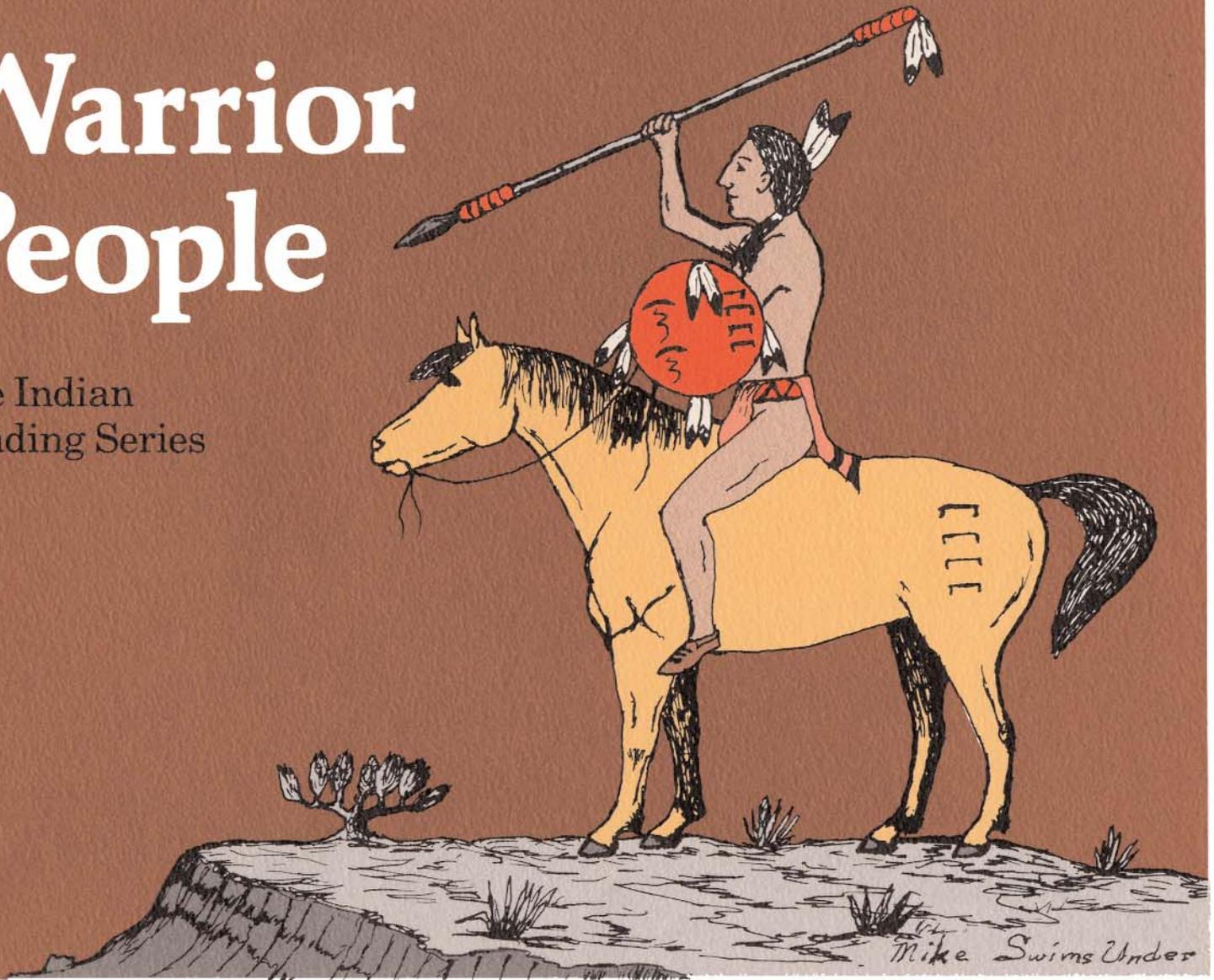


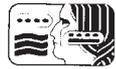
# Warrior People

The Indian  
Reading Series



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THE INDIAN READING SERIES:  
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

