

The Wild Buffalo Ride

The Indian Reading Series



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THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

The Wild Buffalo Ride

Level III Book 15

Developed by the Blackfeet Indians

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

Illustrated by Peter (Rusty) Tatsey

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Developed by the Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program
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This book is based on a true story told by Old No Coat to Francis Bullshoe, Sr.

The story is about Middle Person, a Blackfeet Indian woman in her early twenties, and the buffalo ride on which she went with her husband and other Indian hunters.

Middle Person was one of the wives of No Coat, a great hunter. Many years ago Indian chiefs had several wives.

This hunt took place south of the Marias River and the Sweet Grass Hills in Montana, about 1850.



One morning, Middle Person got out of bed
and ran down to the creek
for her early morning swim.

The water was cool and fresh.

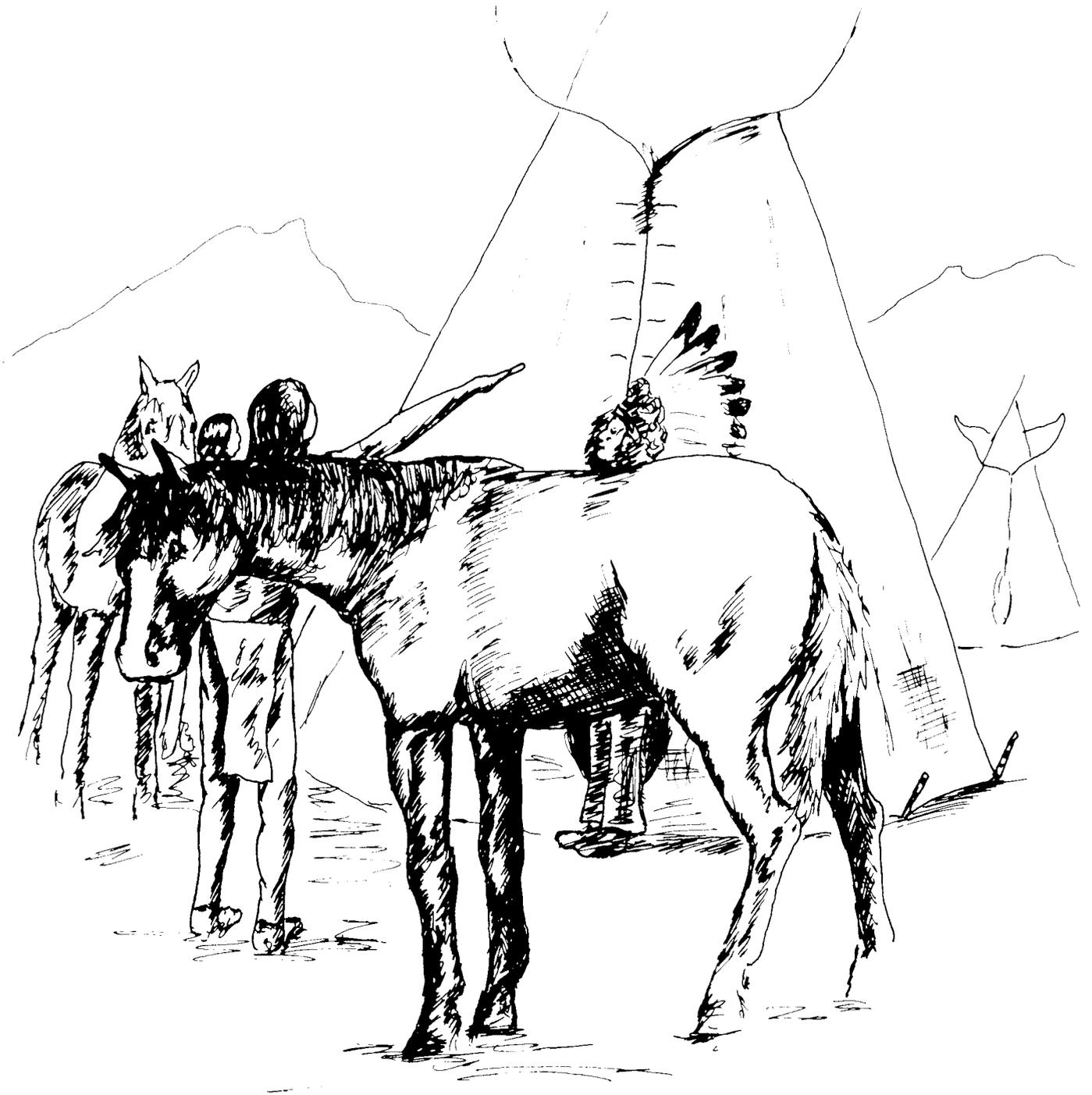
The sun was beginning to come up
and the morning air smelled good.

