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Santa Claus Comes to the Reservation

The Indian Reading Series

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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:

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THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

Santa Claus Comes to the Reservation
Level I Book 14

A Crow Story

Written and illustrated by Henry Real Bird

**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

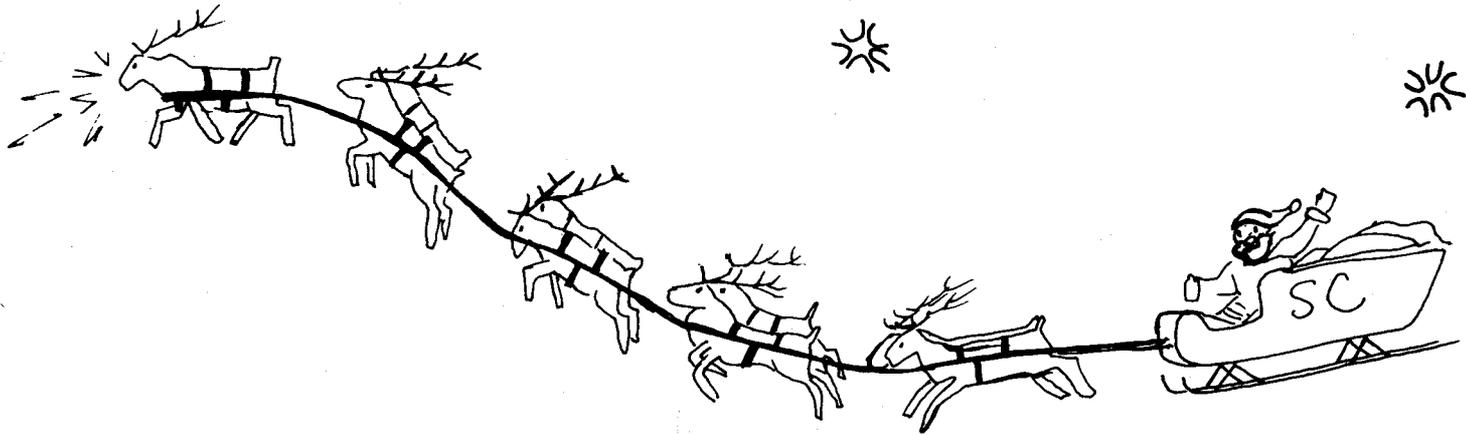
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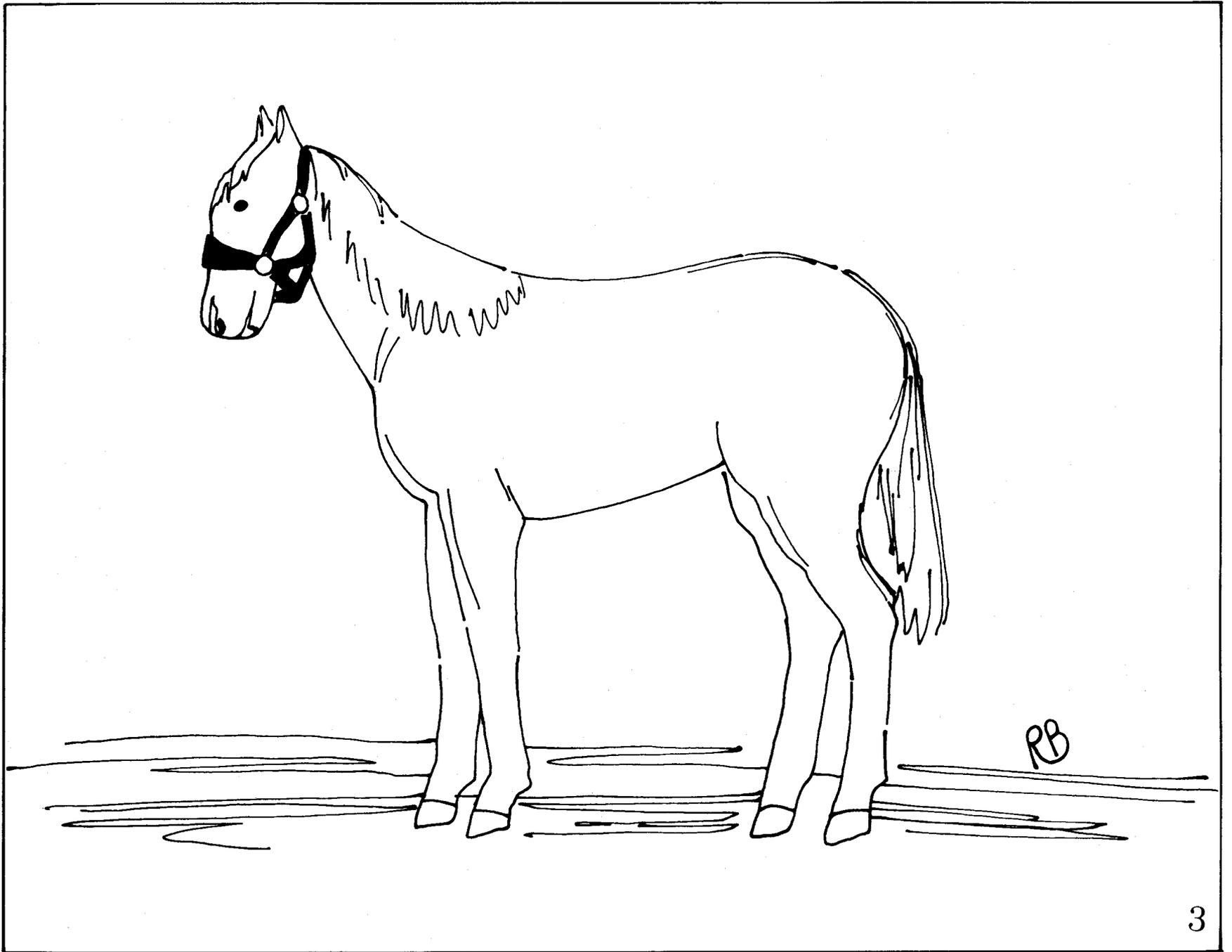
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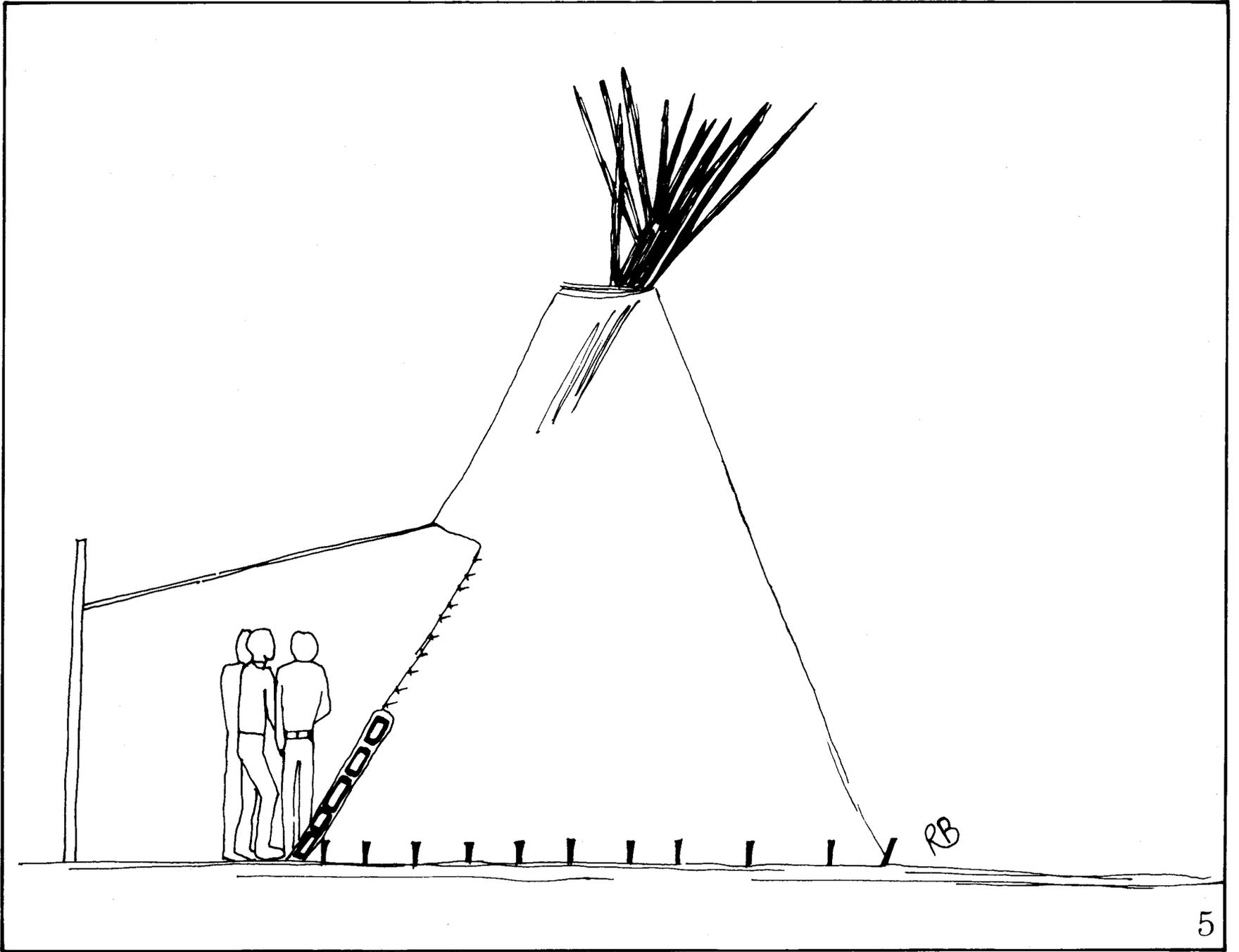


This story is about what might have happened when Santa Claus first visited the Crow Reservation.

