

Horseback Treasure Hunt

► It was Denny’s birthday, and his three best friends were coming to his grandfather’s ranch to ride horses and look for treasure. When his friends got there, Denny explained, “We’ve got to watch for clues in blue envelopes along the trail. The clues lead to a treasure that Grandpa hid this morning.”

Joe, Ray, and Hector couldn’t wait to get on their horses and ride down the trail. Denny and his grandfather led the way until Joe called out, “There’s something blue on that tree.” He rode over and grabbed the envelope off the low branch.

“Your next note is near a goat,” he read.

In a flash, the boys turned and rode down to the goat pen where Ray found the next envelope on a fence post. It read, “Find high ground, then look down.”

“I think we’re supposed to ride to the top of that hill,” said Denny. “It’s the highest place around.”

They rode to the top of the hill and searched for clues until Hector hollered, “The clue is sticking out from under this rock.” He jumped down and pulled the envelope free. “Take ten steps south and make them big, then grab a shovel and start to dig,” he read.

The boys joined arms and took ten steps south. They discovered three shovels and an orange circle painted on the ground. They all dug as dirt flew everywhere.

Suddenly Denny called, “Here’s a wooden chest!” Everyone watched while he lifted the lid. “There are four cowboy ropes here,” he said. “They’re ropes like a real cowboy would use!” The boys were happy and proud that they had found the hidden treasure.

Raising a Calf

► Some of your friends probably have pet dogs or cats. Others might have gerbils or goldfish. But do you know anyone who has a baby cow? It might astonish you to know that many children do! Every year, thousands of young people raise baby cows, or calves, to compete in livestock shows.

Imagine that you are going to raise a calf for a livestock competition. Get ready to work hard! First, you must prepare a place for your calf. It needs a clean, dry pen that is roomy enough to run around. The enclosure should have a good fence so the calf can't escape and get injured or lost. Before you put the calf in its new home, check to make sure there is nothing sharp or dangerous. Calves like to explore and put everything in their mouth. It is your responsibility to watch out for them and protect them.

Once you bring your calf home, provide food and water each day and make sure its pen is always clean. Your calf will need fresh water twice a day. The calf won't drink dirty water, so dispose of the previous water first. The calf's food should be fresh, too. Damp or dirty food is bad for the calf, so clean out any old grain or hay before you put out fresh food. Be careful to give your calf the proper amount of food. Eating extra food can make a calf sick. Never skip these chores because the calf depends on you for everything it needs.

If you take good care of your calf, it will grow quickly. Before you know it, it will be time to show your calf at a livestock show. You can be proud of all your hard work.

Skimboarding

▶ As the waves rolled onto the shore, a group of teens ran into the surf with funny round boards under their arms. Allie looked up from reading her book and watched them. When they reached the wet sand, they tossed their boards toward the incoming waves. Then, they quickly jumped onto them. Some of them fell flat into the water. Others were able to glide out into the surf or over the shallow water. One boy was even able to flip his board around and change direction, like a skateboarder. It looked like great fun and good exercise. Allie’s friend Morgan told her the group was skimboarding.

That night, after dinner, Allie asked her Dad if he had ever skimboarded. He hadn’t, but he said he would be willing to learn. They read about it together in a magazine. They decided they would rent boards and try it that weekend. Over the next few days, Allie studied the motions of the skimboarders carefully. From her reading, she knew that timing was very important.

When Saturday came, Allie was ready to head for the beach early. First, she and her dad practiced running to the shore and tossing their boards into the surf. Next, they repeated their first step and added the jump onto the board. On their first try, they both fell backwards into the surf and sat laughing at each other. This was not as easy as it looked!

After several attempts, they were each able to glide a little way on the water. Allie was proud of herself and her dad. They realized that it would take a lot of practice to become good at skimboarding. In the end, they decided that the fun they had together was well worth the effort!