A robin was sitting on a tree branch,
singing a happy song.



Middle Person was feeling good,
for today the hunters would go out for fresh meat.

2 It would be dried and put away for the winter's food.



The scouts who had been out looking for a buffalo herd
had just returned to camp.

They were ready to show the hunters
where the buffalo were grazing.



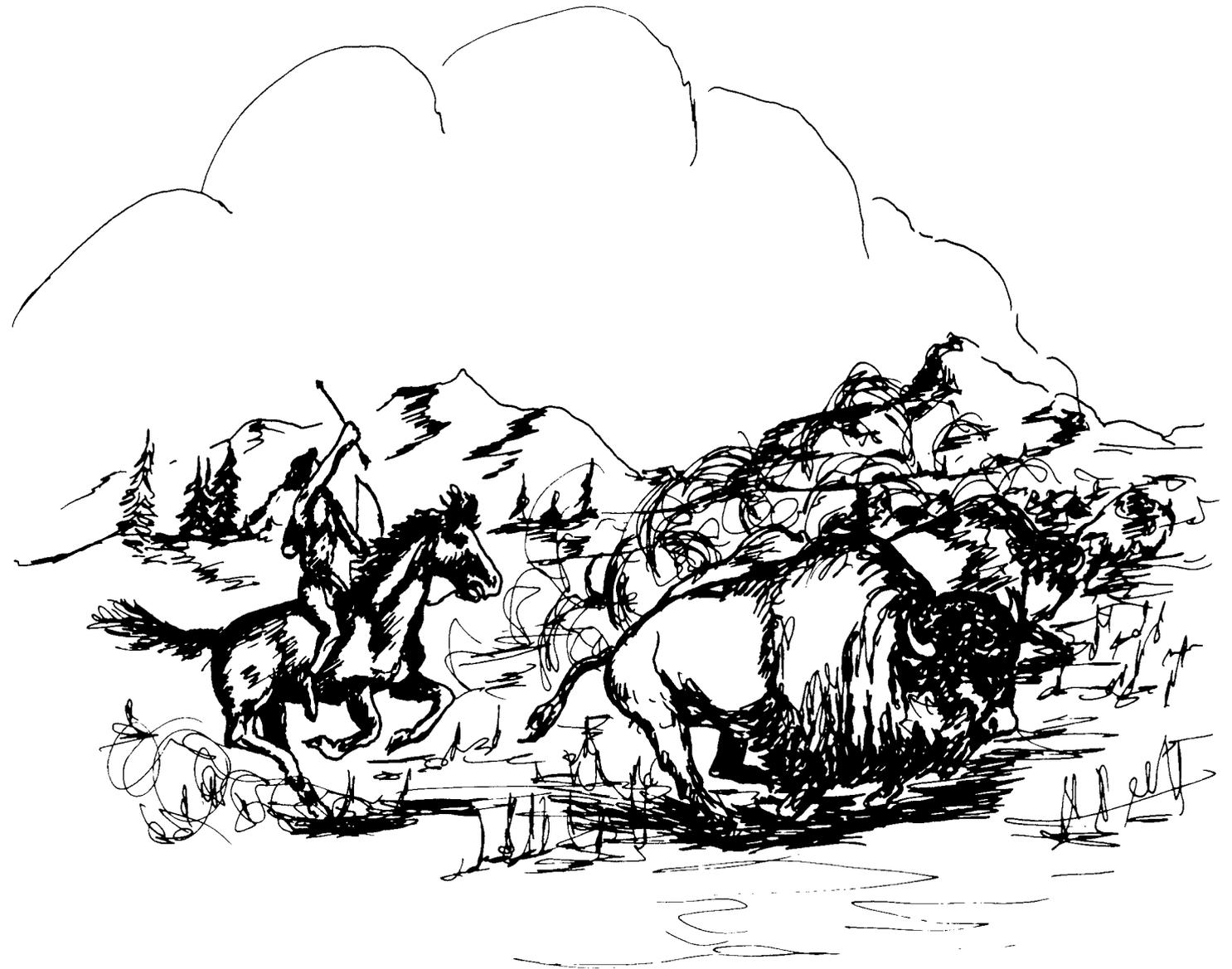
As soon as the horses had been caught and bridled,
the men started on their way.
Middle Person followed on her horse.
Her husband, No Coat, was letting her ride
along with him on the buffalo hunt.
Of all his wives, she could ride horseback the best.