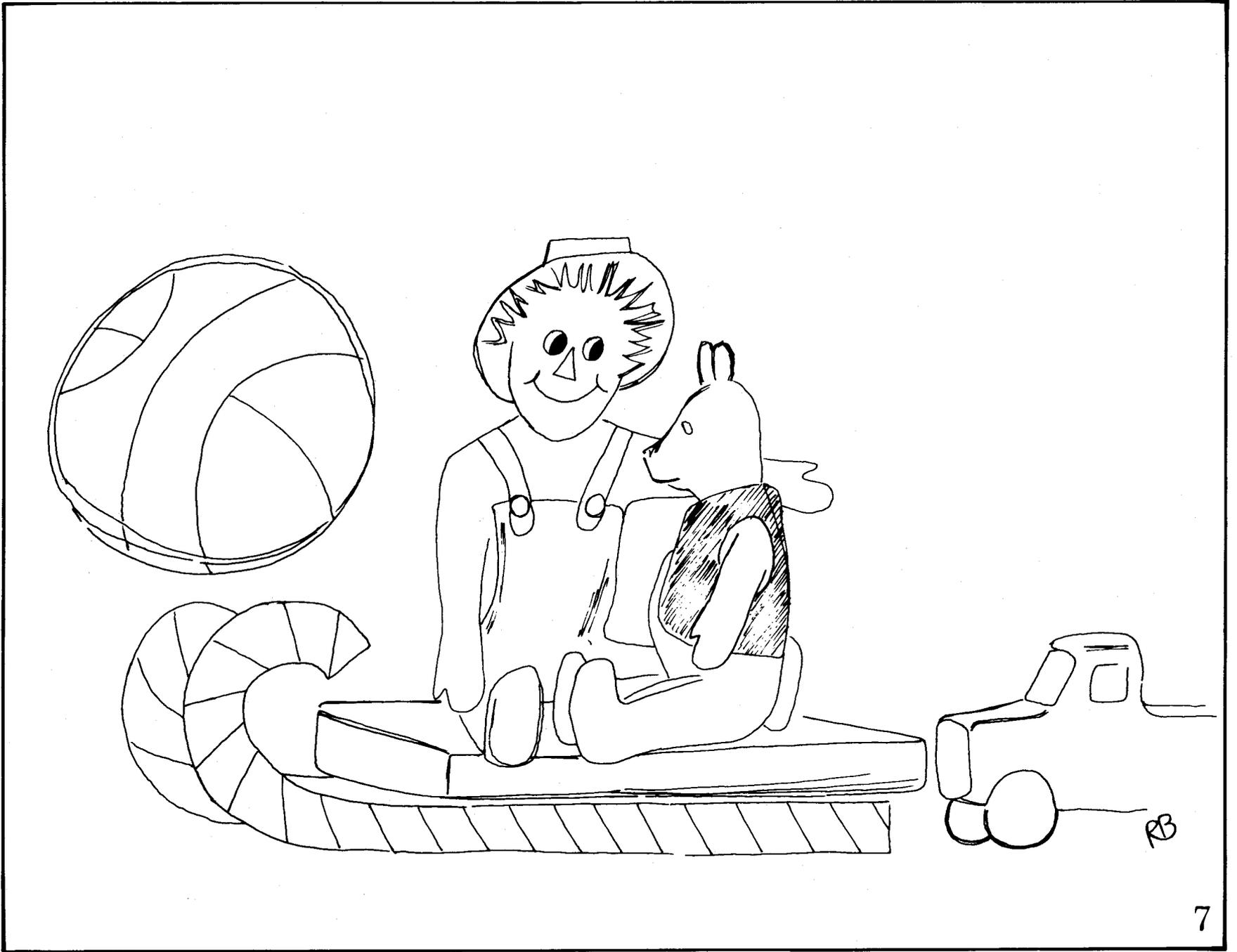
When something good happens to Indians,
they have a giveaway.
They might give away horses, blankets, clothes
or money.