## Warrior People

Series IV

Developed by the Blackfeet Indians

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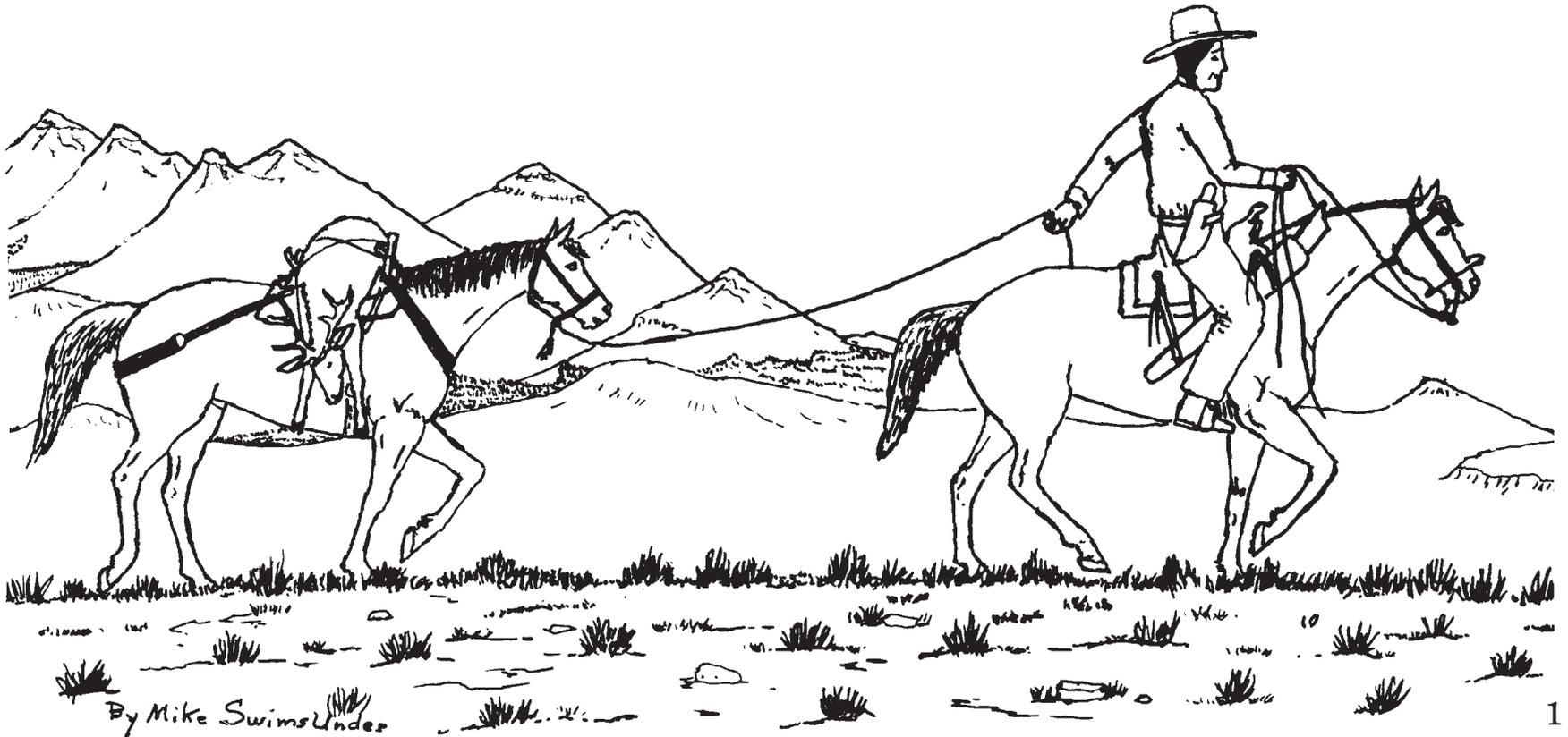
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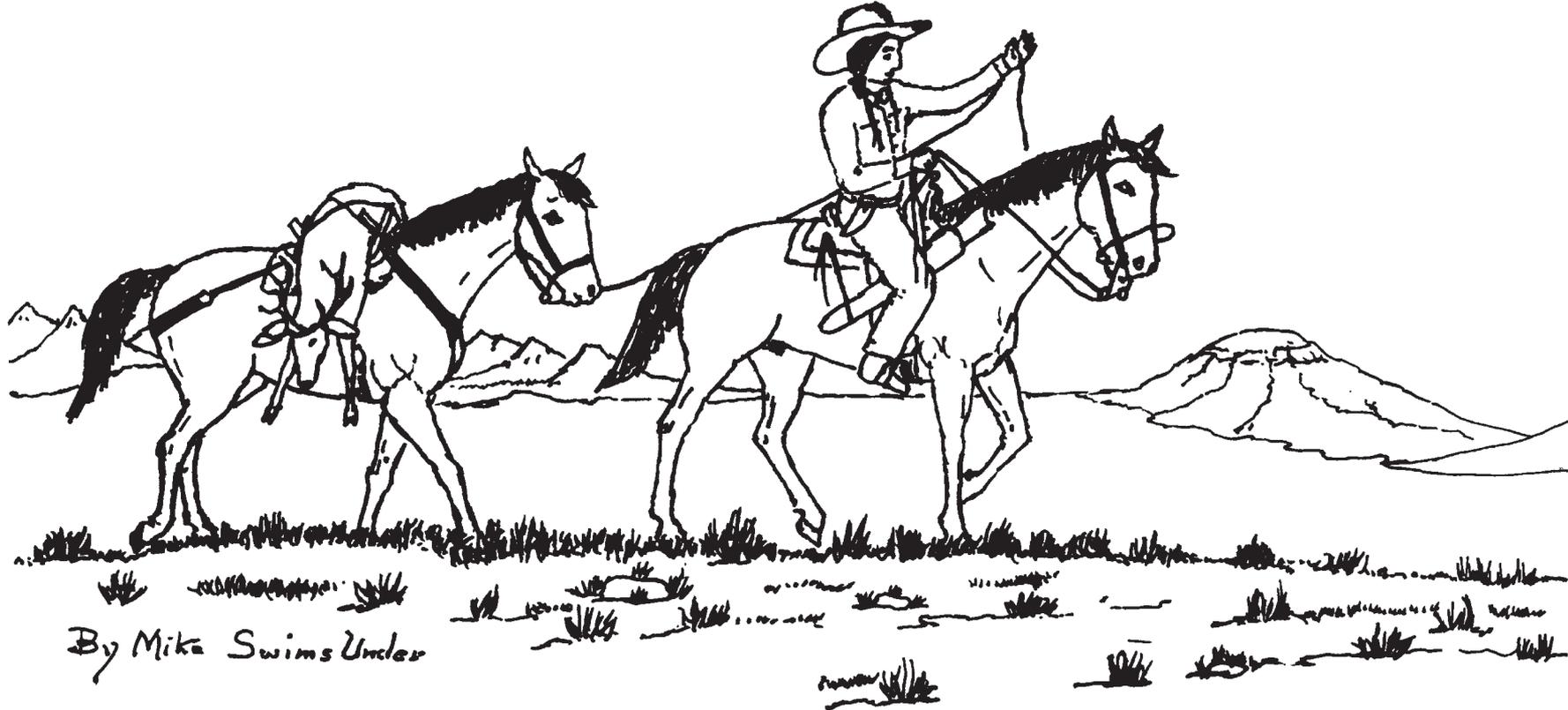
Weasel Necklace is returning home after hunting in the Rocky Mountains for three days. He is riding his best horse, Drums. The horse he is leading is called Majestic. Majestic is extremely tired. As you can see, he is carrying a full grown buck deer.

Weasel Necklace is anxious to get home. He is very hungry and anxious to see his beautiful granddaughter whose name is Snowbird.

Snowbird and Weasel Necklace belong to a band of Indians called the South Pikuni. He has dreamed of telling Snowbird of the glorious group of people to which they belong, the Warrior People.



As Weasel Necklace approaches his home, he sees Snowbird running to meet him. She is happy to see her grandfather. He always has good things for her to eat and interesting stories to tell.



By Mika Swims Under

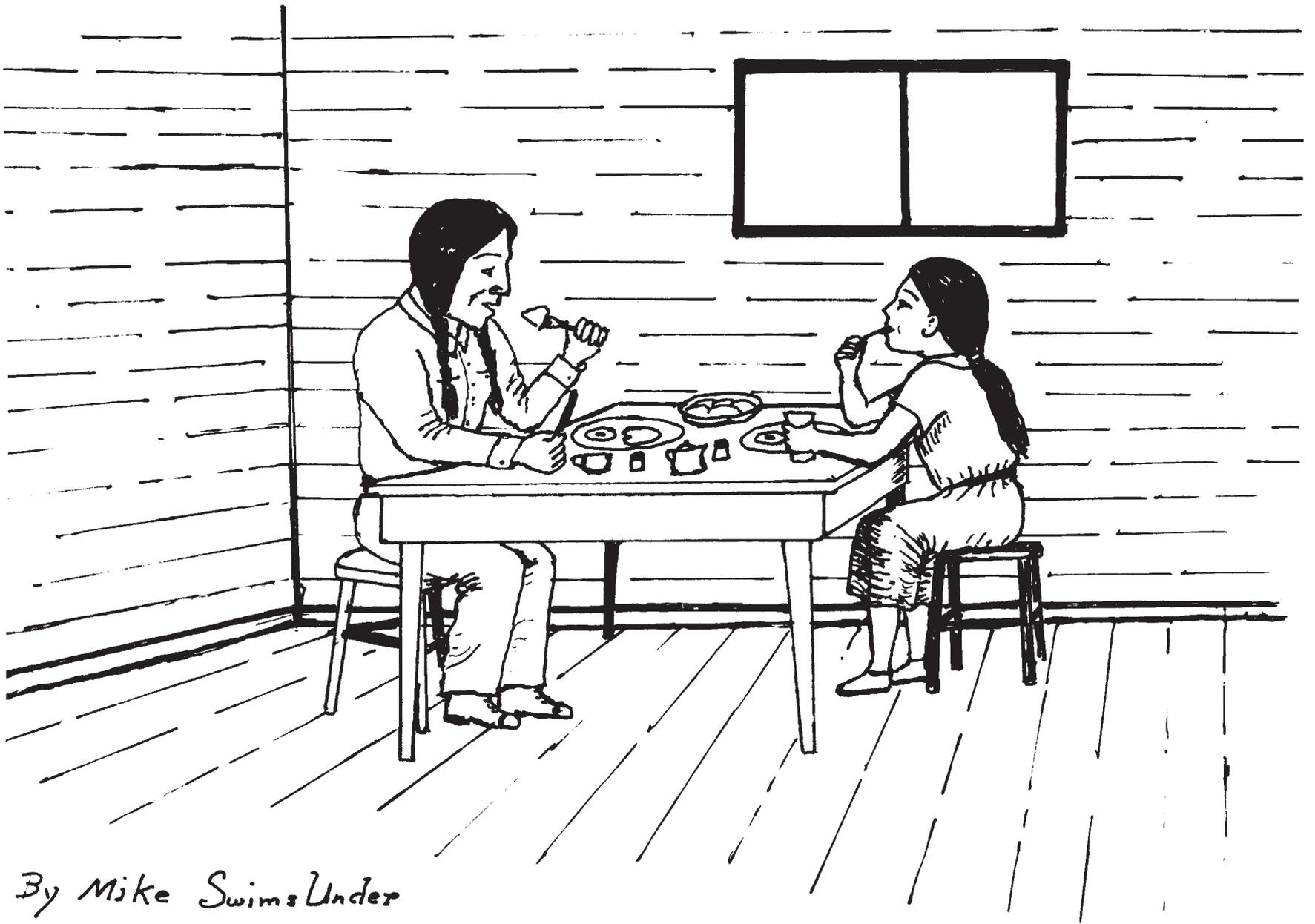
Majestic and Drum's ears perk up as they see Snowbird and the corral that Weasel Necklace keeps clean for them. The horses know they are friends of the Pikuni Indian people. They also know they will have a fresh drink of water at the river and something good to eat.