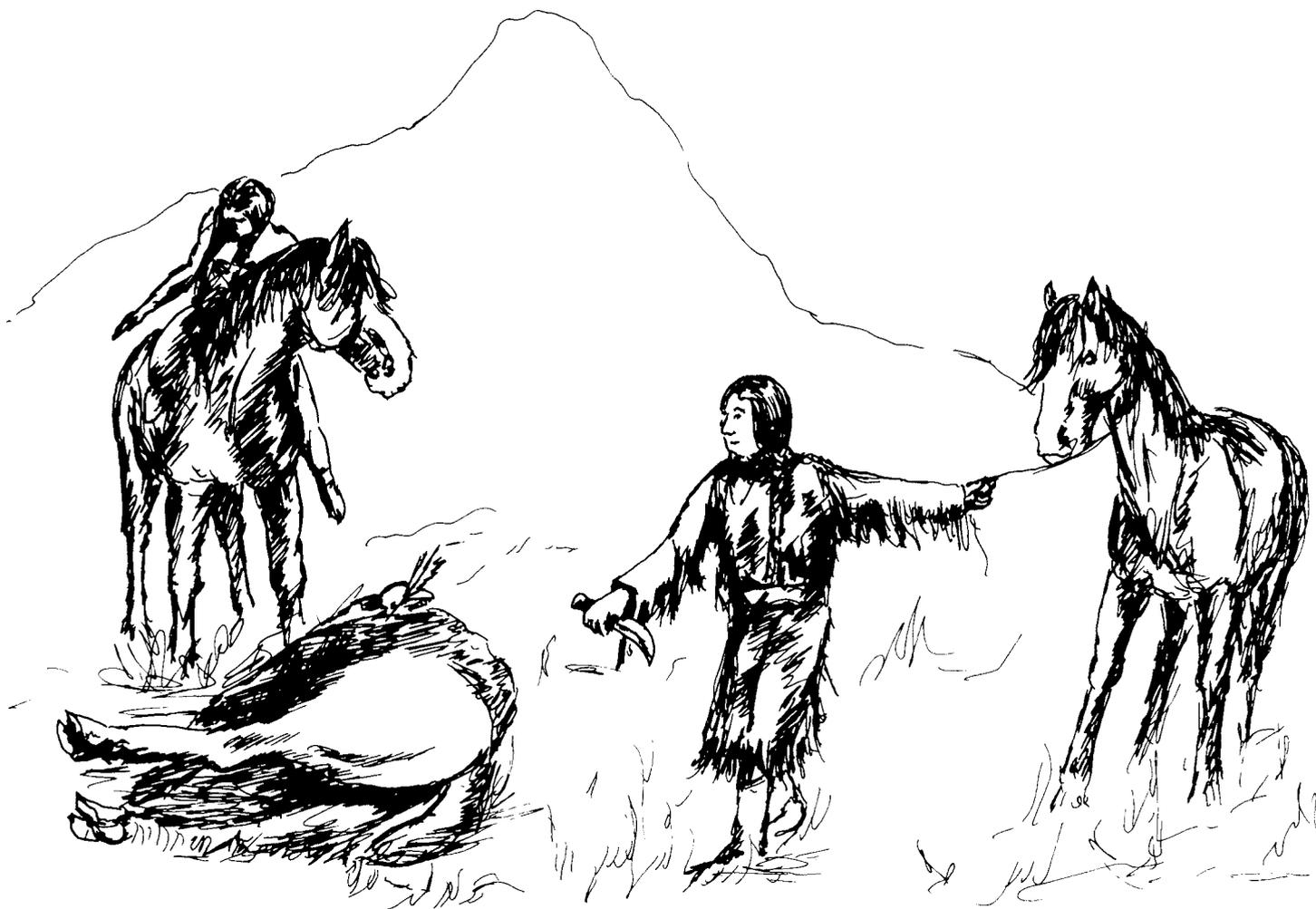
The riders rode to the top of a hill.
They could see the buffalo grazing in the distance,
eating the long grass.