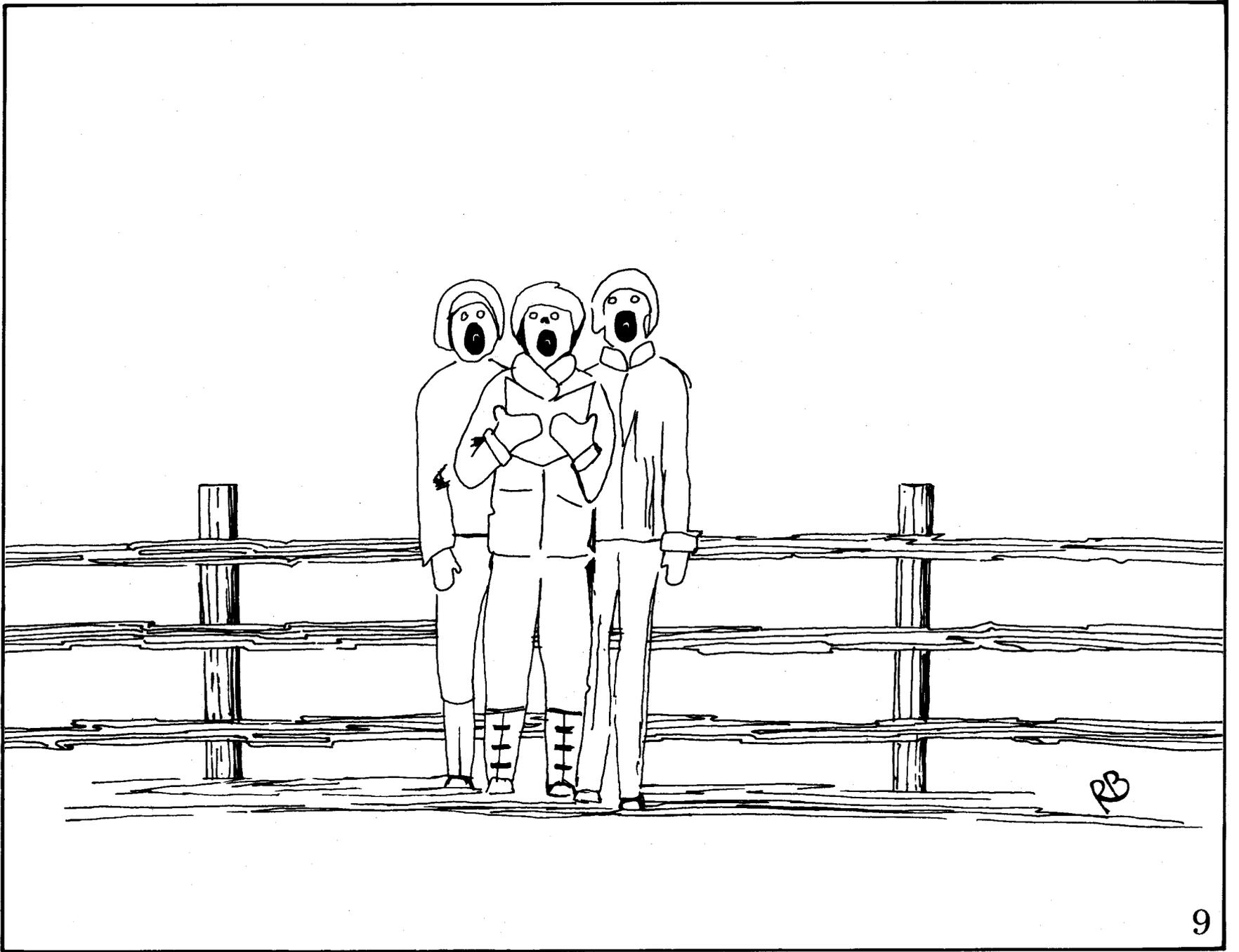
When Indians are happy,
they sing songs to each other at night.
These songs are called doorway songs.
The people in the tepee give food
or a little something to the singers.



Today, Christmas is a time of giving.
People give stuffed animals, balls, clothes,
toy cars and candy to boys and girls.
Can you think of more?

