

It's a long ride home."

"Thanks just the same," said Cob. "Come back again and I'll tell you about my riverboat days."

Libby was just about to get on her horse when she said, "Janna, why didn't we think of this before. We can get the horses to pull the riverboat out of the mud. Come on!"

"That sounds like a good plan," said Janna.



Libby led the horses into the water while Janna tied a rope from the saddles to the boat. Then the horses pulled and pulled. The rope twisted until it looked as if it would snap. Slowly, very slowly, the riverboat began to slide out of the mud. It began to float.

Janna, Libby, and Cob let out a yell when the riverboat finally floated free of the muddy bottom.

"Well!" yelled Cob to Janna and Libby. "You girls have saved my old riverboat. I'm so happy I could eat my hat."

Libby and Janna grinned from ear to ear. They were wet and muddy but just as happy as Cob.

Cob jumped on board his riverboat with a happy shout and waved goodbye to the girls.

Libby got back on her horse. "Come on, Janna," Libby said. "We had better get going."

Janna was still standing on the riverbank waving to Cob. "Come back and see us!" she called.

And he did come to see them many times that summer and for many summers to come.