The hunters rode through the trees and tall grass
until they were close to the buffalo.
They started shooting arrows at them.



The arrows frightened the buffalo.
The buffalo which hadn't been shot stampeded away.



Middle Person got off her horse
to help butcher the animals.
No Coat helped her turn one of the buffalo
so she could skin it.



Middle Person stood over the buffalo's back.

Soon she felt a slight movement underneath her.
She paid no attention.
“The buffalo must have rolled over a little,”
she thought to herself.



Before she knew what was happening,
the buffalo was on its feet.

“No Coat, No Coat!” she called.

“Come and help me!”

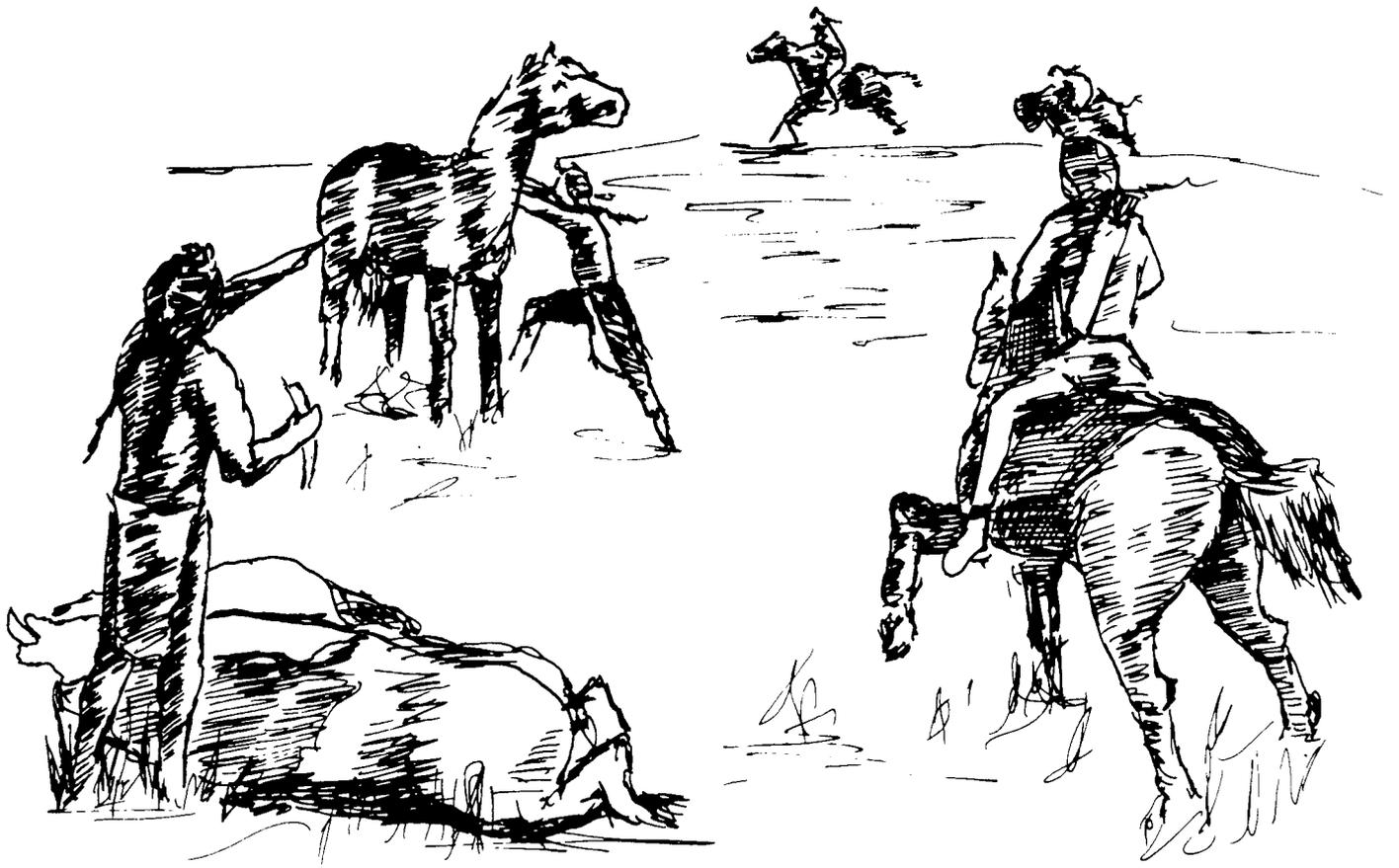
No Coat turned and started to run toward the buffalo,
but the buffalo turned and charged him.

No Coat turned around and ran for his life
as fast as he could go.





No Coat jumped on his horse!



One hunter, who saw what was happening,
called out to the others.

They quickly jumped on their horses' backs
and shouted to Middle Person
to hang on tightly.

One of the riders headed toward the buffalo.
The buffalo turned and charged him.