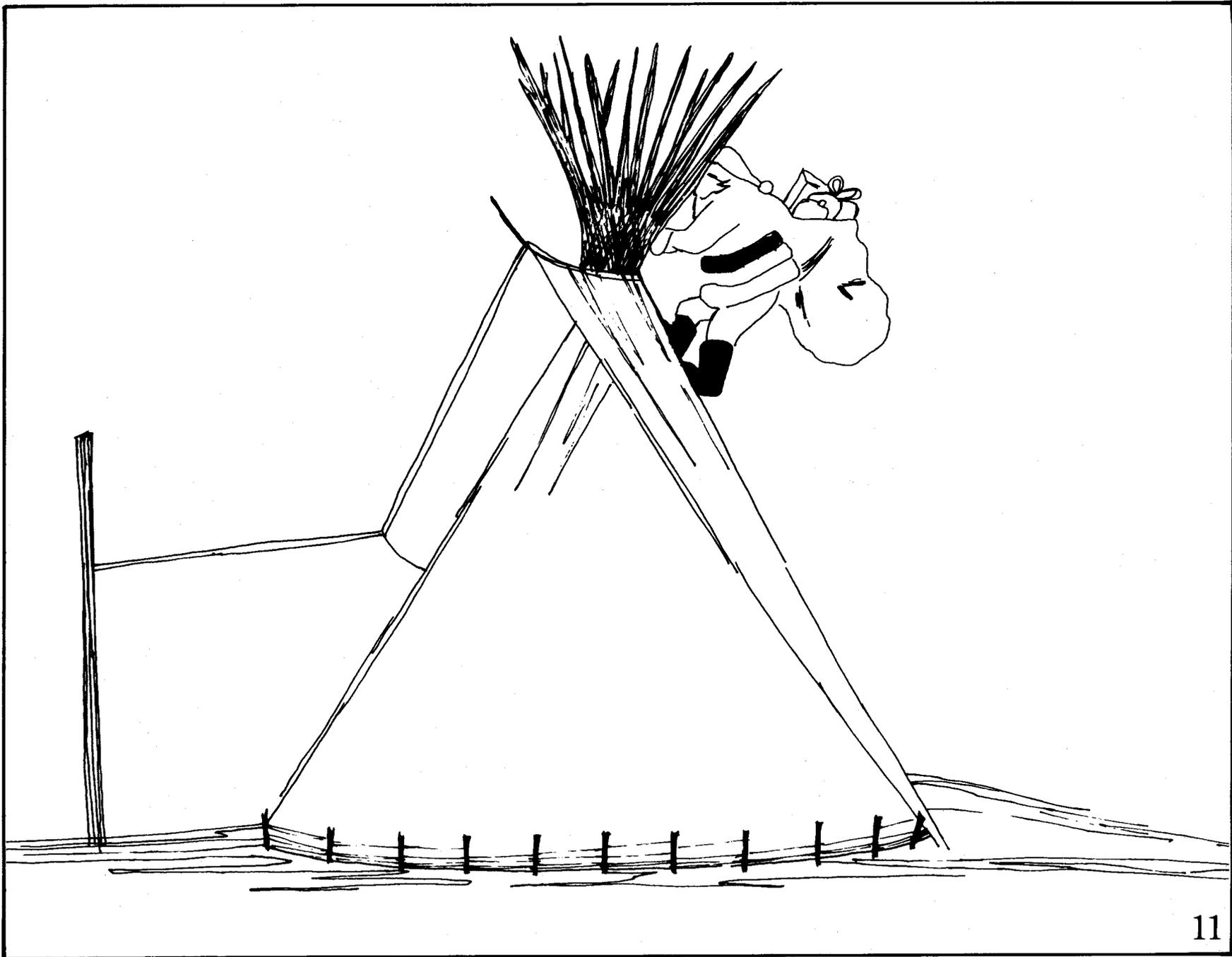


At night people sing Christmas carols around the town.
They sing "Jingle Bells," "Away in the Manger"
and many more.
The people in the houses give the singers
cookies and drinks.