After the horses were taken care of, Weasel Necklace proceeded to prepare the deer for food. He will not waste any part of the deer. He realizes the deer gave his life so that he and Snowbird could have something to eat. The deer's hide will be used to make a new buckskin dress for Snowbird. The hair will be used on a roach for Weasel Necklace. The other parts will be used as decorations.

When Weasel Necklace finished preparing the deer, he took the kidneys inside the house.

Weasel Necklace and Snowbird sat down at the table. He told Snowbird, "Kidneys are considered a delicacy by our people. The meat will help you grow into a healthy Pikuni girl."



*By Mike SwimsUnder*

Weasel Necklace is tired from the hunt and Snowbird is tired from helping her aunt pick berries all day. They have finished eating and now they will get ready for a good night's sleep. Weasel Necklace told Snowbird, "Go to sleep for we must rise before the sun. We will do this out of respect. Without the heat from the sun, nothing will grow and we would have no light to see, or heat to keep us warm."

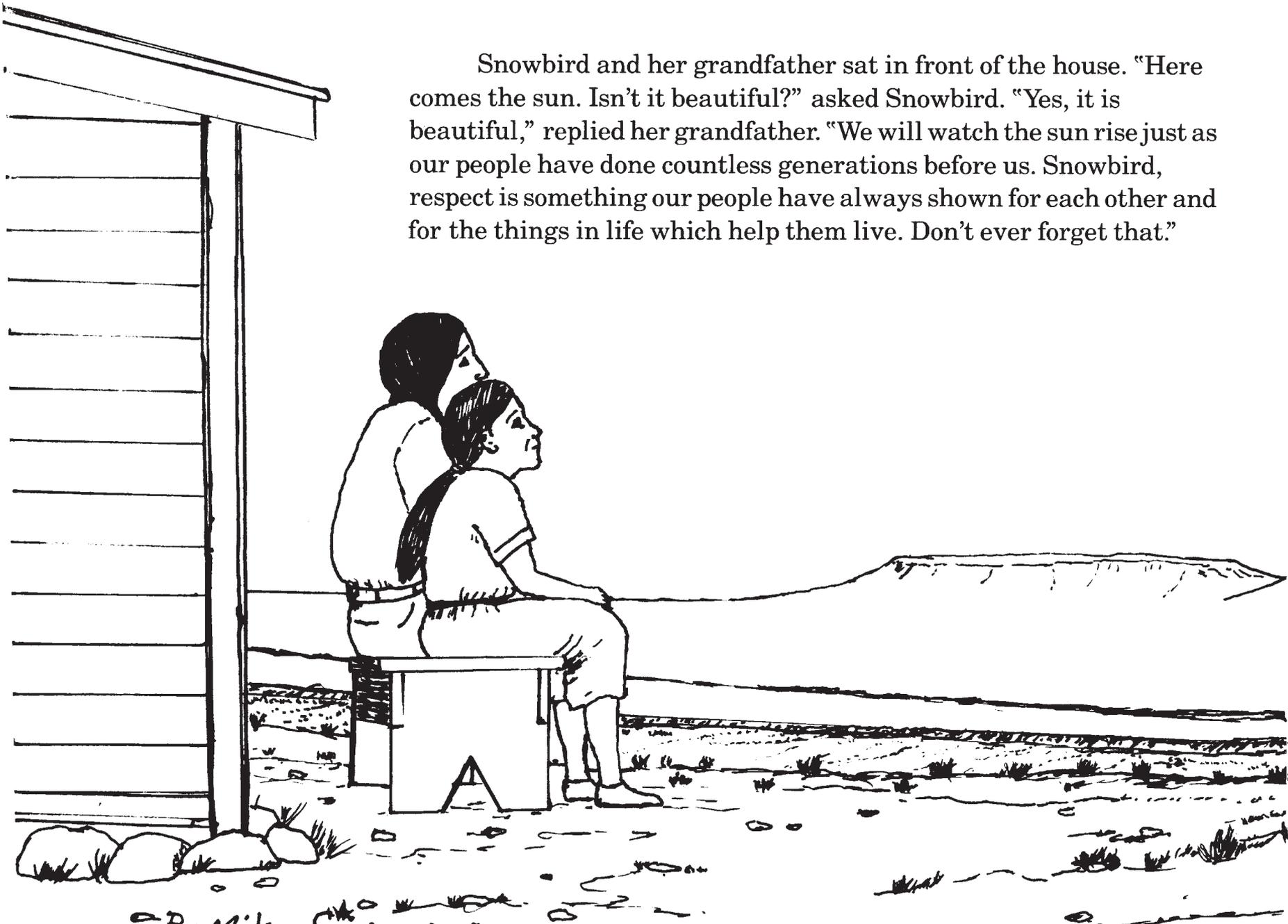


“Good morning, Snowbird,” says Weasel Necklace. “Good morning, Grandfather,” replies Snowbird.

“Snowbird, I miss your grandmother very much. Her name was Pretty Woman and she belonged to a group of Indians called Hunkpapa Sioux. They live east of here in Montana, and others live in South Dakota. She was a cousin to the great Hunkpapa chief whose name was Sitting Bull. You will learn more about this great man when you go to school and study history. Well, Granddaughter, we must not wait any longer for the sun is beginning to rise.” “Grandfather, was my grandmother as beautiful as I remember my mother?” asked Snowbird. “Yes Snowbird, just as you will grow up to be. Now come!”



Snowbird and her grandfather sat in front of the house. "Here comes the sun. Isn't it beautiful?" asked Snowbird. "Yes, it is beautiful," replied her grandfather. "We will watch the sun rise just as our people have done countless generations before us. Snowbird, respect is something our people have always shown for each other and for the things in life which help them live. Don't ever forget that."



Looking across the land before him, Grandfather said, "Our people, the Pikuni, have cousins, the Blackfeet, Siksika, and Kainah. Our cousins live in Canada. First, I will tell you of the South Pikuni, which is the name of our band of people."