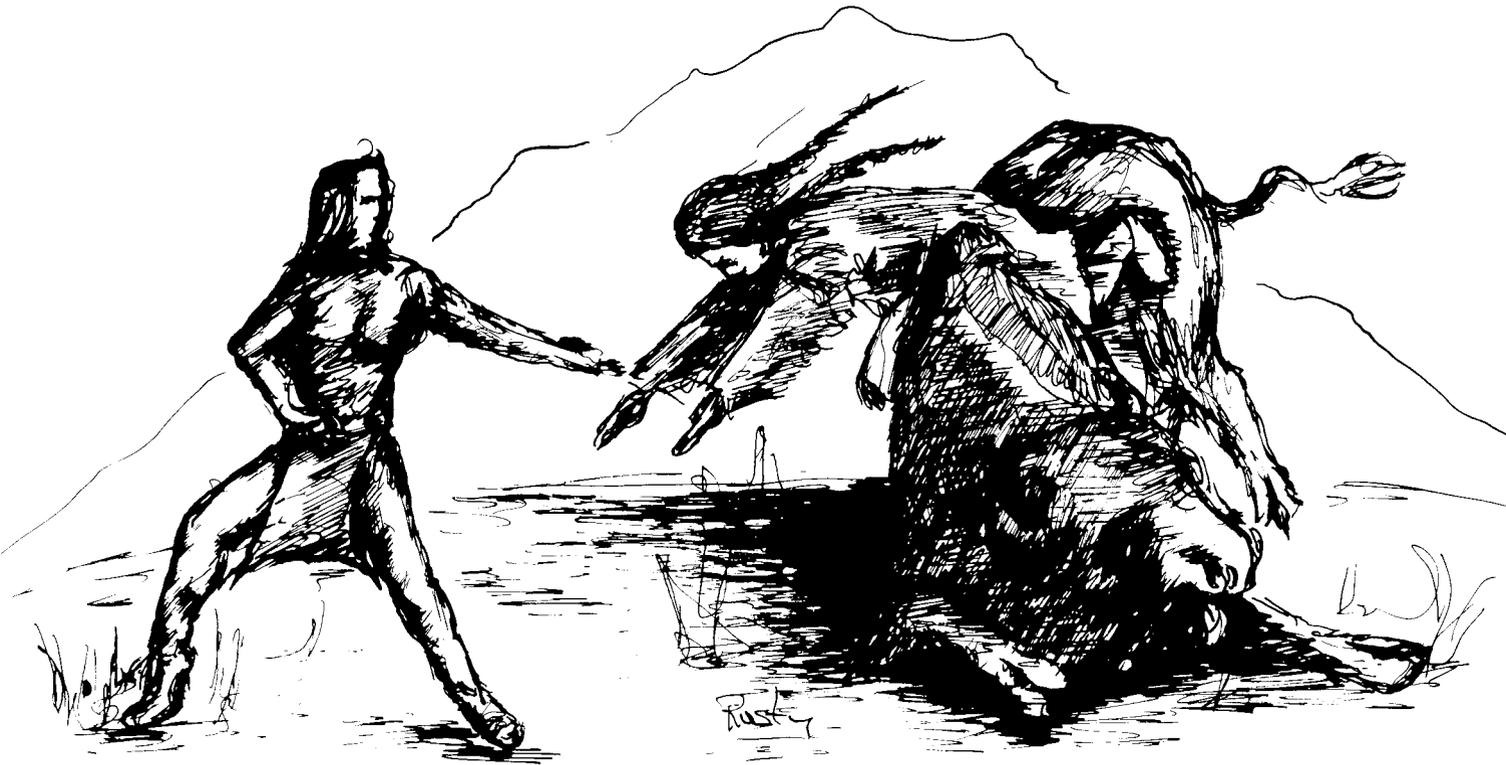


The hunters didn't want to shoot the buffalo
for fear they would shoot Middle Person instead.
They circled the buffalo
to keep it from running away
with Middle Person on its back.
No Coat shouted, "Hang on tight!
Soon the buffalo will tire from its wound."





Middle Person hoped this would be very soon.
Her hands and arms were beginning to ache
from hanging on.
The hot sun beat down on her and the buffalo.
For about an hour she sat on its back,
although to her it seemed like forever.