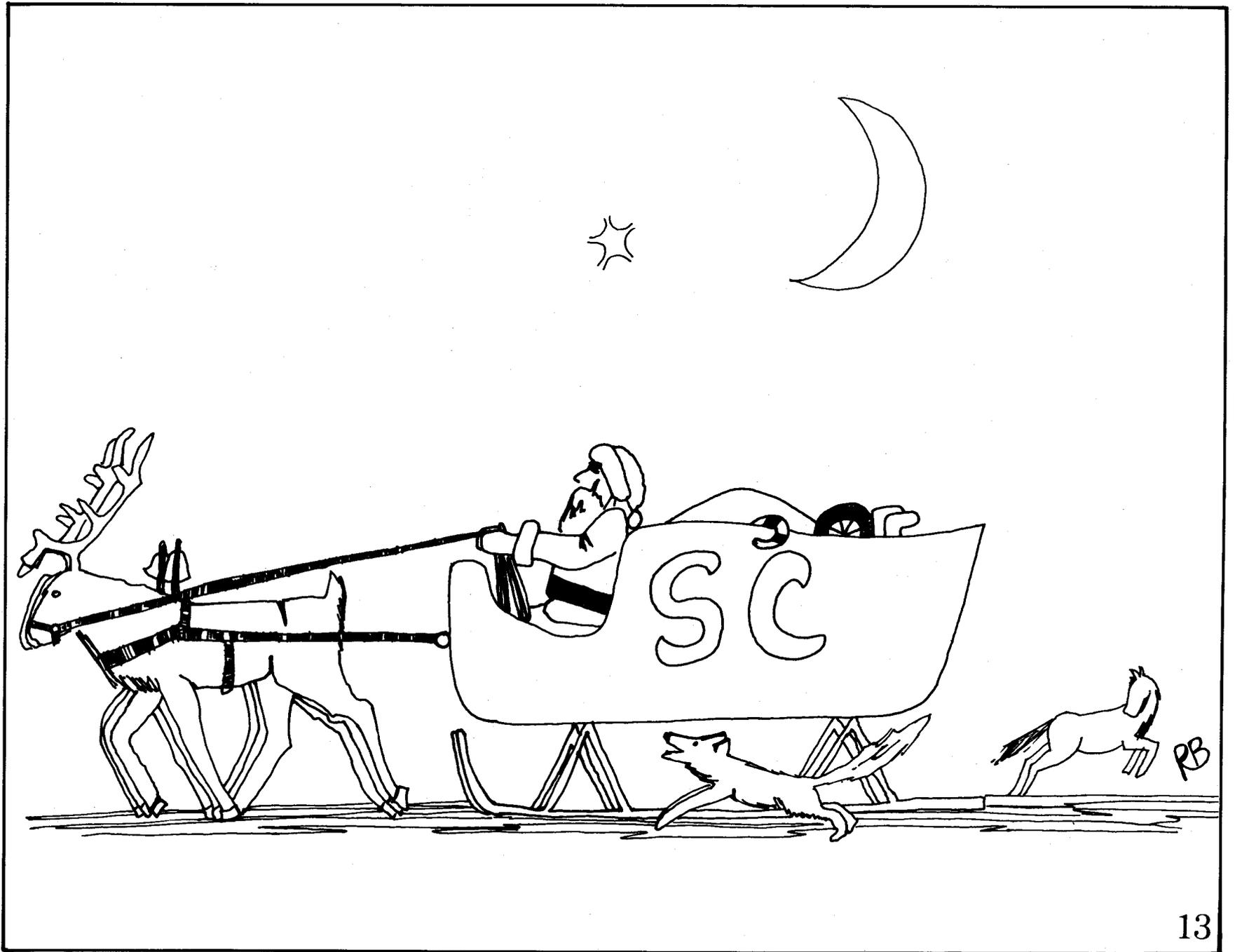


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In the old days, Santa Claus used to get stuck
at the top of the tepee poles.
Sometimes he fell into the tepee and scared everyone.

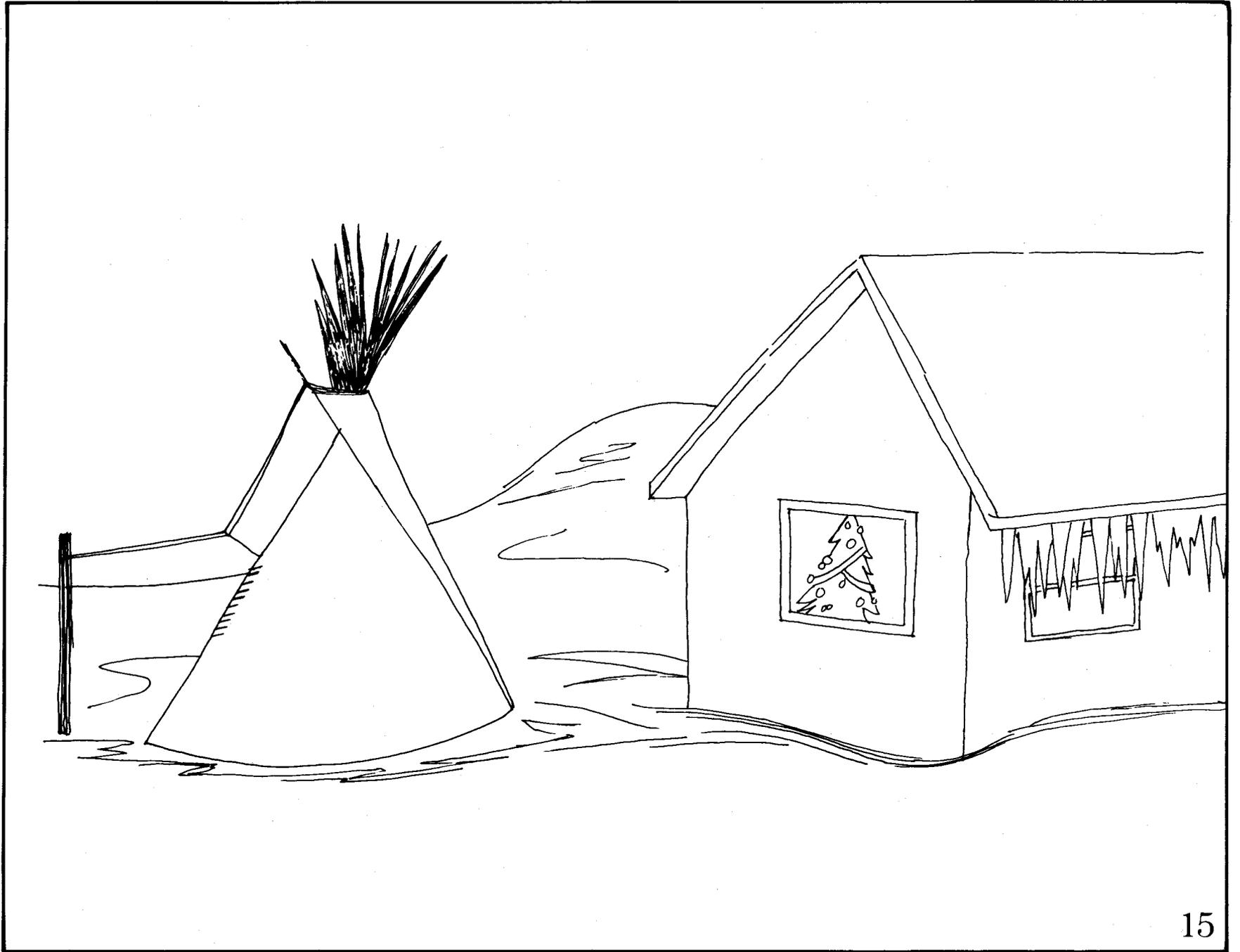


His reindeer and sled scared the horses and dogs.
The horses ran away, and the dogs chased his sled
until it was in the air.



Later when Santa came,
the Indians had moved from the  to the .

Then Santa could park on the roof.