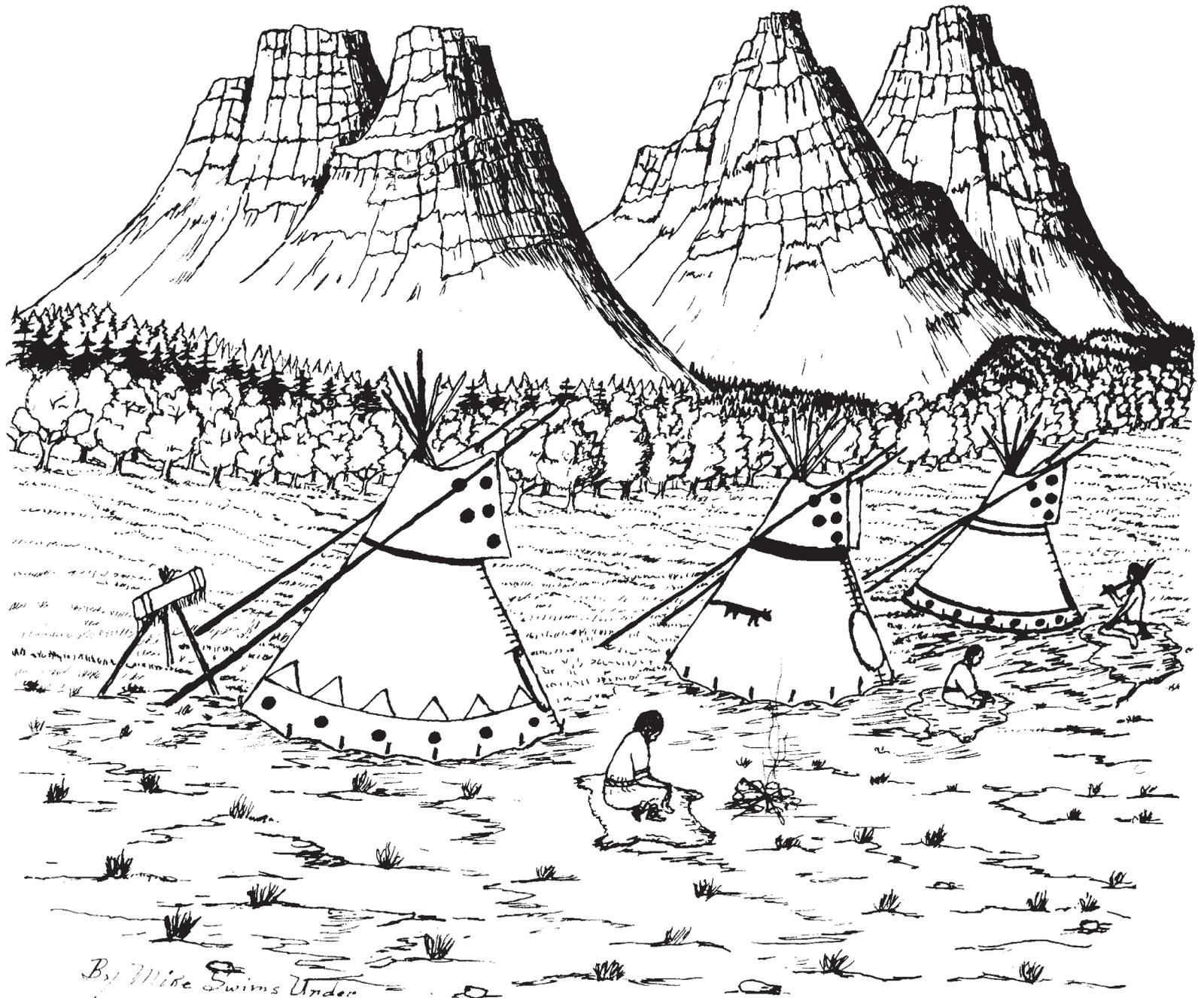


“The South Pikuni Band are now referred to as the Blackfeet of Montana. A lot of our people live on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in the northern part of Montana, east of the Rocky Mountains. Our people say that when we were put on reservations, we were named Blackfeet. So, our reservation became known as the Blackfeet Reservation.”

Grandfather continued, “According to the old people, South Pikuni, rather than Blackfeet, is our proper name. Many Canadian Indians still refer to the Montana Blackfeet Indians as South Pikuni.”

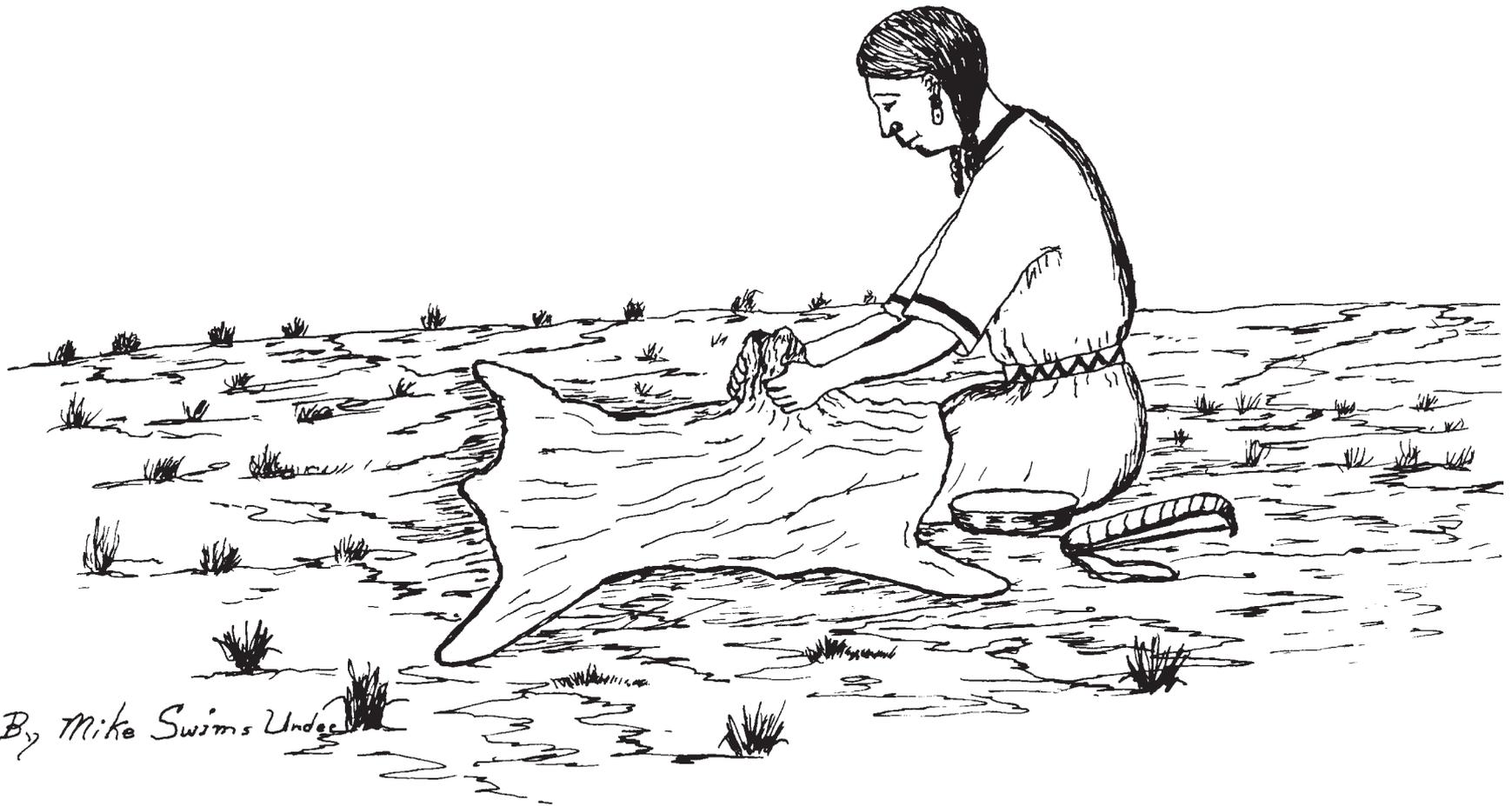
The South Pikuni liked to camp near the mountains. Stories told among our people say they roamed as far south as Mexico and far north into Canada along the Old North Trail.

Snowbird, you will read about the Old North Trail in school. Your grandmother’s people also used it.”