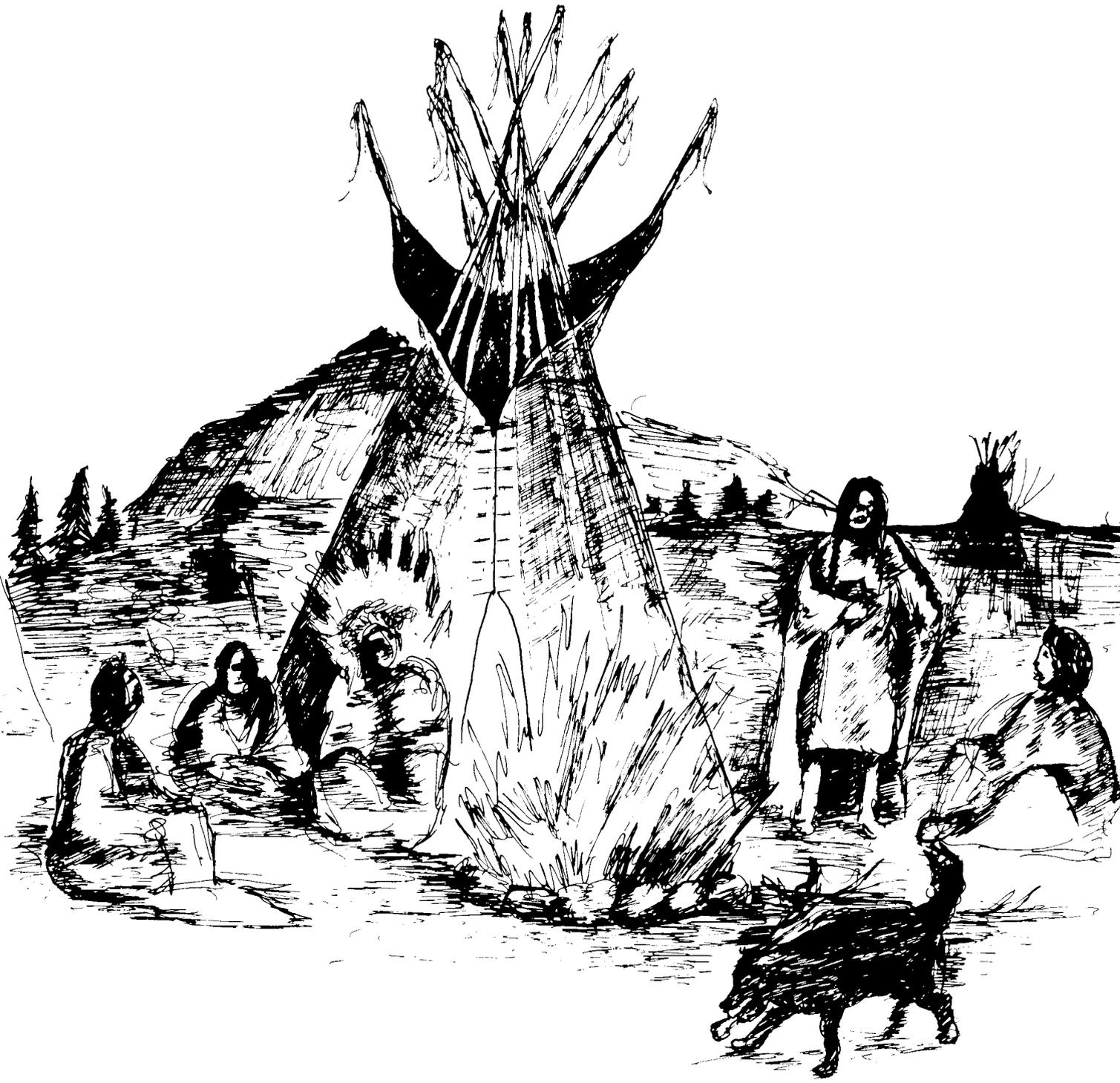
Suddenly the buffalo fell!

Immediately, the closest hunter grabbed Middle Person
while another hunter shot the animal.

Everyone was relieved that Middle Person was safe.

After the buffalo had been butchered
and the meat taken back to camp,
Middle Person's relatives held a feast
in her honor.

Prayers of thanks were given to the Great Spirit
for a successful hunt and because Middle Person
had come home safely.





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.



PETER (RUSTY) TATSEY

Mr. Tatsey is a young Blackfeet artist and cowboy. He graduated from Flandreau High School in South Dakota and attended Northern Montana College and Montana State University. Mr. Tatsey likes to draw outdoor scenes and animals. He also participates in rodeos, and hunting is his favorite sport.

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.

- | | |
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| 1 <i>Story of the Seasons</i>
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| 10 <i>Coyote and Trout</i>
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