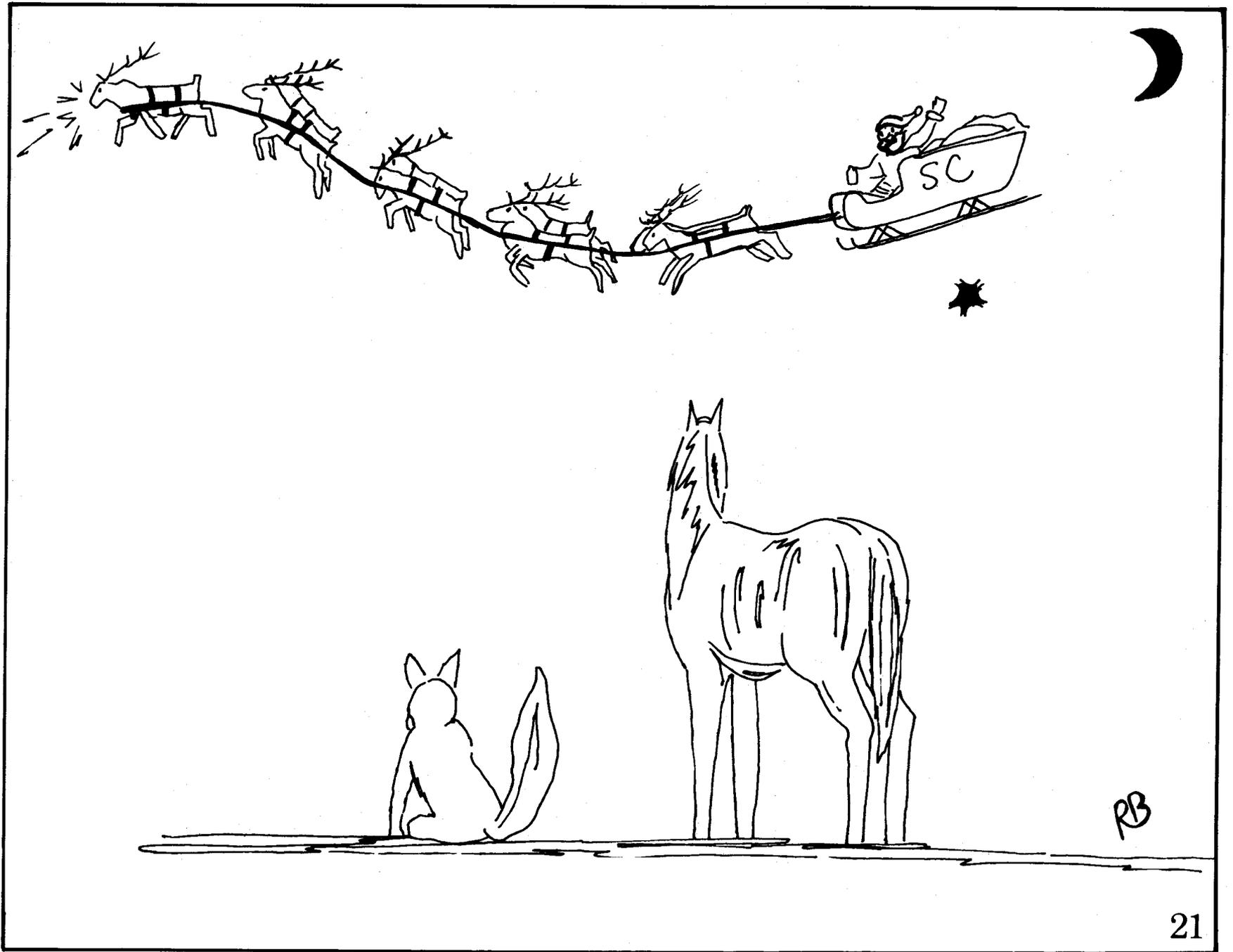
The next time Santa came,
the Indians were on reservations.
Santa thought they didn't like his clothes,
reindeer and sled, so he changed.



Santa wanted to be an Indian Santa,
so he shaved his beard and wore braids.
The people said, "You don't have to dress like that
because you might get cold in Crow Agency."