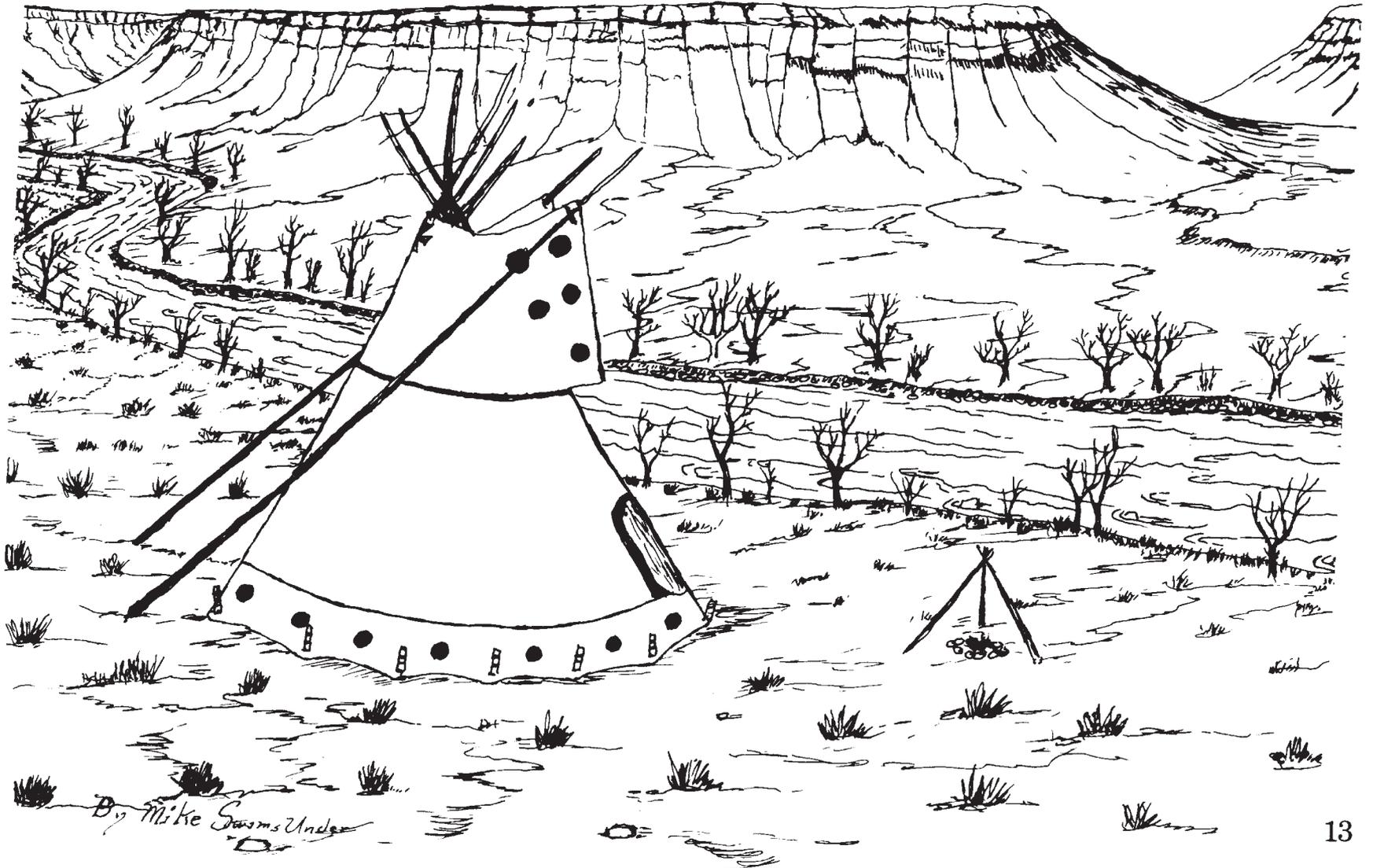
*By Mike Swims Under*

Grandfather explained, "The word, Pikuni, means, rusty streaks in their hides. The women of this group were noted for the way they left rust-like streaks on their tanned hides."

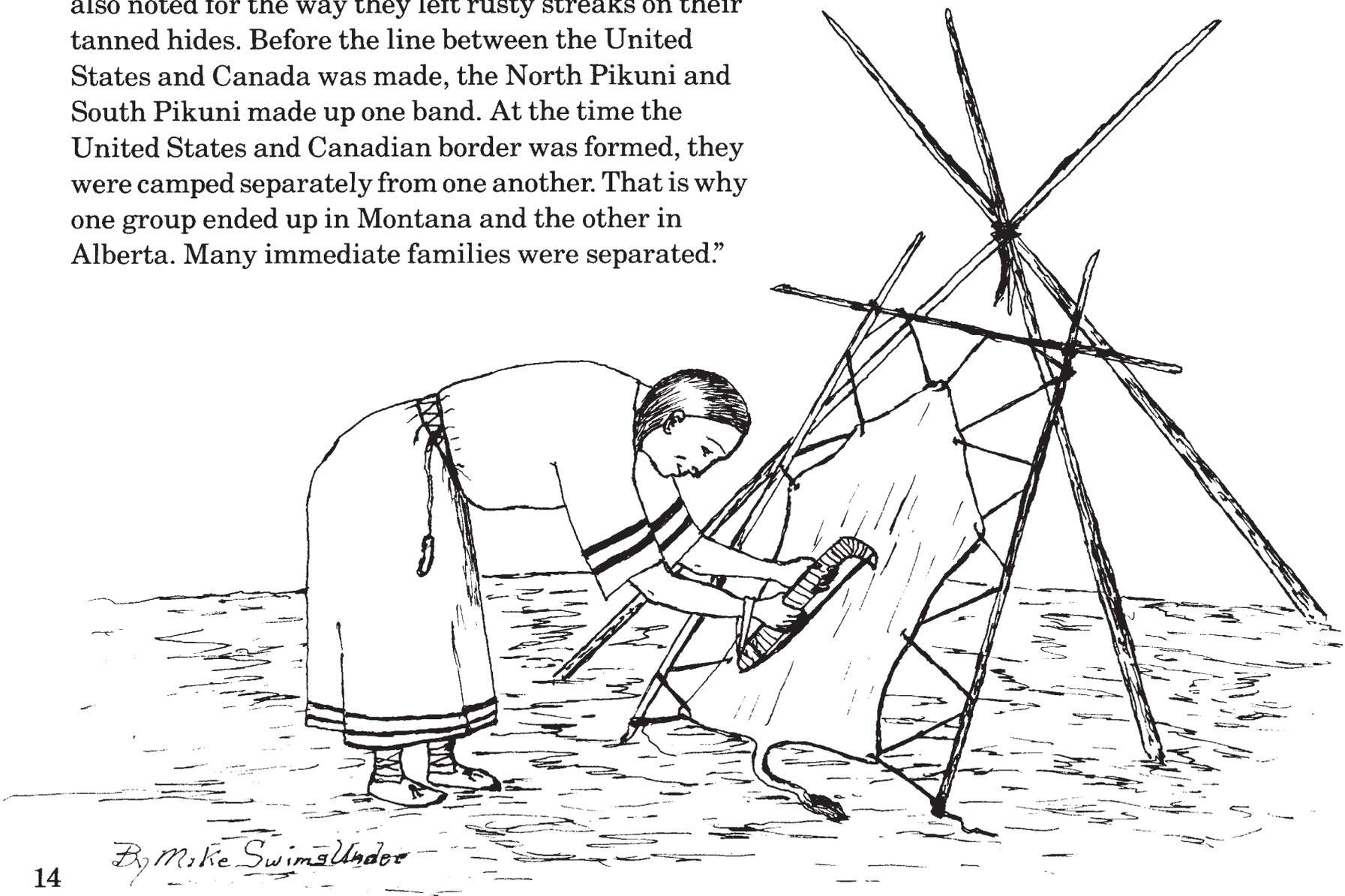


*By Mike Swims Under*

“The North Pikuni differed from the South Pikuni in that the North Pikuni liked to camp farther away from the mountains on the prairie.”



