

Master Copy

Story of
Grandpa's Hike



The Story of



Grampa's Hike

Helen Stout

THE STORY

OF

GRANPA'S HIKE

pictures by

Heather Carter

Dmitri Carter

Mark Gudiksen

Nick Stout

Kevin Stout

Joseph Ruef

and

Grandma



Here is John -
resting

It's a long walk !

A thousand miles begins with
one step.

So does 4000 miles!

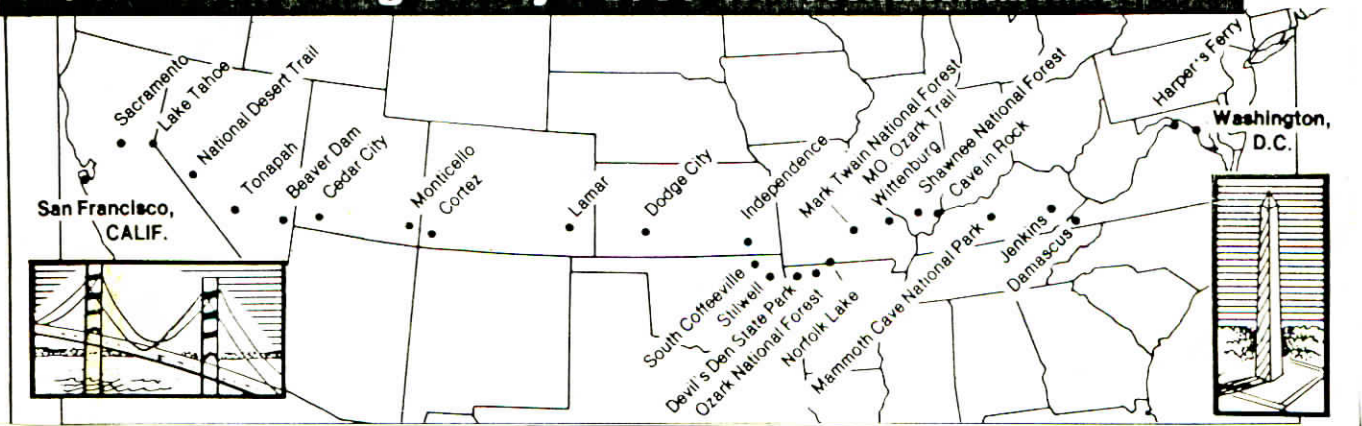
That is how many miles John has
to go to get from

San Francisco California

to

Washington D.C.

The American Hiking Society's 1980 Transcontinental Hike Route



INTRODUCTION - BRIDGING THE GAP

This book is written for children, for special children who know Granpa. Some of them know all about HIKANATION because they went to Golden Gate Park and hiked with their grandfather on the first day of this trek. They have made pictures for the book, and the pictures are part of the story. The children who made the drawings are Joe, Kevin, Nick, Mark, Heather and Dmitri. They are over 3 and less than 10 years old. This story is for children because it is important for them to understand old people, and to find out that even when you are 69 years old, you can be active and do interesting things.

The book is for grownups, too, and we have put some things in it for them. Much of our modern life is divided up by age: schools for children, shows for children, books for children, neighborhoods for young families. Also, work for adults, entertainment for adults, homes and apartments for old people. I feel a need to open opportunities for us to talk to each other and love each other across the "generation gap". So the Bay Bridge, crossed by the hikers, and drawn by the children, is the theme of my story.

I read part of this book to a group of Senior Citizens in a creative writing class. They liked it and asked me to explain why HIKANATION is being held. I wanted John to write something but he told me he was too busy hiking, so I'll have to do it myself.

The people who planned HIKANATION wanted to promote something dramatic to show people in this country that hiking is a healthy exercise that uses human energy instead of gas and oil. When lots of people hike it is dangerous for them to be going along the shoulders of busy highways. They need trails and campgrounds. There are not enough. And trails are being lost to logging and highways faster than new ones are being built. In comparison to European countries, we have very few trails.

John and his fellow hikers are in HIKANATION because they want to share in this objective. They are also doing it for the personal challenge, to prove to themselves that they can do it - walk all the way across the U.S.A., overcome obstacles; because its the best way to see the whole country, and because they have found that it is fun.

Helen Stout

The Beginning

As the sun rises from pink mist
in San Francisco,
Beams full warmth on a thousand bodies
Ribboning over bay waters
Move the hikers, step by step.
Look down into the water,
Back to crowded towers of city,
Ahead to America:

Ahead to plains and mountains,
Cactus, sagebrush, pines and curly mosses.
To history in artifacts of Indians and pioneers,
Monuments of worn sandstone,
Canyons, the High Divide.
Step-by-step.

Stop, this first evening
Sleep with stars, too tired for dreaming
Too tired for dreaming.



It is April 12, 1980

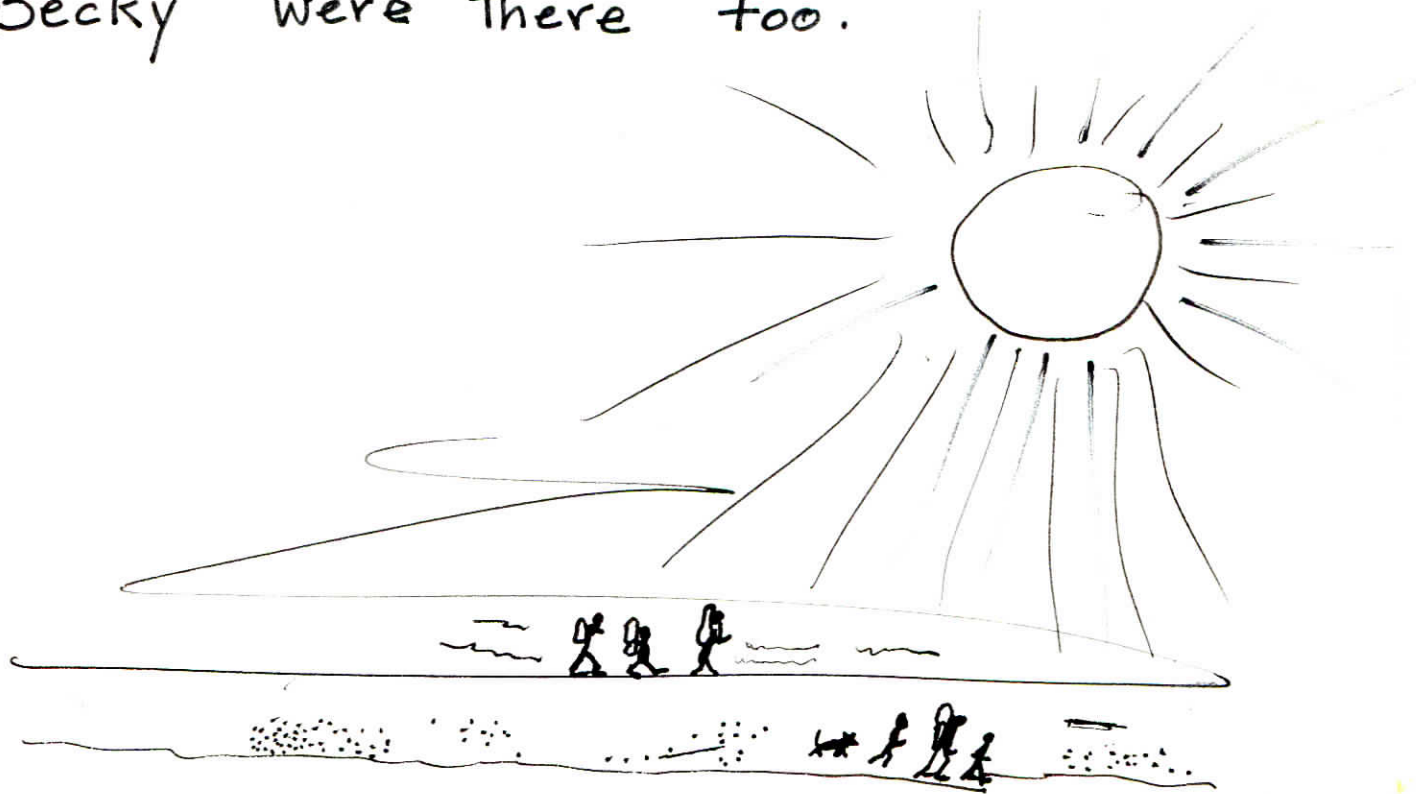
Granpa is in San Francisco

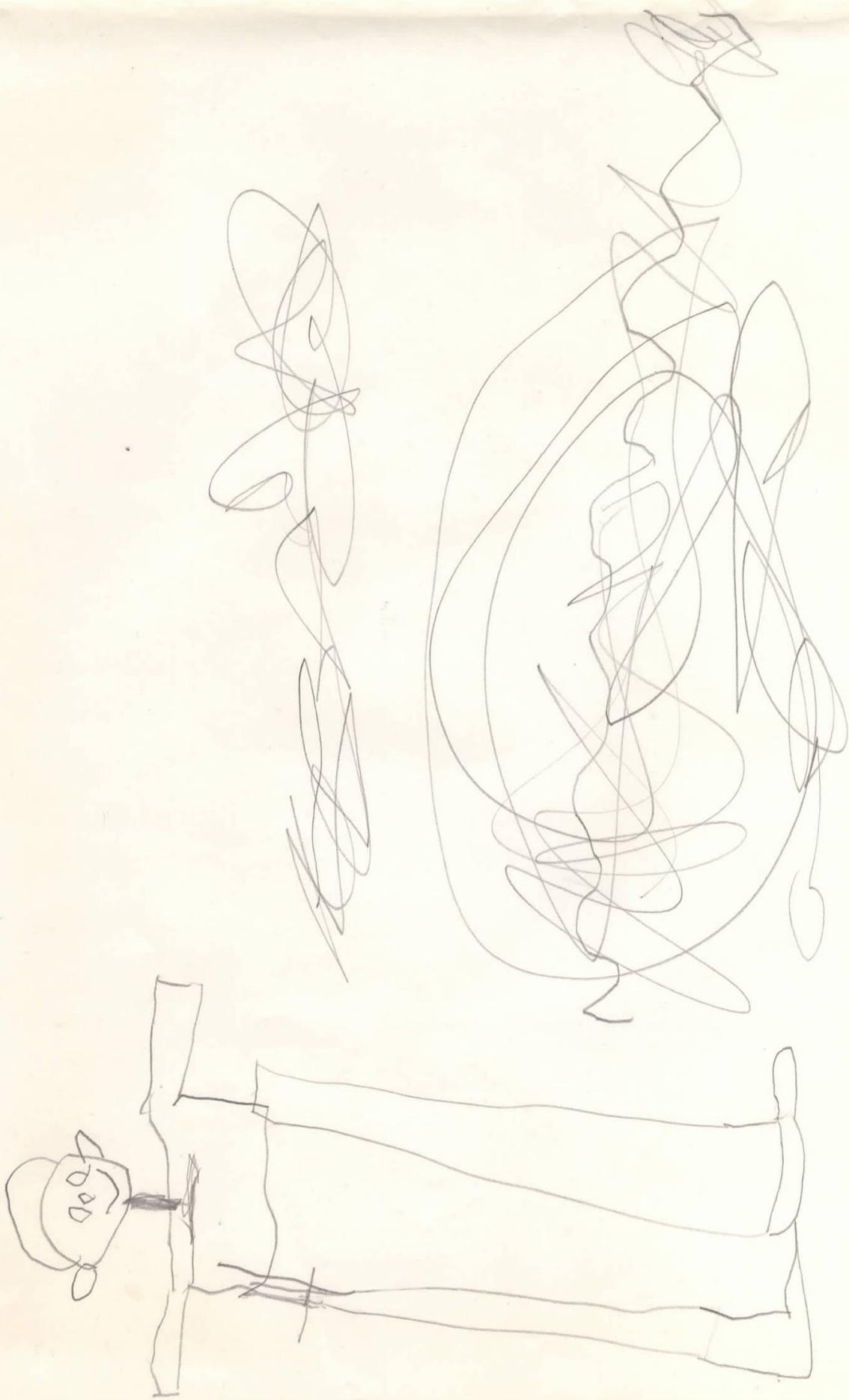
Nick, Mark and Kevin have come
to say good bye.