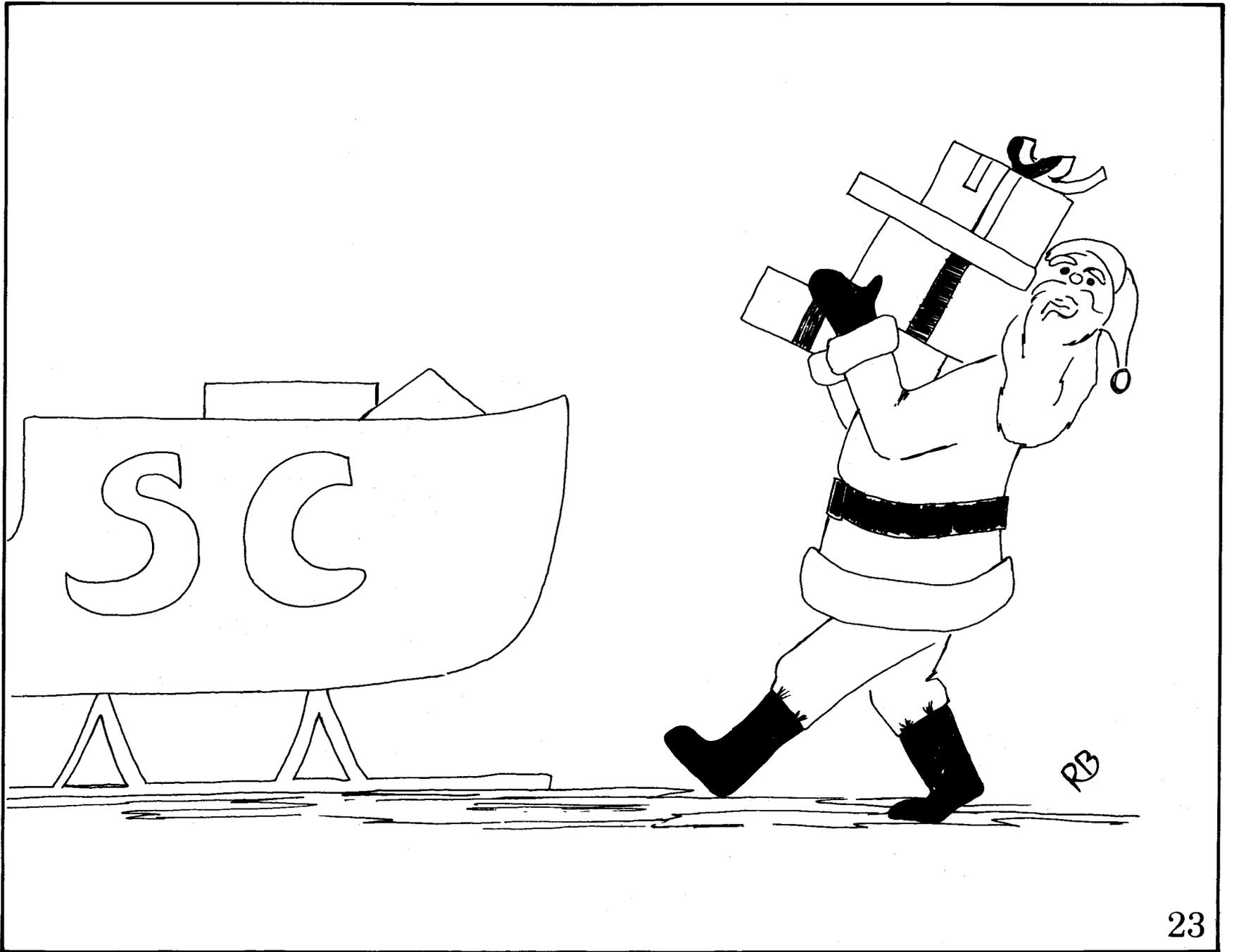


Now Santa has his reindeer, sled and old clothes back.
The horses and dogs just watch him go by.
So when you see a bright star twinkling softly,
listen for some bells jingling,
because Santa will be in Crow Agency soon.



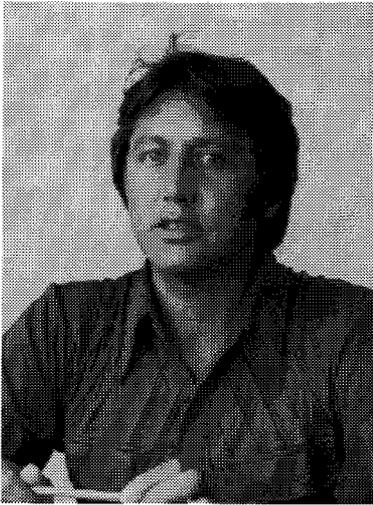
RB

**When Santa comes to Crow Agency,
he stops at Gambles, K-Mart
and the Garryowen Store.
He picks up the gifts and sneaks them
under your Christmas tree.**



What is in that box so pretty?
Is it what you want?
What do you want for Christmas?





HENRY REAL BIRD

Henry Real Bird is a Crow Indian who was raised in the traditional Crow way on the Crow Indian reservation in Montana. He entered first grade speaking only the Crow Indian language and has an intimate knowledge of problems Indian children encounter in the public school system. He received his B.S. in Elementary Education from Montana State University and has taught reading in all the elementary grades. He served as Curriculum Coordinator for Project Head Start, Language Arts Supervisor at St. Xavier Indian Mission and Summer Program Planner for 4-H and Youth Programs on the Crow Indian reservation. As the Teacher Orientation Specialist for the Pacific Northwest Indian Program, he was responsible for developing a teacher's manual and accompanying teaching inservice program, in addition to writing and illustrating books designed for Indian children. He has served on the Montana Advisory Committee on Children and Youth and the Crow Central Education Commission, and was a delegate to the 1971 White House Conference on Youth. He also is a saddle bronc rider and member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

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

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|---|---|
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