“The North Pikuni now live in the northern part of Alberta, Canada,” said Grandfather. “They were also noted for the way they left rusty streaks on their tanned hides. Before the line between the United States and Canada was made, the North Pikuni and South Pikuni made up one band. At the time the United States and Canadian border was formed, they were camped separately from one another. That is why one group ended up in Montana and the other in Alberta. Many immediate families were separated.”



“Where are the Blackfeet now, Grandfather?” asked Snowbird.  
“The group of people properly known as the Blackfeet now live in  
Gleichen, Alberta, Canada. It is said that a prairie fire burned there.  
The horses, probably looking for green grass, ran away and the people  
were left on foot.”



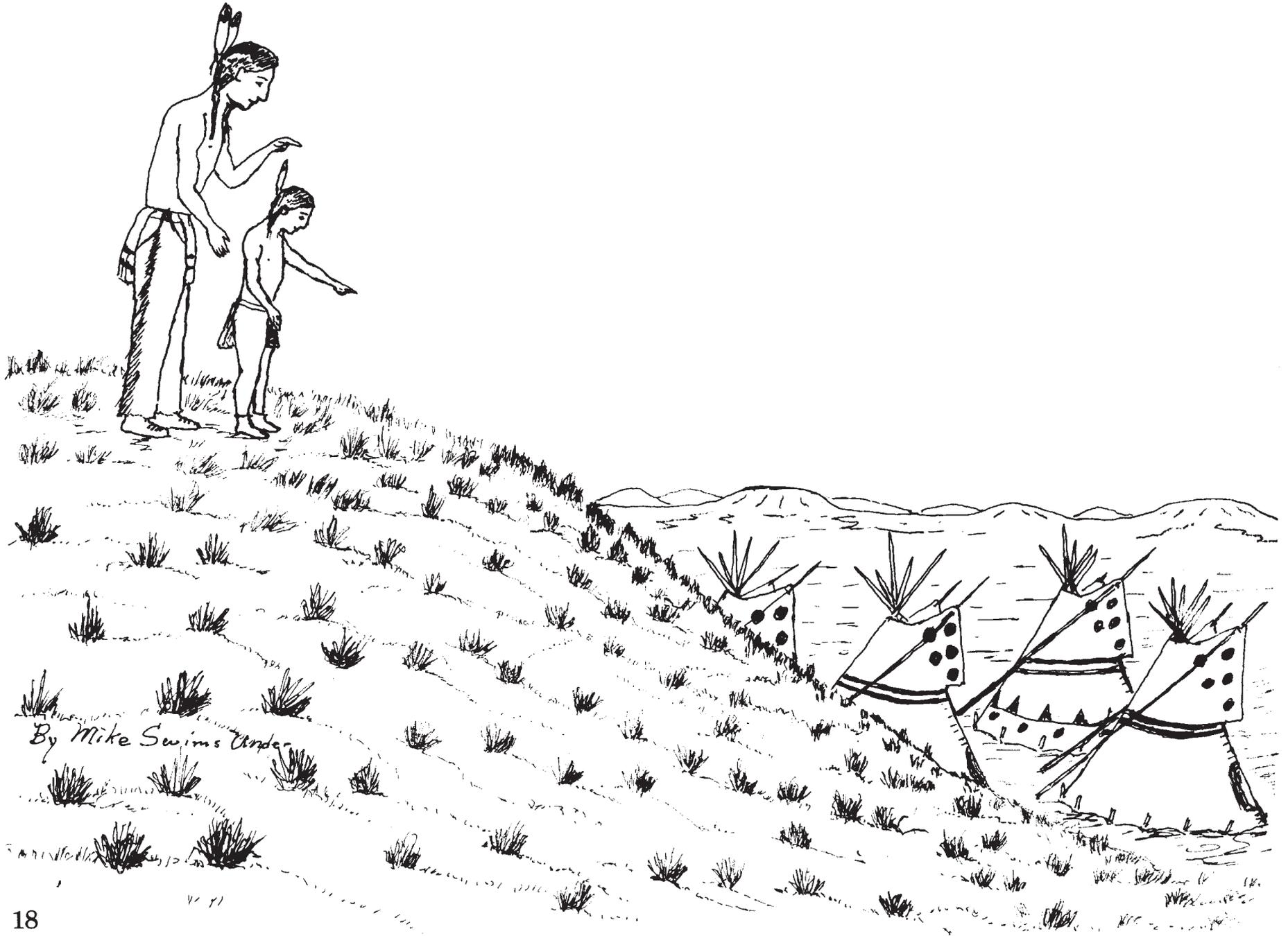
Remembering, Grandfather said, "Because the people were short of horses, they were doing a lot of walking, and after walking over burned prairies, their moccasins became black with ashes. This is why they became known as Blackfeet."



“The Kainah live in Southern Alberta, Canada, near Cardston on the Blood Indian Reserve. The word Kaniah means Many Chiefs.

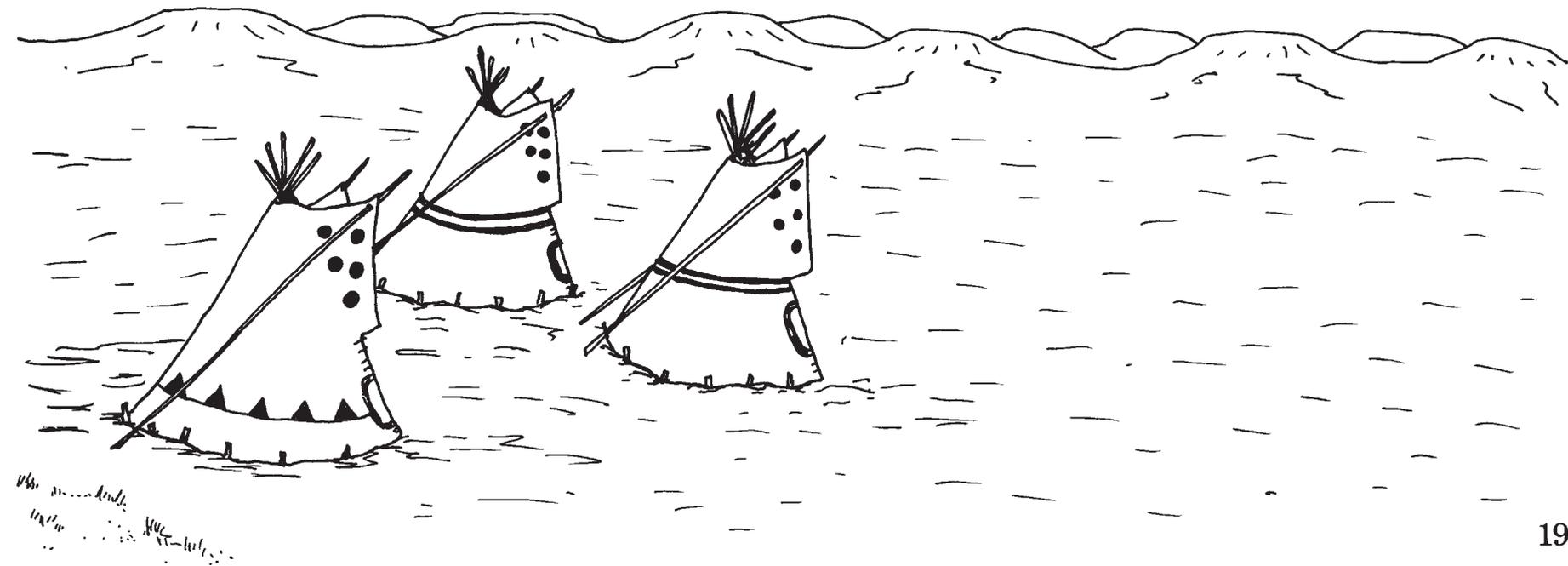
It is said they were camped where the Belly and St. Mary’s Rivers came together. They would camp there and trade where a trading post had been established.”





*By Mike Swims Under*

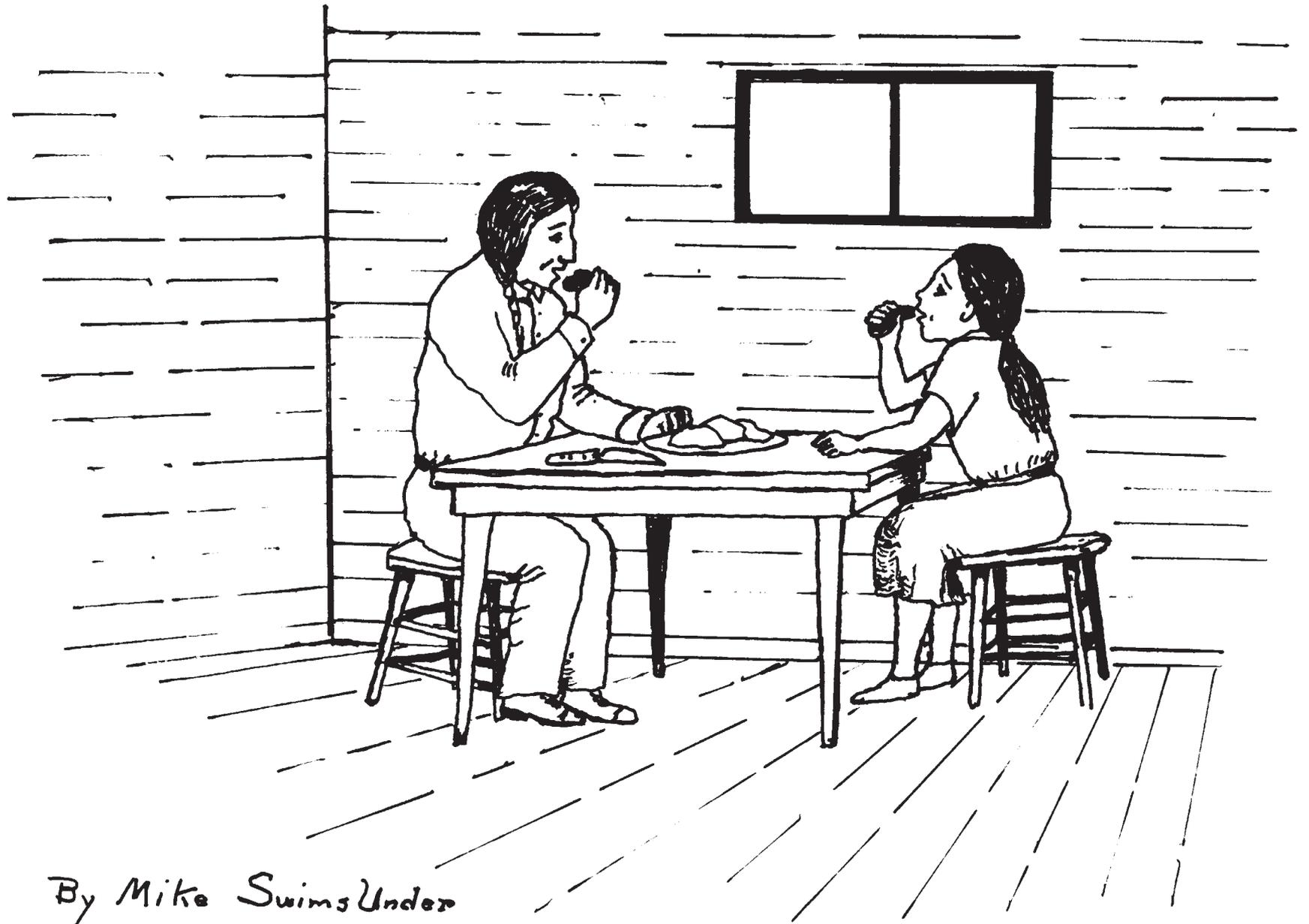
Grandfather said, "I was told that one day a man from the South Pikuni Band came to visit. He was standing up on a hill with a boy from the Kainiah Band. Pointing at the camp, he asked the boy, 'Whose camp is that?' The boy replied, 'It belongs to a chief.' The man asked the same question two or three times and the boy's reply was the same. So the South Pikuni man called the band Many Chiefs. They are also referred to as Bloods. It was a custom among some Indians to drink blood soup. As I said before, Snowbird, our people did not waste."



Stretching his arms, Grandfather told Snowbird, "Well my girl, we must hurry because the school bus will be coming." Snowbird asked, "Grandfather, what are we having for breakfast?" "Ah, we will have deer steak and pancakes." Snowbird smiled, "Oh great! It's my favorite."

While eating breakfast Grandfather said, "Snowbird, some day you will get married and have a daughter. I will give her your grandmother's name, Pretty Woman. Someday, as you watch the sunrise, tell her the story of the warrior people. These four groups of people lived independently of each other, but came together in time of war and for religious ceremonies."

Grandfather waved his arm through the air saying, "Before the line between the United States and Canada was established, these groups roamed freely. They traveled back and forth from the Saskatchewan River in Alberta, Canada, to beyond the Yellowstone area in southern Montana."

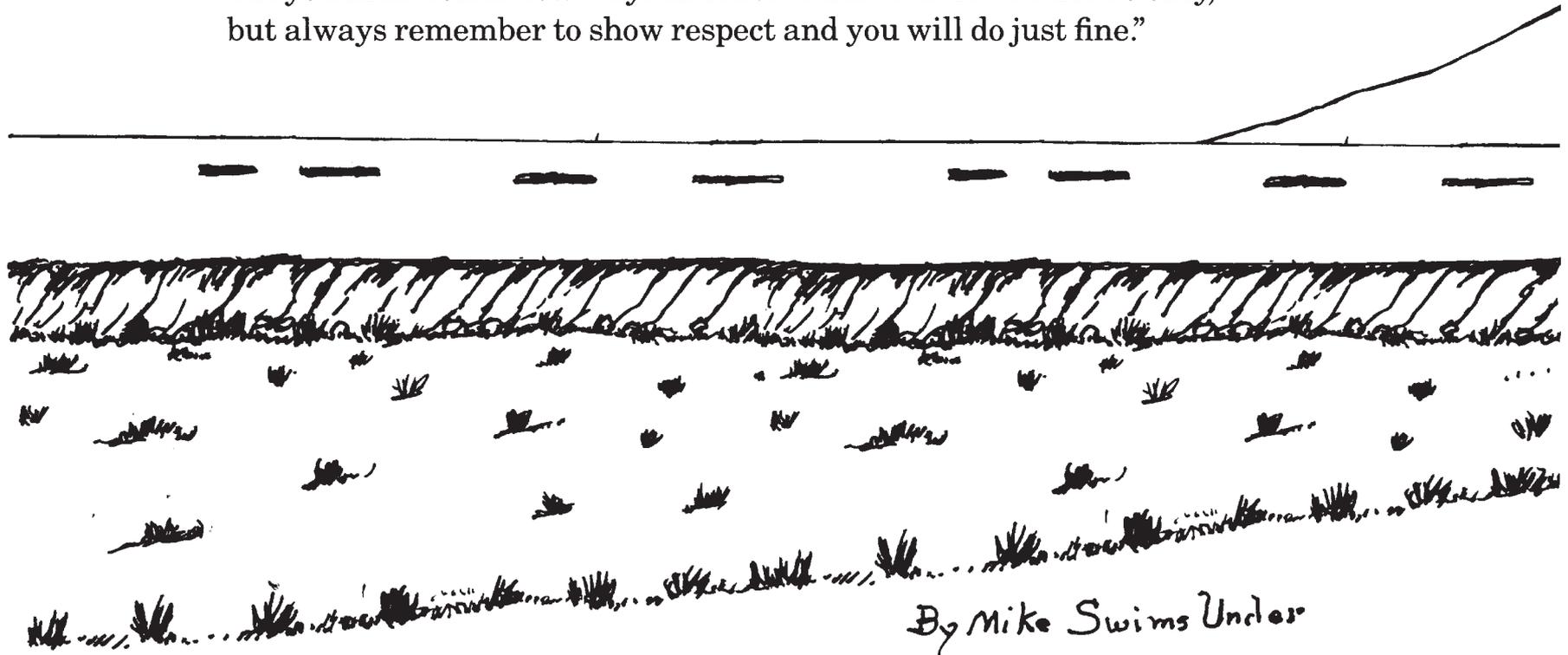


By Mike Swims Under

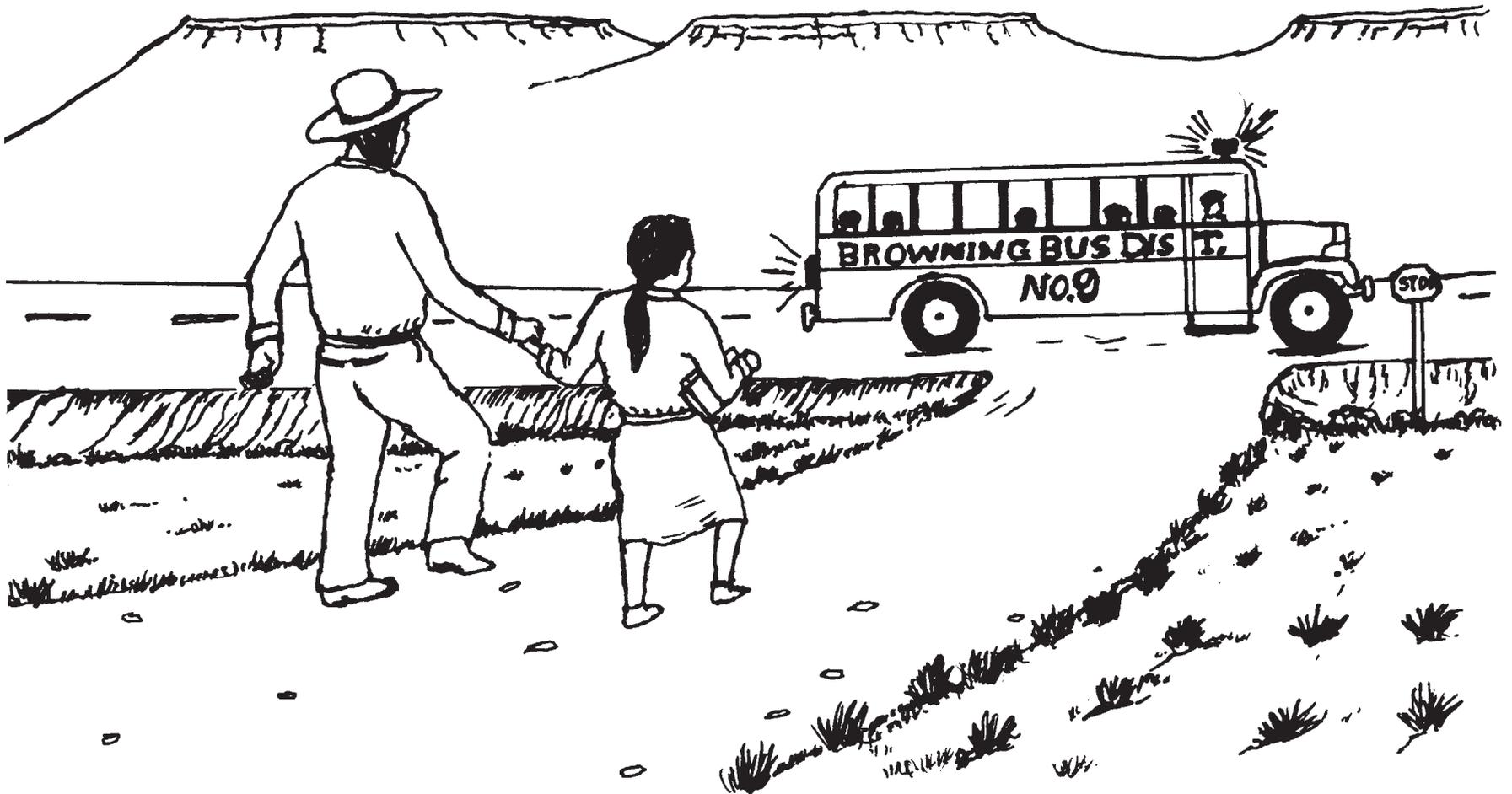
“Hurry now! Here comes the school bus! Let’s go!” prodded Grandfather.

“I hope you go to school and learn to write well. And when Pretty Woman learns to read, she will read your story of the Warrior People. She will know that our people were noted for their skill in war and the bravery they showed in maintaining their territory.”

Snowbird, reluctant to leave, asked, “Grandfather, would you walk with me?” Grandfather answered, “Yes, now let’s hurry, you don’t want to miss the bus. You must get your education and do well because our people are proud. Don’t ever forget the way of your people, but you must learn new ways in order to survive. It will not be easy, but always remember to show respect and you will do just fine.”



At the bus Grandfather told Snowbird, "I'll see you after school. You can learn how to tan your hide and make your new buckskin dress!"





Booklets available in the Level IV 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, II and III sequences.

1. *Warm Springs Animal Stories*  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs  
Reservation of Oregon
2. *Snail Women at Sq<sup>3</sup>a'le*  
The Suquamish Tribe of the Port Madison  
Reservation
3. *Blue Jay – Star Child/Basket Woman*  
Muckleshoot Tribe
4. *Assiniboine Woman Making Grease*  
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
5. *Coyote*  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs  
Reservation of Oregon
6. *How the Summer Season Came*  
Assiniboine Tribe of the Fort Belknap  
Reservation
7. *Little Weasel's Dream*  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead  
Reservation
8. *Fort Hall Stories*  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall  
Reservation
9. *The Bear Teepee*  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
10. *Sioux Stories and Legends*  
Sioux Tribe of the Fort Peck Reservation
11. *Kootenai Stories*  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead  
Reservation
12. *Chief Mountain's Medicine*  
Gros Ventre Tribe from the Fort Belknap  
Reservation
13. *Coyote the Trickster*  
Burns Paiute Reservation
14. *Running Free*  
Shoalwater Bay
15. *Salish Coyote Stories*  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead  
Reservation
16. *Coyote and the Cowboys*  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall  
Reservation
17. *Napi's Journey*  
Blackfeet Tribe
18. *Warm Springs Stories*  
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs  
Reservation of Oregon
19. *Teepee Making*  
Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead  
Reservation
20. *Baskets and Canoes*  
Skokomish Tribe
21. *Warrior People*  
Blackfeet Tribe



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