They were in Golden Gate
Park.

They all went to put their feet in the Pacific Ocean. The sun was shining. There were lots of people there. Karen, Karl, and Becky were there too.





Kevin: Granpa is putting his feet in the Pacific.

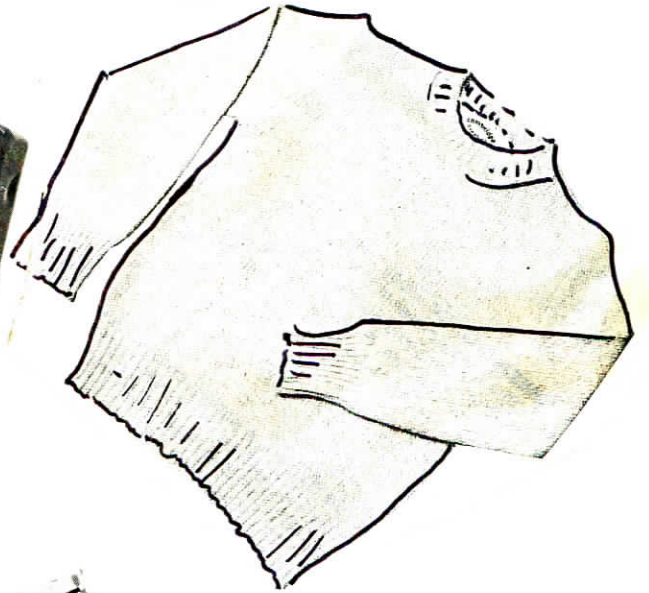
They walked and walked. Then Nick, Mark, and Kevin went home. Karen, Karl and Becky went home too.

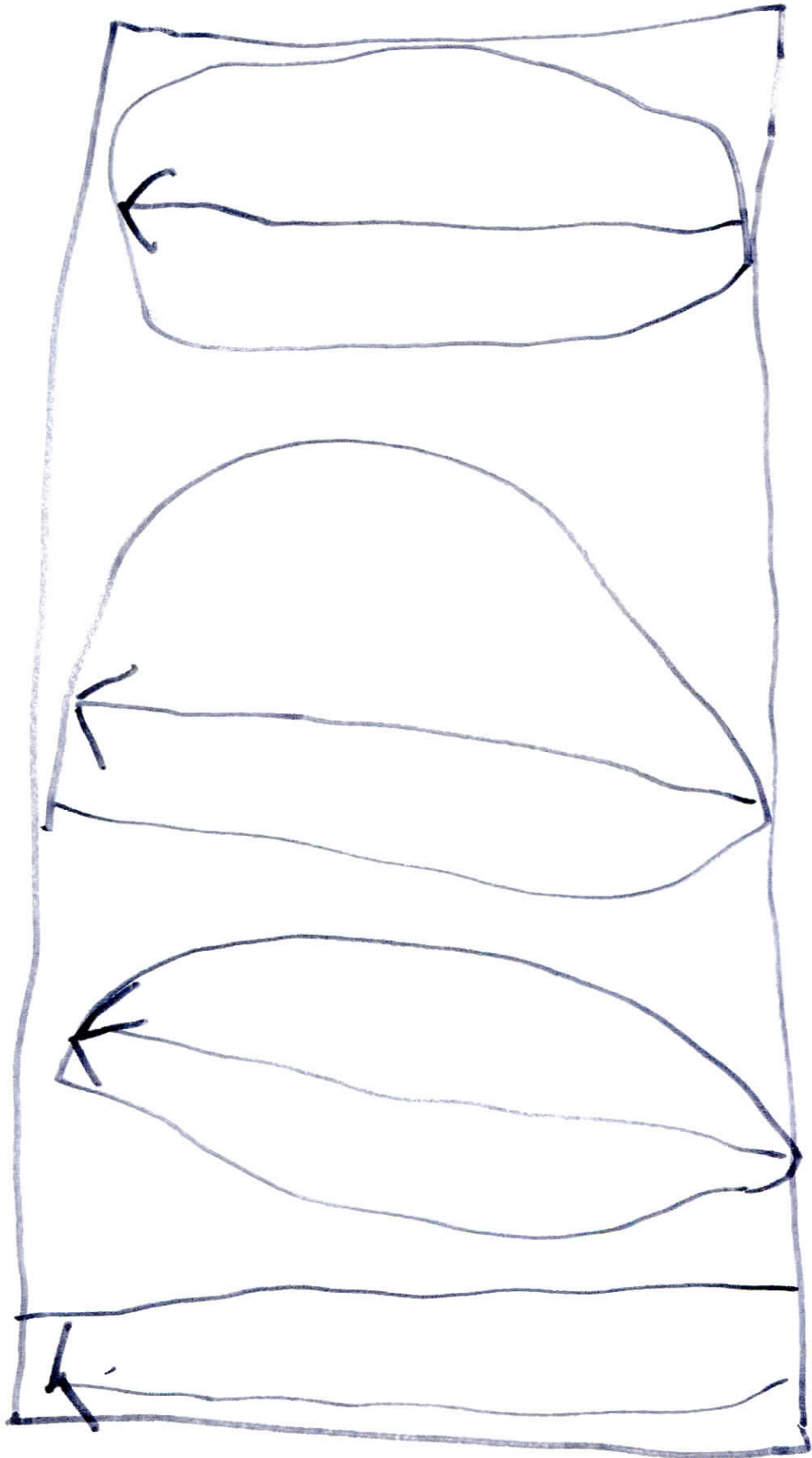
John took his sleeping bag out of his pack and slept under the Freeway.



Man from TV
talks to Granpa

Gear





Mark - Granpa's pack

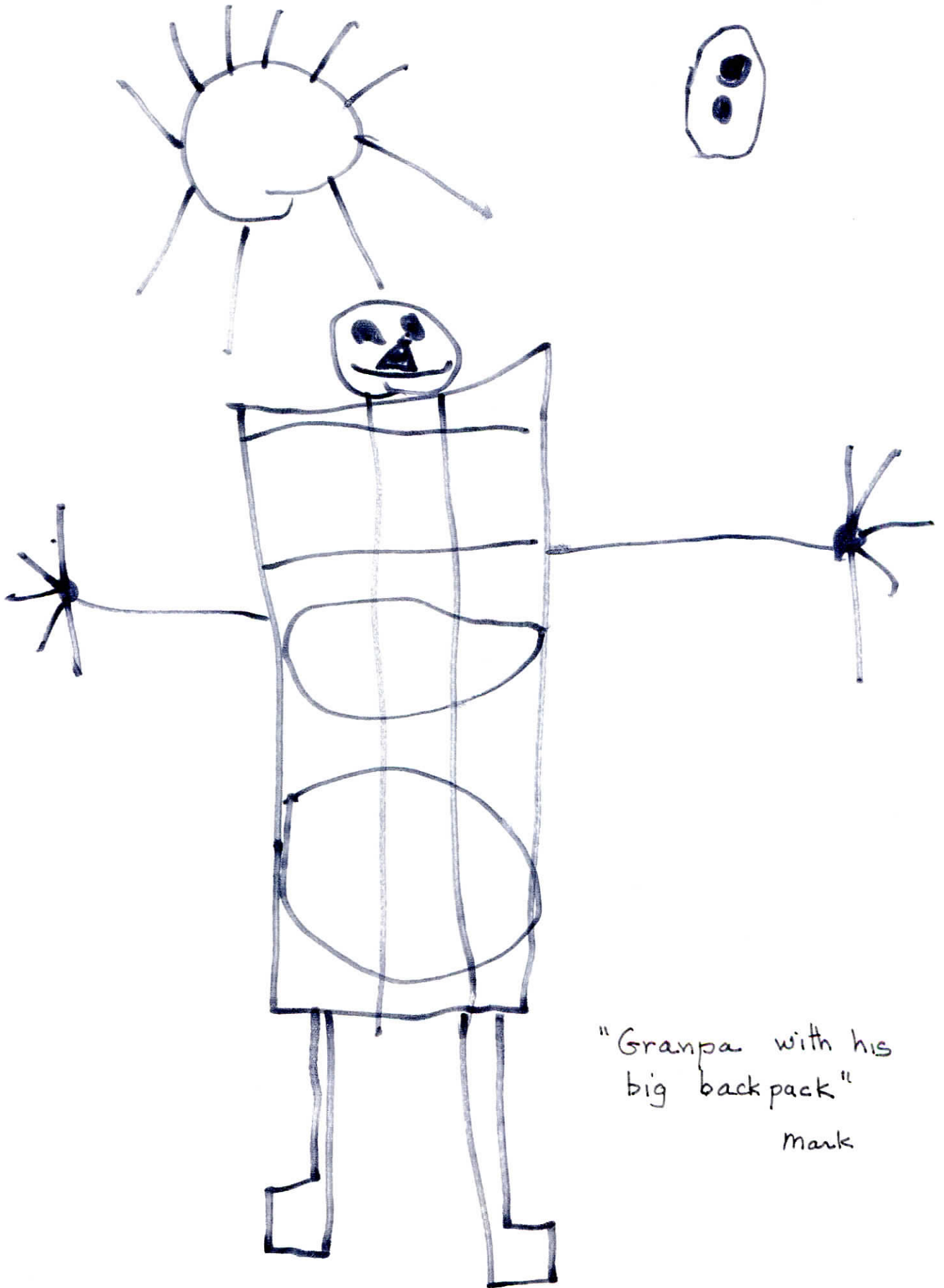
Gear

Granpa will sleep in a tent.
He has a piece of foam on the floor, then a sleeping bag.

He has a little camp stove. Can you find it in the picture?
Find the flashlight and compass.

He also has extra clothes. He has water bottles and food.

It all goes in his backpack.

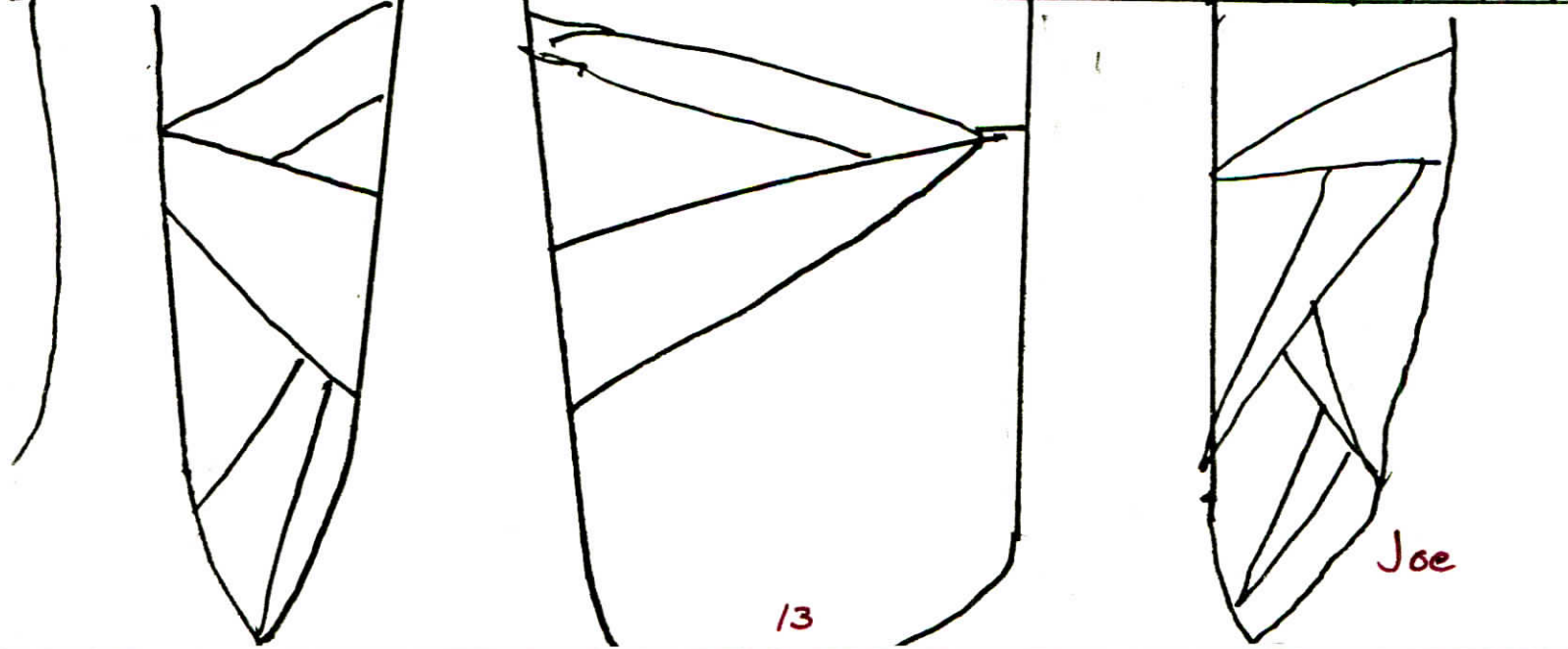
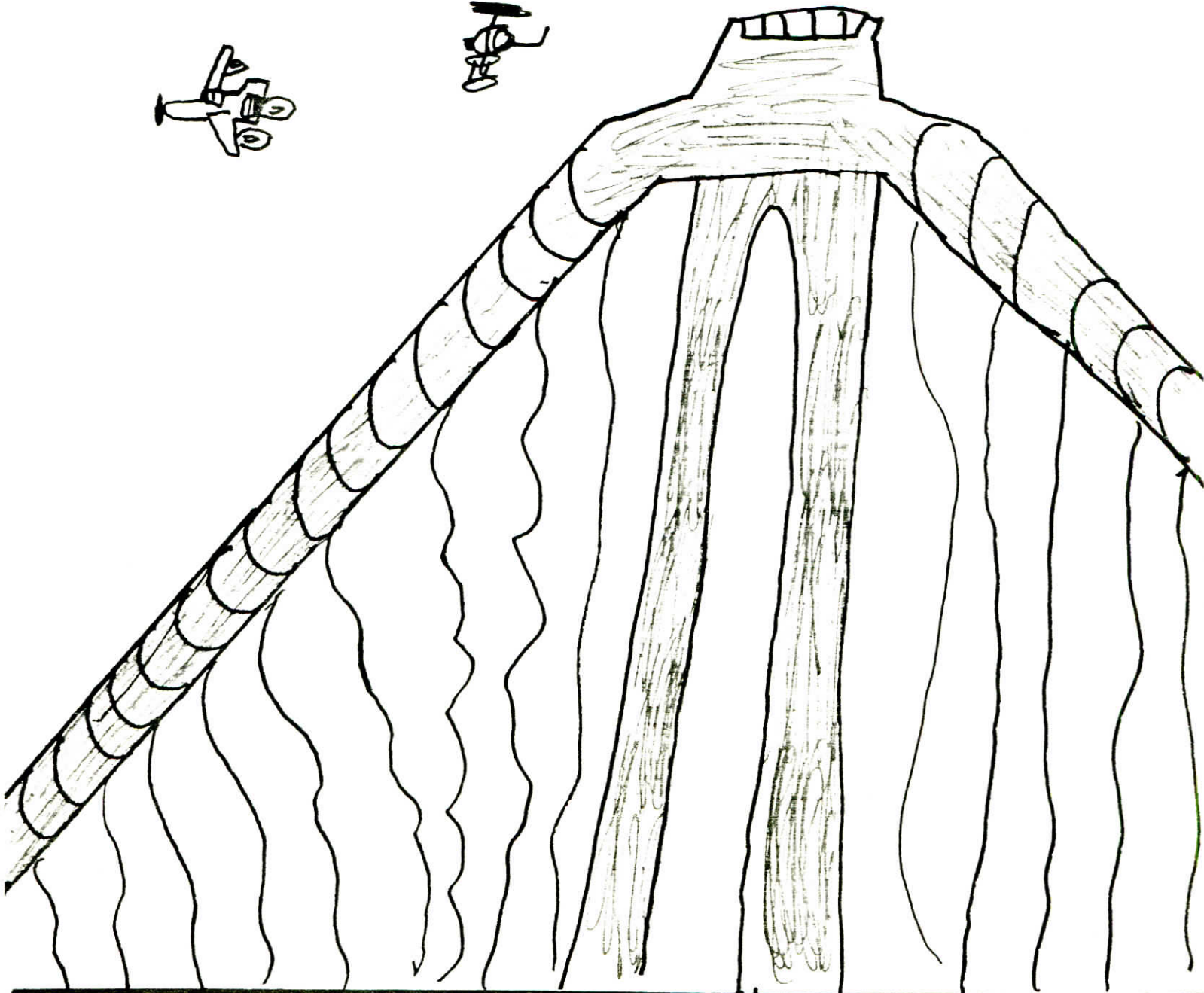


"Granpa with his
big backpack"
Mark

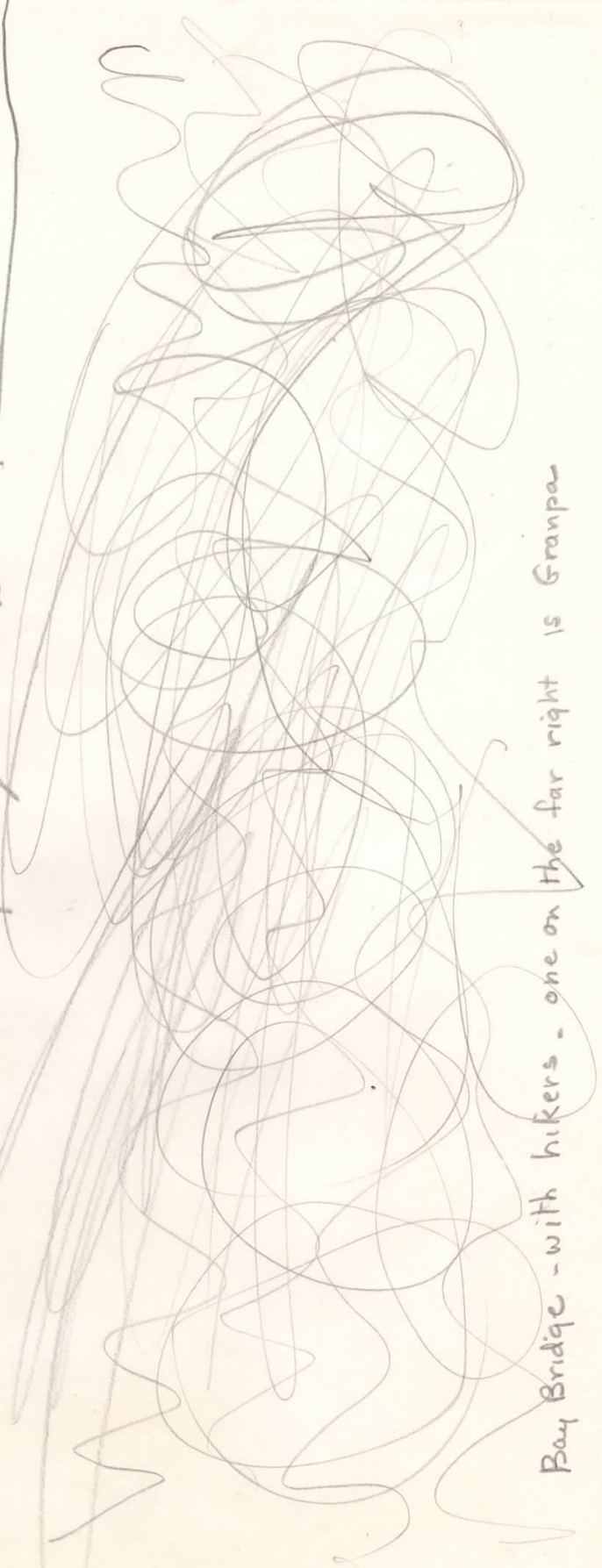
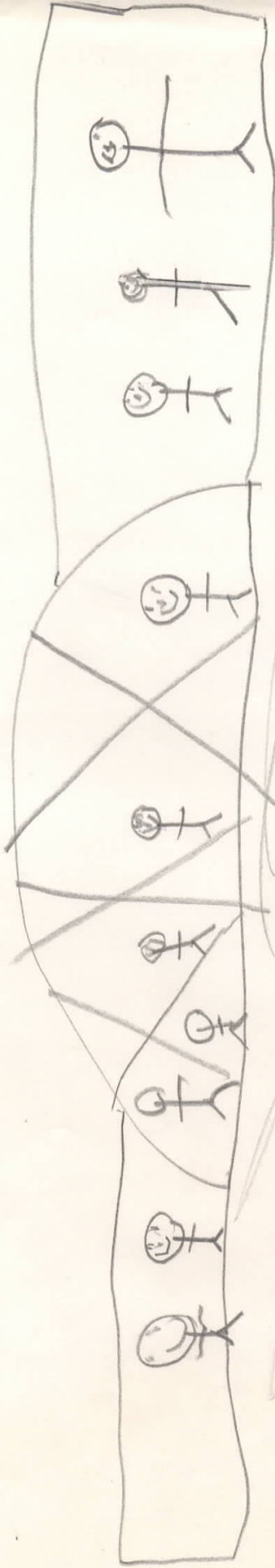
On April 13 the Hika nation people and a lot of other people walked across the BAY BRIDGE to Oakland. They went very early in the morning. It is seven miles - a very, very long bridge. The police stopped cars from two lanes while the hikers were there. John hiked, Karen hiked, and someone was in a wheelchair. The Pyles pushed their baby across the bridge in her stroller.



John is crossing the bridge.



NICK



Bay Bridge - with hikers - one on the far right is Granpa

CALIFORNIA

Did you ever have a blister?

It's a place on your heel or toe that is like a pocket with water in, under the skin. It hurts.

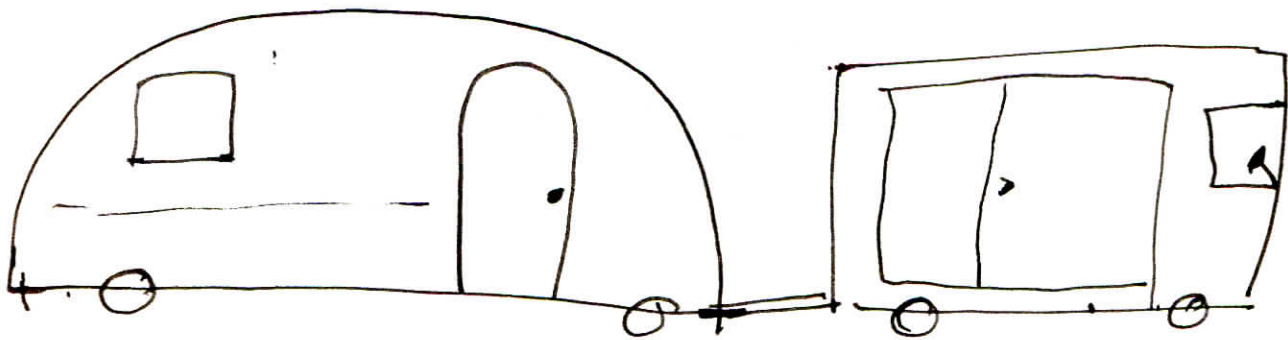
You get blisters when you have new shoes that are stiff or tight, or when you walk a long way and your feet get hot.

Nearly everyone in Hik-a-Nation got blisters in California before their feet got toughened up.

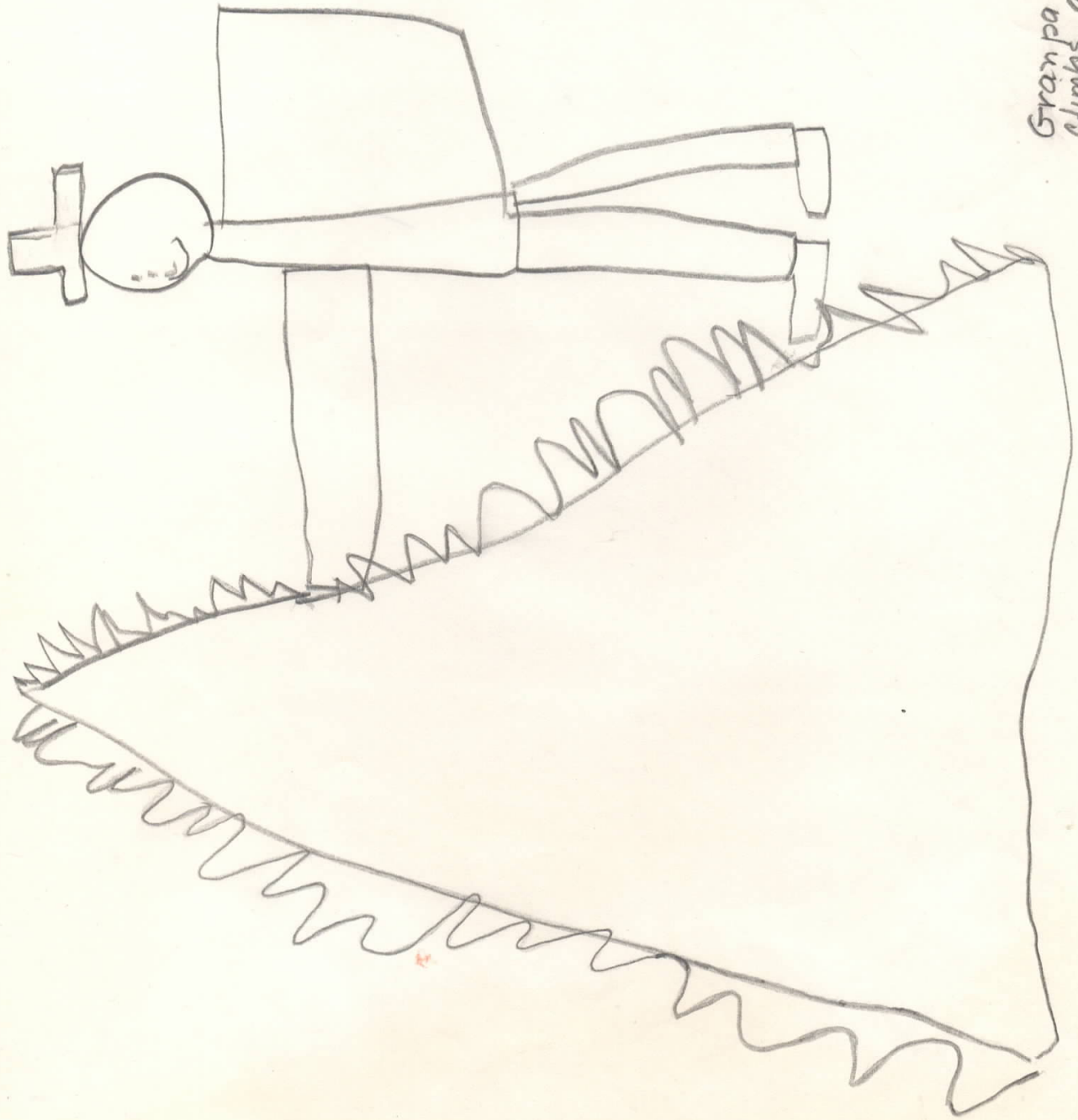
Granpa was no exception. He limps into camp, but he will not give up!

A square car is called a van. The hikers van has a big tank of water. Monty drives it and it is called "Monty's Spring".

The van pulls an Airstream Trailer. Monty lives in it. He helps Granpa and the other hikers.



When the hikers have sore feet or a stomach ache they ride in the van. Not granpa. He has walked every step of the way - so far.



Grampa with his pack
climbs a mountain

Washing Clothes

How do you wash clothes when you are hiking across the nation?

All you carry is one set of clothes - on your body. Your pack is heavy enough with a tent, water and food, a stove, fuel and a sleeping bag. You have a ~~+~~ first aid kit, rain jacket and pants, some sweaters for cold nights.

At the water hole you borrow a bucket from the van and fill it with water. Take off your dirty clothes and put on the rain pants. Then, put the soiled things in the water. Squeeze it out and rub some soap on. Twist and turn, then put it back in the water and swish it around.

Next thing, take the clothes out, lay them in the sun to dry. If it is a warm day they will be dry soon and you can put them on again.



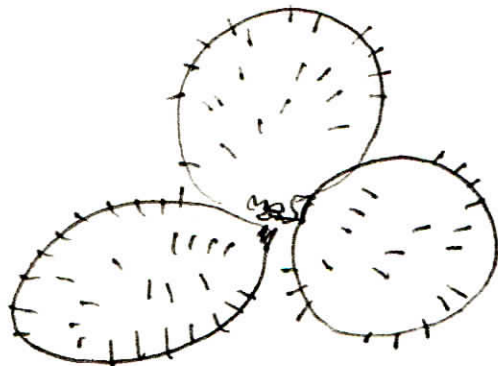
Nevada

From the border of Nevada to Tonapah we are in high country. Across the Sierra Mountains we came to the high desert. It is cold. It snows. It is windy. There are no trees.

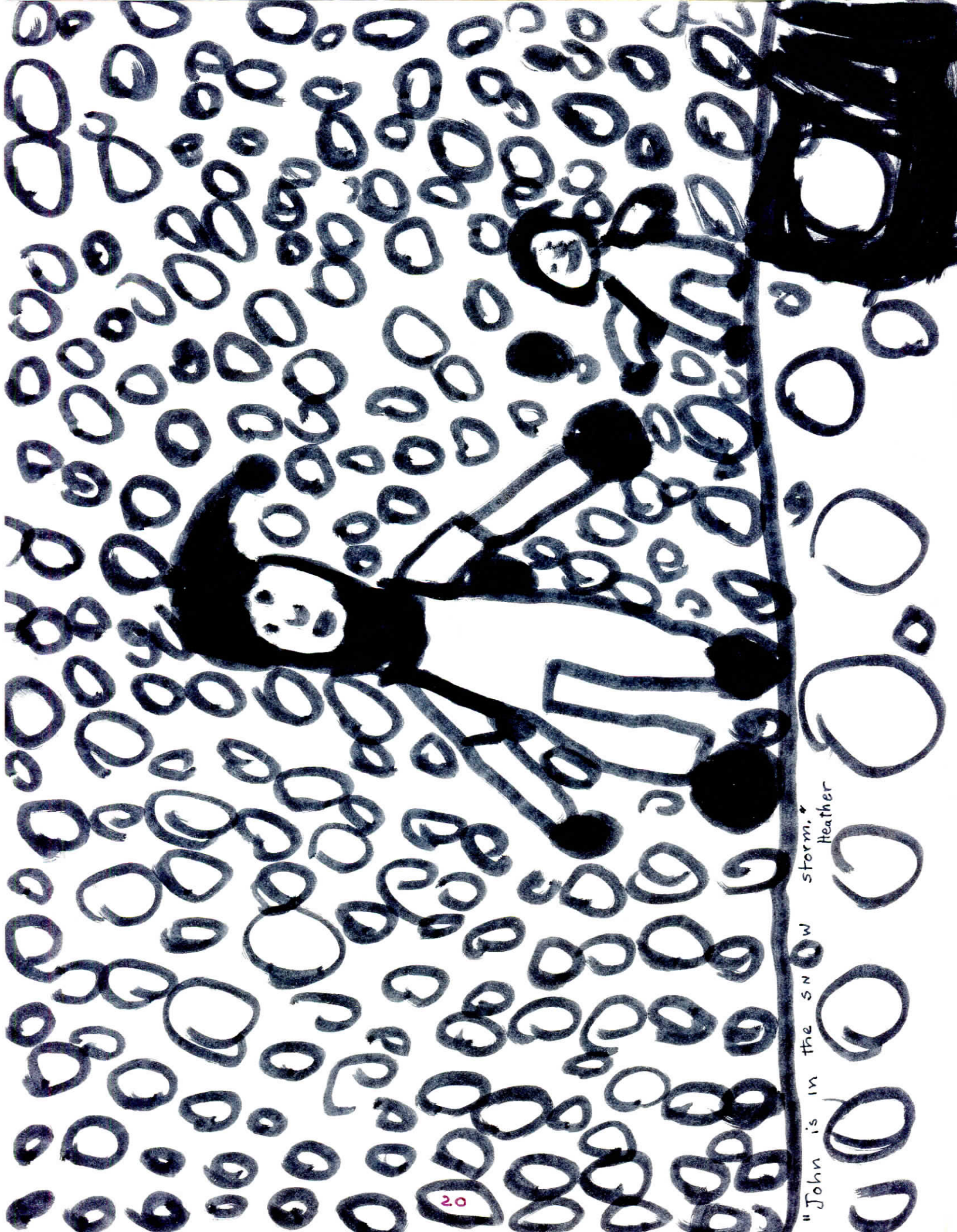
The routes were once trails. They are now roads. They go from one spring or waterhole to another. Men cannot live without water.

Granpa saw a rattlesnake crossing the road. He took a picture of it, but he got his thumb across the lens.

At Tonapah the wind was blowing so hard they cancelled the parade and had the "street dance" in the school gym.



Prickly Pear
"ouch"



"John is in the snow storm."
Heather

John is looking for a shoemaker. In Tonapah there is a shoemaker but he has gone fishing. John's heels are worn down. It gives him a pain in his ankle to walk on the side of his foot.

He is drinking a bottle of beer and talks to the men in the tavern. They tell him:

"Even if the shoemaker was at his shop he would not fix Granpa's shoes because he only fixes cowboy boots."



The One-Armed Bandit

That is the name for a slot machine.

It is legal in Nevada.

It is a machine for gambling.

You put some money in and pictures go round and round.

If it stops with the same pictures all in a row

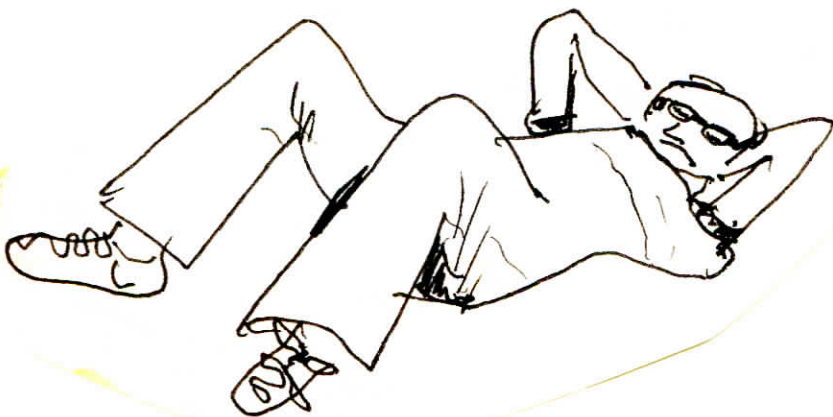
You win some coins and they come clattering out.

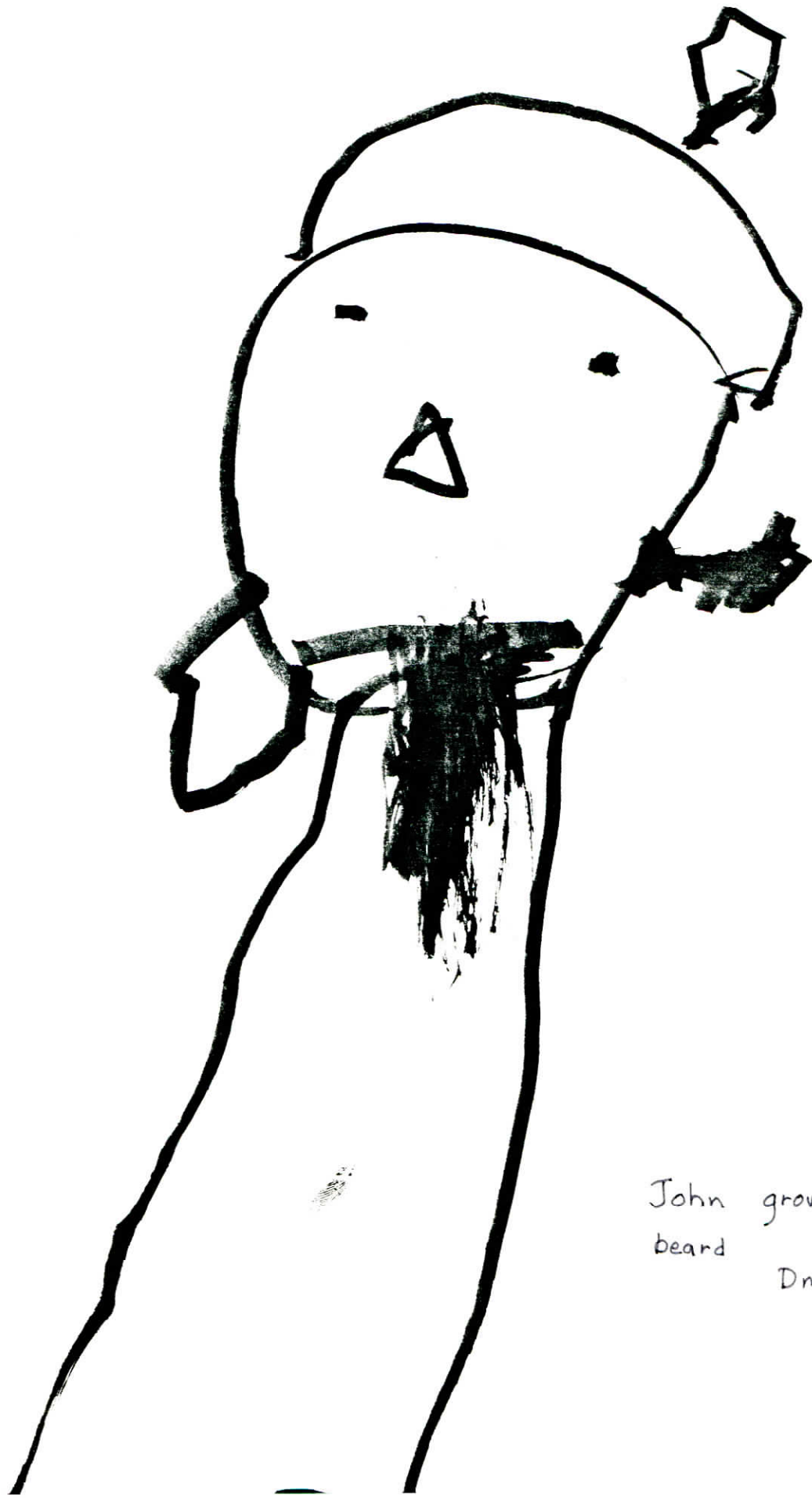
Then other people put money in and they don't win.

The machine is fixed so hardly anybody wins.

You have to be really dumb to throw your money away to a one armed bandit.

Granpa lost 75 cents.





John growing a
beard
Dmitri

Growing a Beard



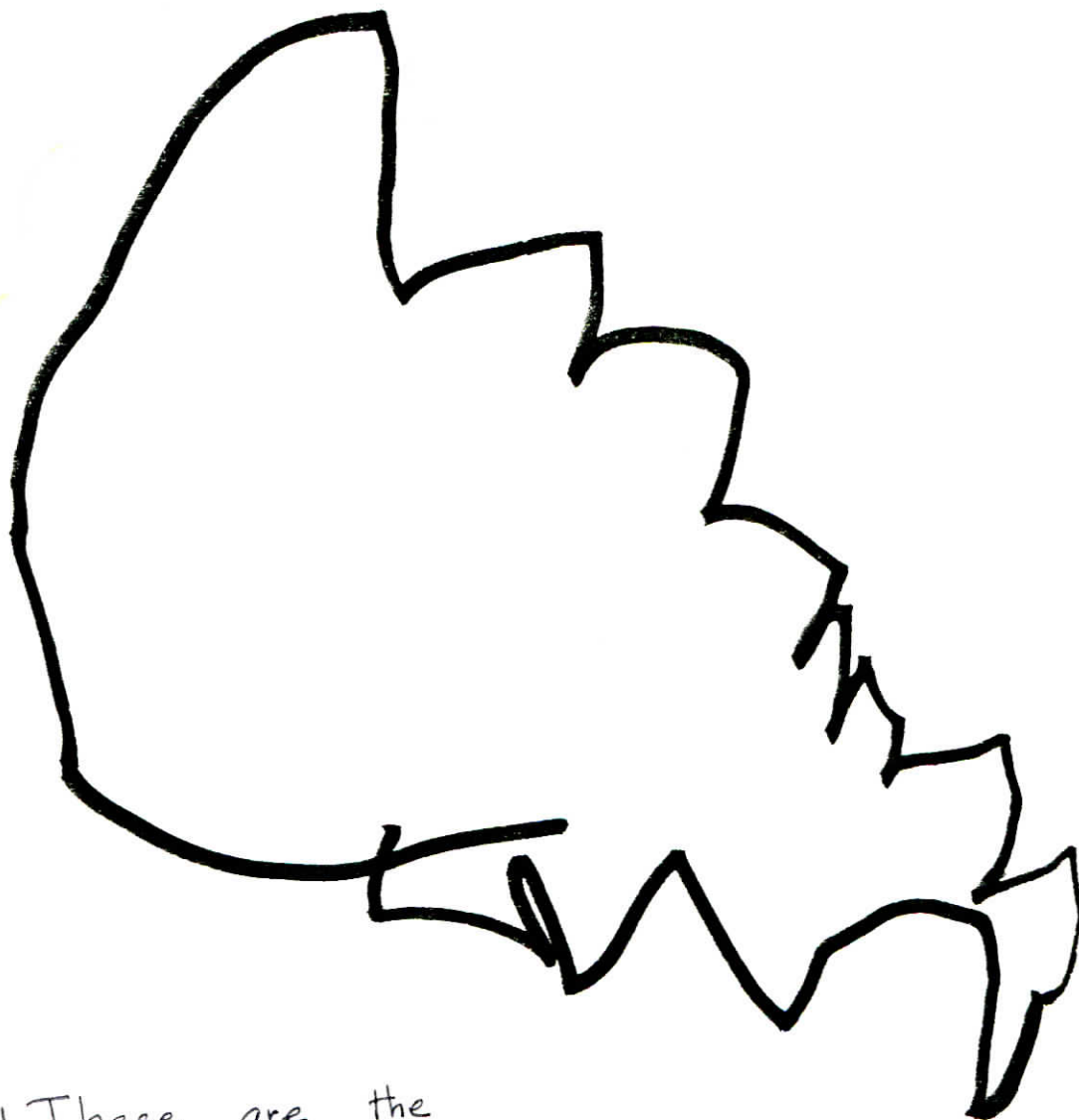
John Stout, 68, believes in walking.

John took a razor in his pack when he went on the hike. Pretty soon he sent it home.

Hair started to grow on his face. It was white and curly. John's other hair is straight and yellow.

The beard grows and grows. The hair on his head is growing too, but not on the bald places.

Now Granpa looks like Santa Claus, or one of the shoemakers in Snow White. Some people think he looks like an old prospector in the WILD WEST. Grandma thinks John's beard looks sexy.



"These are the
mountains John walked
over"

Dmitri



How to Cook

Everything tastes pretty good when you are really hungry.

You have granola with dry skim milk for breakfast, powdered coffee to drink.

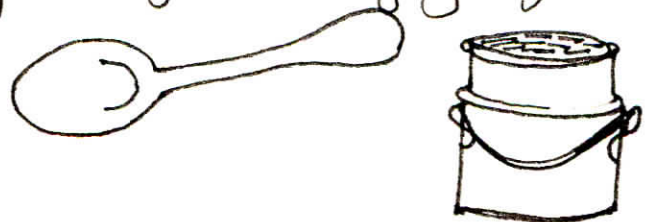
You heat water on a wobbly camp stove. It only has one heat, too hot or too cold. If you don't get the pan on the stove just right, it tips over. Then you have to start again. I hope you have enough water.

Lunch is nibbles: cheese and crackers, raisins, nuts, an apple, and candy. Would you believe it, you get tired of eating candy?

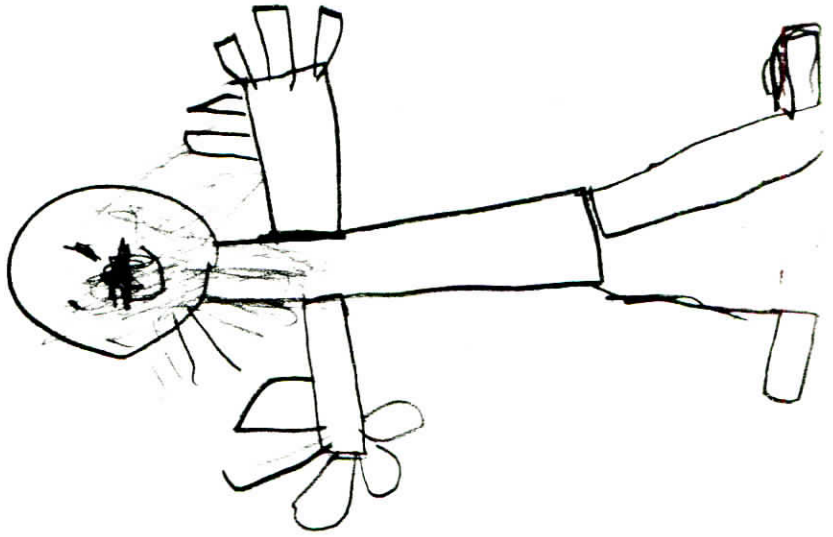
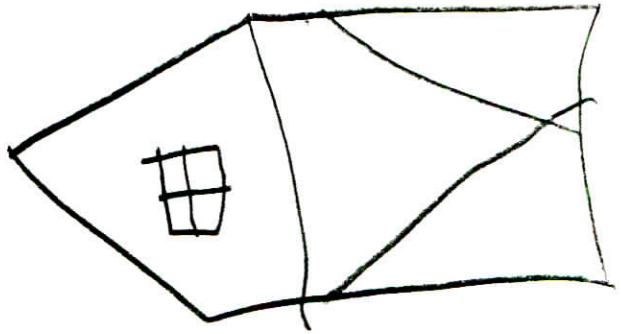
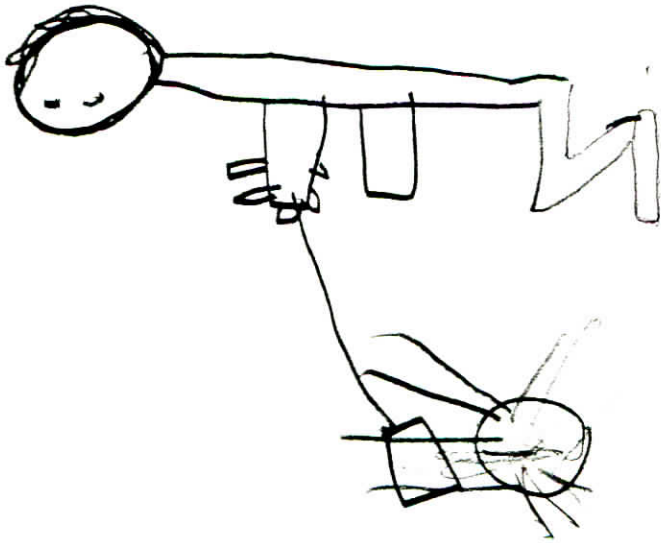
At dinner you eat "Mountain House". It has different names like "Beef Straganoff", "Chicken noodle", "beans and ham", but they all seem to taste alike.

They are easy to cook. You open a package, pour hot water in and wait 5 minutes. Then you eat it.

If you are very, very hungry you don't wait 5 minutes.



Granpa with beard. Another
hiker is roasting hot dog over
the camp fire.



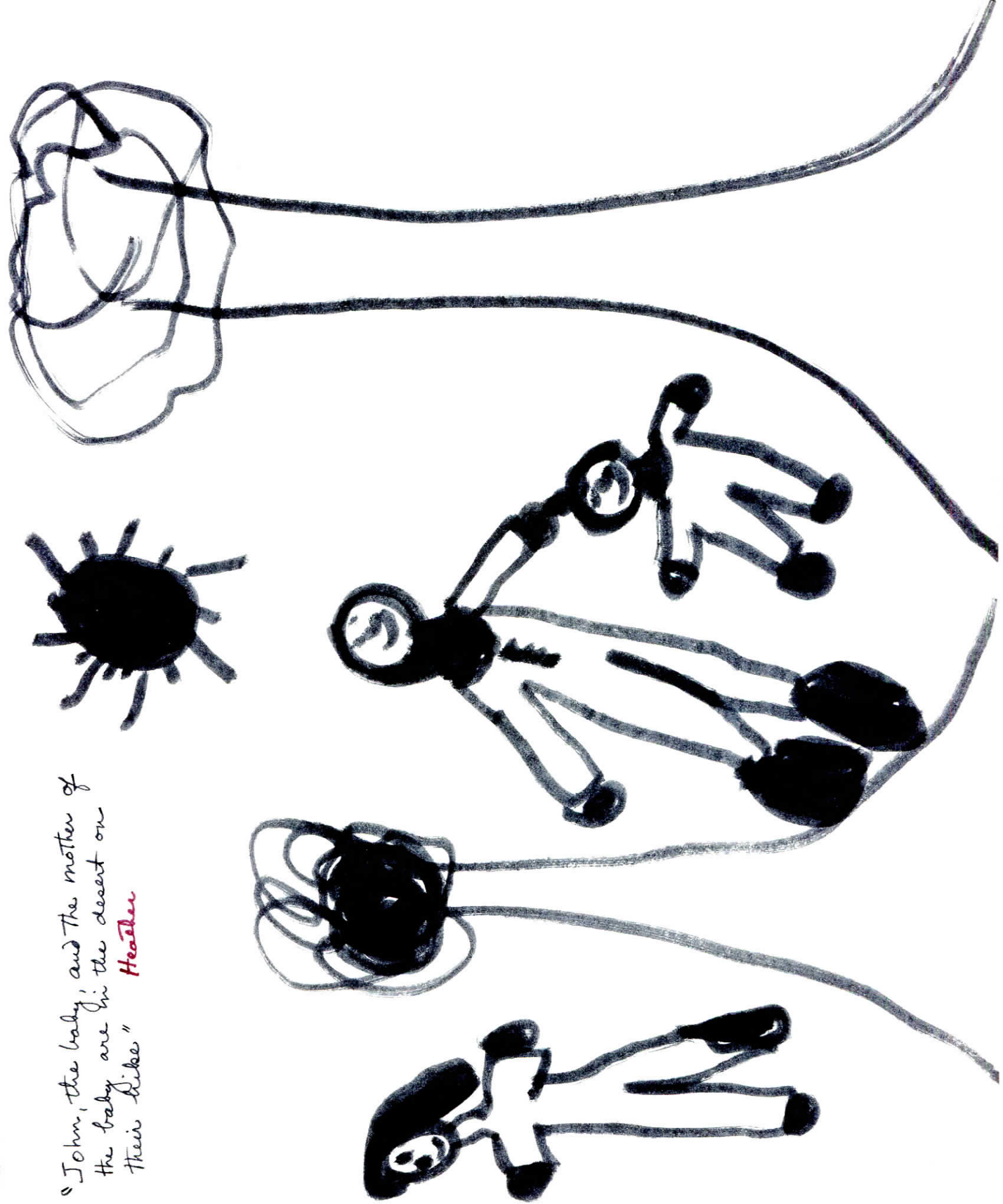
SWIMMING

It gets very hot in the desert in Summer. Dark Canyon in Utah is not dark at all. It boils in the sun. There is a river running through. John hiked along the river. Sometimes steep rocks come close to the water and he had to wade across. He wore sneakers. When he got hot and tired he rested and went swimming in a deep pool of water.

Sometimes it was more than 100°. It was too hot to walk in the sunshine. Then John took a nap. After dark he picked up his pack and hiked all night.

John found some arrowheads and pieces of pottery. Indians used to camp here because there is water.

"John, the baby, and the mother of
the baby are in the desert on
their bikes" Heather



A Visitor

When John got to Dove Creek, he phoned Helen and asked if she would come to Silverton, Colorado to see him.

She said "Yes".

Silverton is up in the mountains.

Helen hurried to get there on a plane, and bus.

John hurried to get there hiking with his packs.

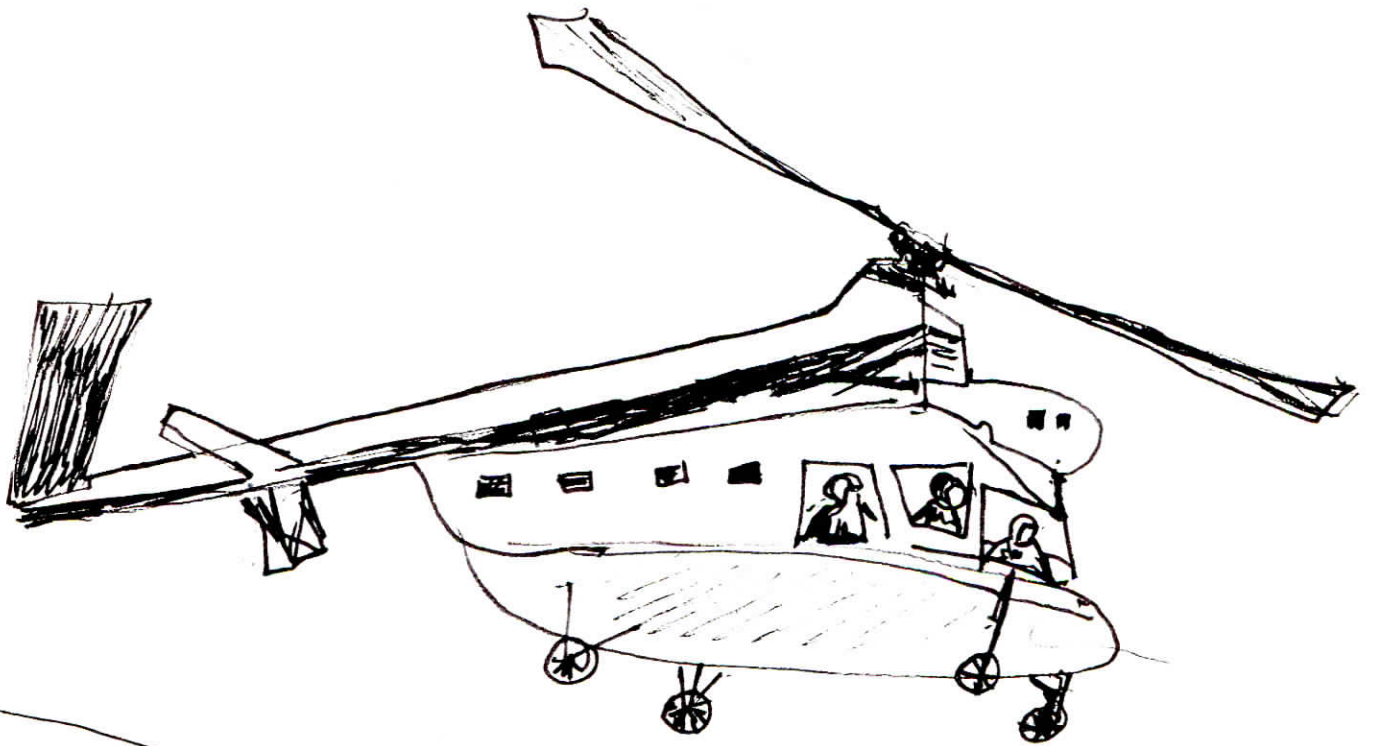
They hugged each other a long time, Then they walked to the camp.

One day when the wind was blowing very hard John was crossing a bridge. The wind blew his hat off his head into the water. The water carried it swiftly down the river. Granpa and grandma looked, but never could find it.

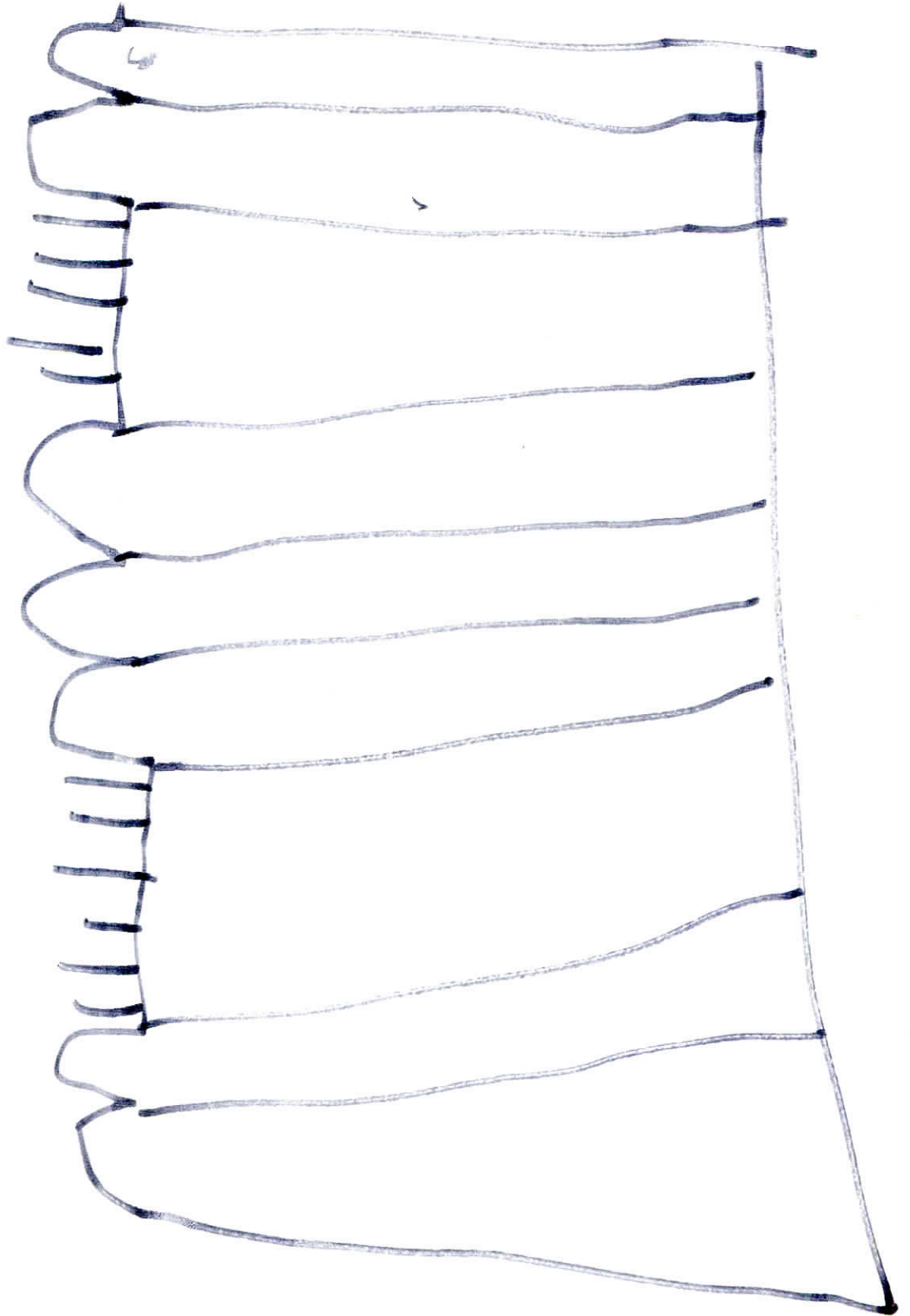
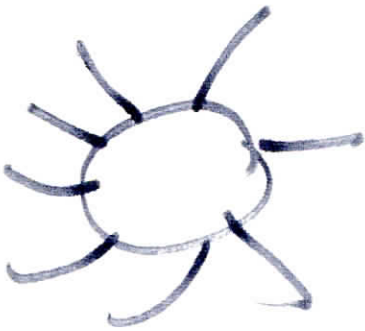


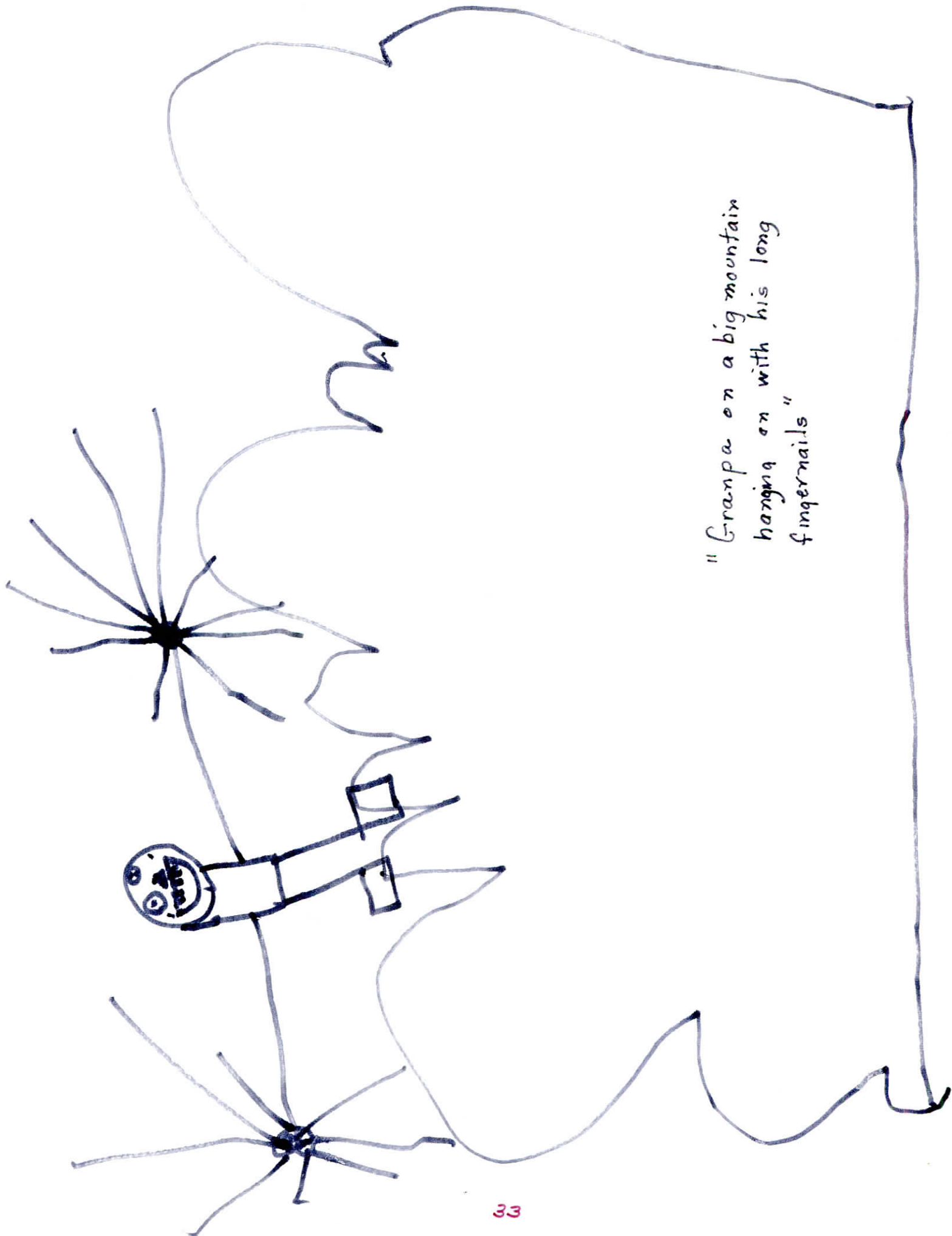
One day Helen went for a walk on a jeep road. She saw a helicopter. It looked as if it was flying into camp.

When Helen got back John told her he had a ride in a "chopper". The men in it were from a Denver T.V. station. They wanted to take a picture of some hikers arriving in Silverton with their packs. They asked John to be their guide. He was happy as he never had a ride in a helicopter before.



"Some big mountains
with the sun"
Mark





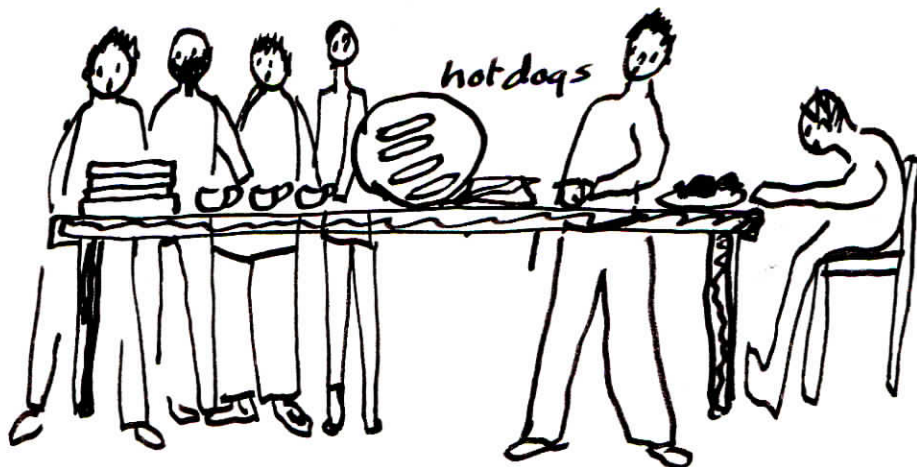
"Granpa on a big mountain
hanging on with his long
fingernails"

KANSAS

HikaNation loves Kansas. It has the nicest, friendliest people in the whole world living there.

The church ladies cooked fine dinners for the hikers; the teachers in the schools didn't worry about mud on the hikers boots getting in the school rooms; they invited them to come inside to sleep, and take hot baths in the gym.

In the old days of the "WILD WEST" there were bandits. They were buried in Boot Hill at Dodge City. Granpa will tell you about it when he comes home.



Bobby Burns

Bobby came to HIKANATION with two friends. He was 13 years old. Bobby is a Boy Scout. He can carry a big pack. He has his own tent, and sleeping bag and his own camp stove. His mother sends food. Bobby's friends went home but he wanted to keep on hiking.

When Bobby got to Alamosa, Colorado it was time for school to start. He is in the 8th grade.

He went home. Then he came back. The Principal said he can do his school-work and mail it to his teacher.

Bobby is the youngest hiker. He is responsible for himself, but he gets lots of advice.

Would you like to have 50 big brothers and sisters ?

A SAD STORY

Granny told me this, but not the name of the hiker. I'll call him Jeff. Everything but the name is true.

Jeff had an extra rest day. He decided to go to see a town that was not on the itinerary (that means "the plan"). He took his pack so he could stay overnight. It was 20 miles and he hitchhiked there.

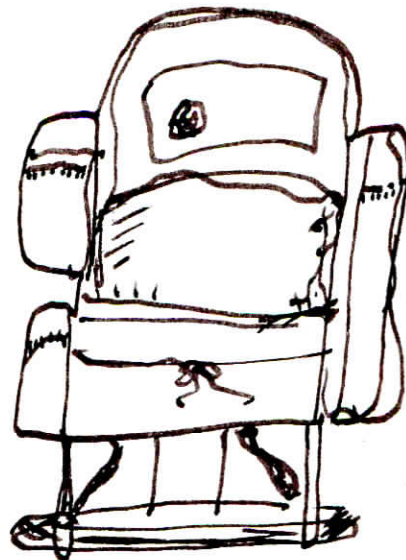
Then he was coming back. He stood by the highway and put out his thumb. A man in a car stopped. Jeff put his pack in the trunk. As he walked around to get in, the man pulled away and stole Jeff's pack.

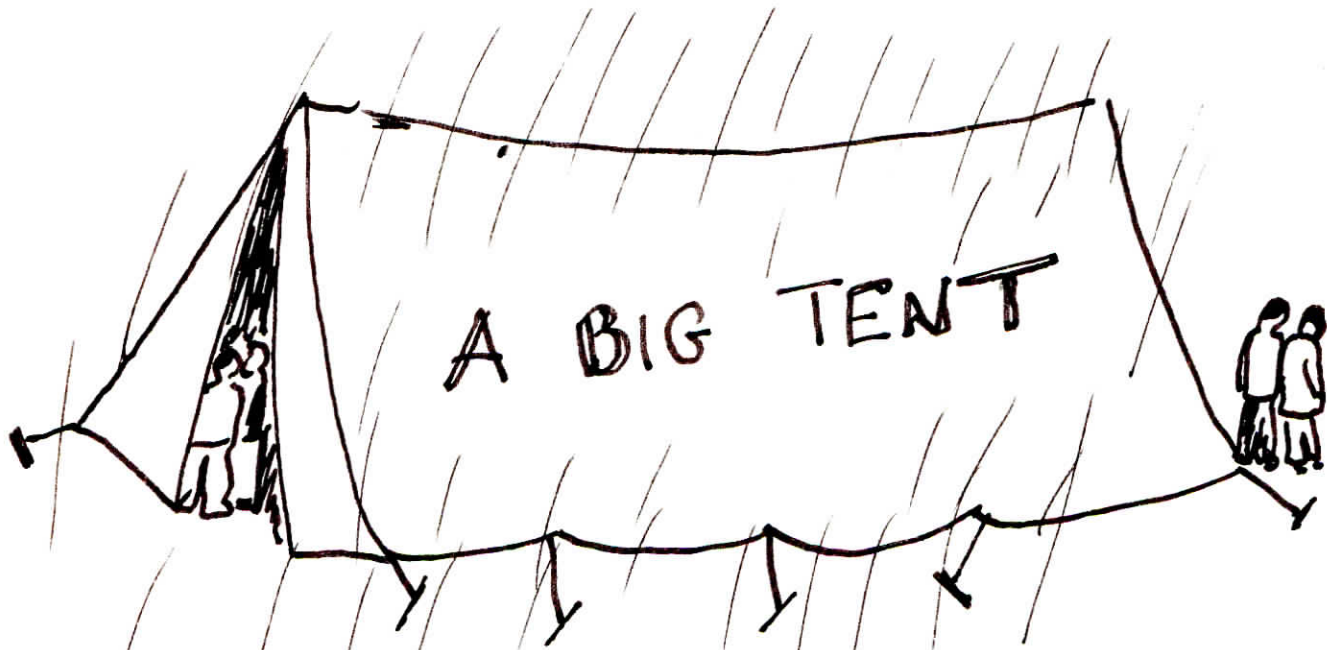
Jeff had no tent, no sleeping bag, no clothes and very little money. He went back to camp and said:

"Good bye"

He had to go home.

Jeff's
pack





In Oklahoma the hikers went along a waterway. They hurried to get to a ceremony to dedicate a National Recreation Trail called the "Jean Pierre Chouteau Trail." It was November 15. It was getting wintery, cold, windy and rain, the night before. But it was OK that day. Then it rained some more and began to snow.

The Forest Service had erected two huge army tents for shelter. Granpa decided to move inside the big tent to keep his gear dry. He had his pack inside when the tent collapsed on top of him. It was covered with wet snow. By good luck, he was not hurt. He crawled out. A crew got the tent back up. Then John went inside again. Next day was clear and warm.

Granpy hiked twelve miles.

Still Going

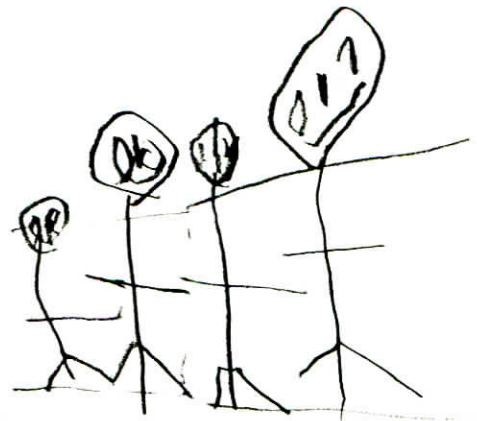
Hikamation is still going.
The hikers will cross Missouri.
They will skirt southern Illinois,
Then they will be in Kentucky,
and after that Virginia.

The hikers go a long way in Virginia
before they reach Washington DC.

Then John will come home.
Grandma can hardly wait.

When Granpa gets home I can
finish the story.
You can make the pictures.

Then we can all put on our packs
and go for a hike.





A Song

Hike along,
Hikanation,
Hike along,
Way across the USA.

California, city and Sierra
Nevada, finger straight across the prairie,
Utah, steep sided cliffs, the floor of
ancient oceans,
Colorado, catching moisture.

Kansas farms
Swing into Oklahoma,
Arkansas, Missouri.

Twelve million feet
Going strong
Hika Nation
Hike along.

Harpers Ferry is in West Virginia -
across ^{one} the river it is Maryland, and across
another river it is Virginia. John & Helen were
^{almost} the first hikers to get there because we had
hurried along. We stayed at the Youth Hostel
the first night because the Hikanation Camp
hadn't been set up yet. We stayed there the
second night too, because it was raining and
had a nice hot shower; then Helen drove the
car to the camp and John hiked there, 5 miles.
We put up the blue tent (the one Helen brought
in the car) in a big field on top of a hill.

Helen's birthday was there. We bought some
cakes, but we didn't have a party until the
next day because it was raining hard.

We had a big camp at Harpers Ferry because
some new hikers joined ~~the~~ there. Some of those
who had hiked before came back.

~~The last day there was~~ John & Helen went
sight-seeing and wanted to get a parking permit
for the car so ~~that~~ Helen ^{for it} could hike for two
days and then come back. We hiked all over
town trying to find the right place to get it.
Then we never did need it as Terry said he
would drive the car to the next camping place.

On the last day there was a big breakfast
picnic and lots of speeches. It took all morning.

~~At noon~~ The gave us an American flag. It was ~~was~~ on a bamboo pole (bamboo is light weight) and John was asked to be the flag bearer. He carried it 5 days to Washington.

We marched through the town to the river. There was a ~~port~~ there where John Brown tried to free the slaves before the Civil War 120 years ago. We had our pictures taken near a canon.

Then we all hiked over a railroad bridge across the Patomac River. Helen thought it was a scarey because a train might come. But it didn't.

After that we had to hike 15 more miles! That was a lot. It was hot, and Helen was not used to walking that far even in a whole day. She was very glad when we got to the first camp along the C + O canal because her feet were very sore. Some of the new people also had very sore feet.

C + O Canal.

Along the river we went. The weather was sultry - hot and humid. ^{Monday} Tuesday was a very rainy day. Helen and John had were going to meet Harriet, Karen and Mark. Helen went in the car. The windshield wiper didn't work. It got stuck and sometimes you couldn't see, and you had to put the window down and put your hand out in the rain. Finally I found the right place. There was a grocery store 1/2 mile up the road. I ate lunch at the store and while I was there the others came too. They ate, but John did not come. We went to the trail and waited a long time. We asked everybody if they had seen ^{John} us. After a long time someone told us they were sure he had gone by without stopping - so we all went along to the next camp.

One of the people who joined the hikers along the Canal was also called John. He hiked the 62 miles from Harpers Ferry to Washington in a wheel chair. It was rough and his hands got raw. ~~It was very hard.~~ Finally some of the hikers attached ropes to the wheel chair and helped to pull ~~on this rainy, muddy day.~~ John was a wet, muddy fellow when he got to camp.

~~When we got to the camp we decided 'I~~

Mark's Hike

On Tuesday Karen, Harriet and Mark hiked all day. It was a 13 mile day - Mark had a little flag like Granpa's big one. It was a good feeling to hike with Granpa - Mark² was wearing Nike's and by lunch time he was tired, and his feet hurt. He began to go stower, but tried not to complain. This was the day we were going to get to Washington D.C. We would cross the C+O Canal in a little ferry boat which just had room for 6 people, standing up. The people in the boat pulled on a rope rope and that got you across.

That night Mark and Karen camped with Hika nation in the blue tent. It was very late when we got to bed and ~~very early when we got up in the morning.~~

~~Now many of the hikers had flags. Granpa had a new one, and there was a flag for each state that a hiker came from. ~~Two~~ Two people carried a Hika nation Banner. ~~There~~ Almost every one who didn't have a flag had a Camera. It was a beautiful Sunny day -~~

Washington Parade.

May 13. You could see who was a Stout.
We all wore tee shirts that said
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY
ACROSS THE USA. 1980-1981

Mark's said

" Sohn Stout
My Granpa."

Karen and Harriet had "MY DAD".

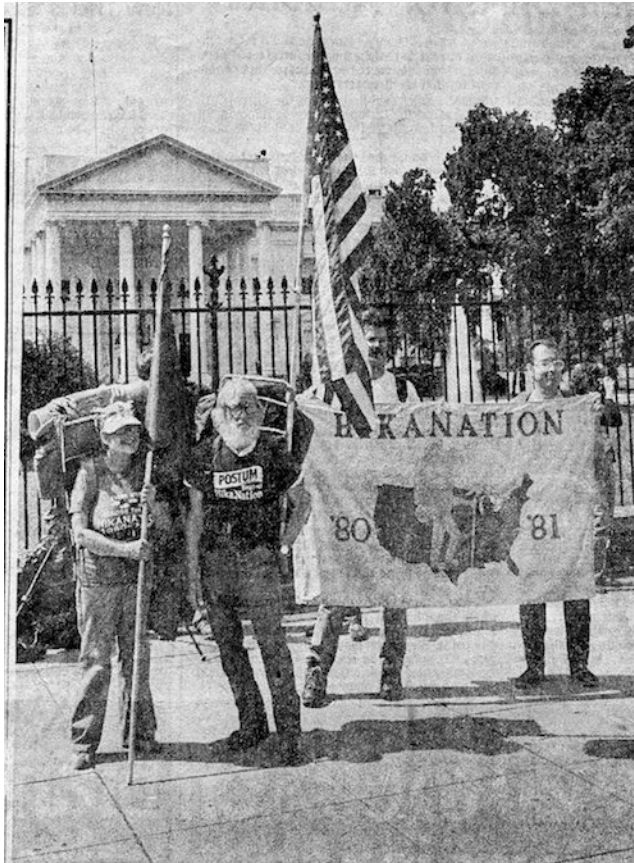
T.V. Reporters and photographers came to take
our picture - and newspapers too.

Policemen on motorcycles came with us to

We stopped in front of the White House.

We stopped at the Washington Monument
and again at the Lincoln Memorial.

Then we all walked down the Mall to the
Capitol. Someone gave us instructions about our
flags. They had to be carried down low. At
the Capitol the National Coast Guard Band was
playing. ~~He~~ Granpa almost wanted to cry.
It seemed like a dream.



The Washington Star/Bernie Boston

Backpackers Finish Hike Across the Nation

After 13 months of walking across the nation, 70 backpackers arrived at their destination - the nation's capital - yesterday. For extra measure they strode down Pennsylvania Avenue and stopped for pictures in front of the White House. The trek started in San Francisco April 12, 1980 with a walk across the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge accompanied by 10,000 friends. The Postum HikaNation hikers traveled 12 to 20 miles a day, six days a week. Eight hikers came from the Washington area.

