Person has eighteen years experience teaching in the Blackfeet Public School System. She has specialized in remedial reading and has been Head Start Director-Supervisor for ESEA Title I and Director of the Native Song and Dance Program. She received her B.A. from Northern Montana College and her M.A. in education from Arizona State University. She has five children.

Mrs. Kennerly, Mrs. Tatsey, Mrs Marceau, and Mrs. Old Person are the daughters of Lillian and Francis Bullshoe. They were raised on a ranch near Badger Creek in the Blackfeet Reservation countryside.

All four women had similar educational backgrounds. They attended Mad Plume School (a one room rural school), the Blackfeet Indian Boarding School, and all but Mrs. Tatsey attended Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota. They all graduated from Browning High School. At the present time the four women are teaching in the Blackfeet Public School System in Browning, Montana.



MELVIN TAILFEATHERS

Mr. Tailfeathers is a self-taught artist who has lived on the Blackfeet Reservation all his life. His grandmother was a Blackfeet medicine woman. Mr. Tailfeathers prefers to do pen and ink sketches of Blackfeet life although he sometimes works with ceramic figurines.

Booklets available in the Level III sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the planned sequence of use in the *Teacher's Manual*. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest are included in the Levels I and II sequences.

- 1 *Story of the Seasons*
The Confederated Tribes of the
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
- 2 *The Beginning of the Earth*
The Confederated Tribes of the
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
- 3 *The Blacktail Dance*
Blackfeet Tribe
- 4 *How Marten Got His Spots*
Kootenai Cultural Committee of
The Confederated Salish and
Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
- 5 *Lost in the Fog*
Jamestown-Clallam Tribe
- 6 *How to Be a Friend*
The Confederated Tribes of the
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
- 7 *How the Morning and Evening Stars
Came to Be*
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the
Fort Peck Reservation
- 8 *Raccoon's Black Eyes and Ringed Tail*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the
Fort Hall Reservation
- 9 *Coyote and Old Lady*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the
Fort Hall Reservation
- 10 *Coyote and Trout*
Kootenai Cultural Committee of
The Confederated Salish and
Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation
- 11 *How the Milky Way Got into the Sky*
The Confederated Tribes of the
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
- 12 *Inkdomi and the Buffalo*
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the
Fort Peck Reservation
- 13 *Medicine Horse*
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the
Fort Hall Reservation
- 14 *The Good Hunter and Fisherman*
Jamestown-Clallam Tribe
- 15 *The Wild Buffalo Ride*
Blackfeet Tribe
- 16 *I Am a Rock*
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural
Commission
- 17 *The Man Who Loved Shell Money*
Skokomish Tribe
- 18 *Old Man Napi*
Blackfeet Tribe
- 19 *The Turtle Who Went to War*
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the
Fort Peck Reservation
- 20 *Coyote and the Mean Mountain Sheep*
Salish Cultural Committee of
The Confederated Salish and
Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation

For order information and prices of the above booklets and the *Teacher's Manual*, contact the publisher:

Educational Systems, Inc.
2360 Southwest 170th Street
Beaverton, Oregon 97005
(503) 649-7516



THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest