



# Tracks in the Grass

# **TRACKS in the Grass**



**FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS PEKING**

*1977*



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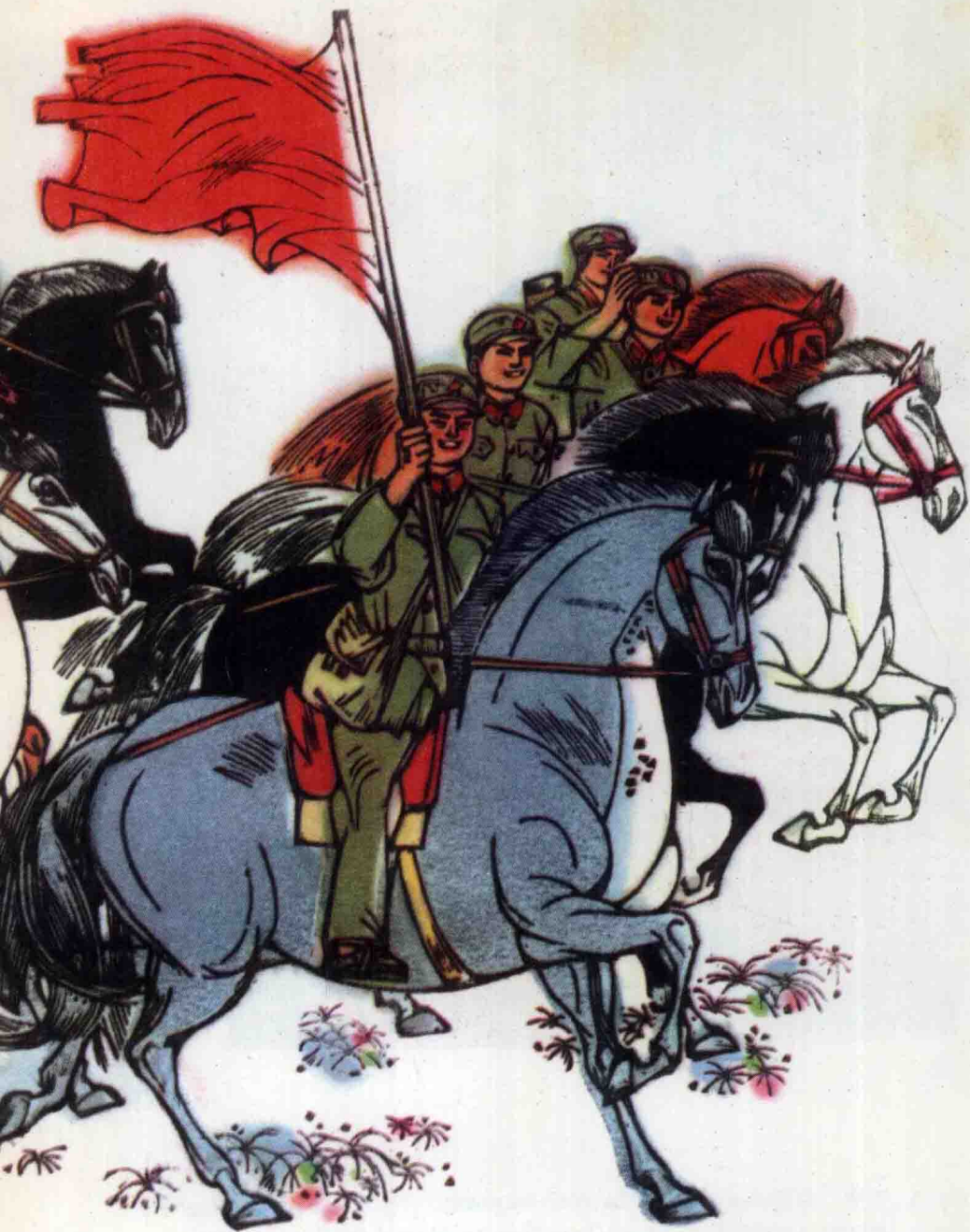






ONE DAY as the two boys are driving the cows home from the hill they see a cloud of dust along the road. People's Liberation Army men on horseback are heading for the village.







*As YENLA and Hsiao-tuan watch the mounted PLA<sup>a</sup> uncles race by, they give a happy shout and urge Grandpa to hurry home so as to see them at once.*

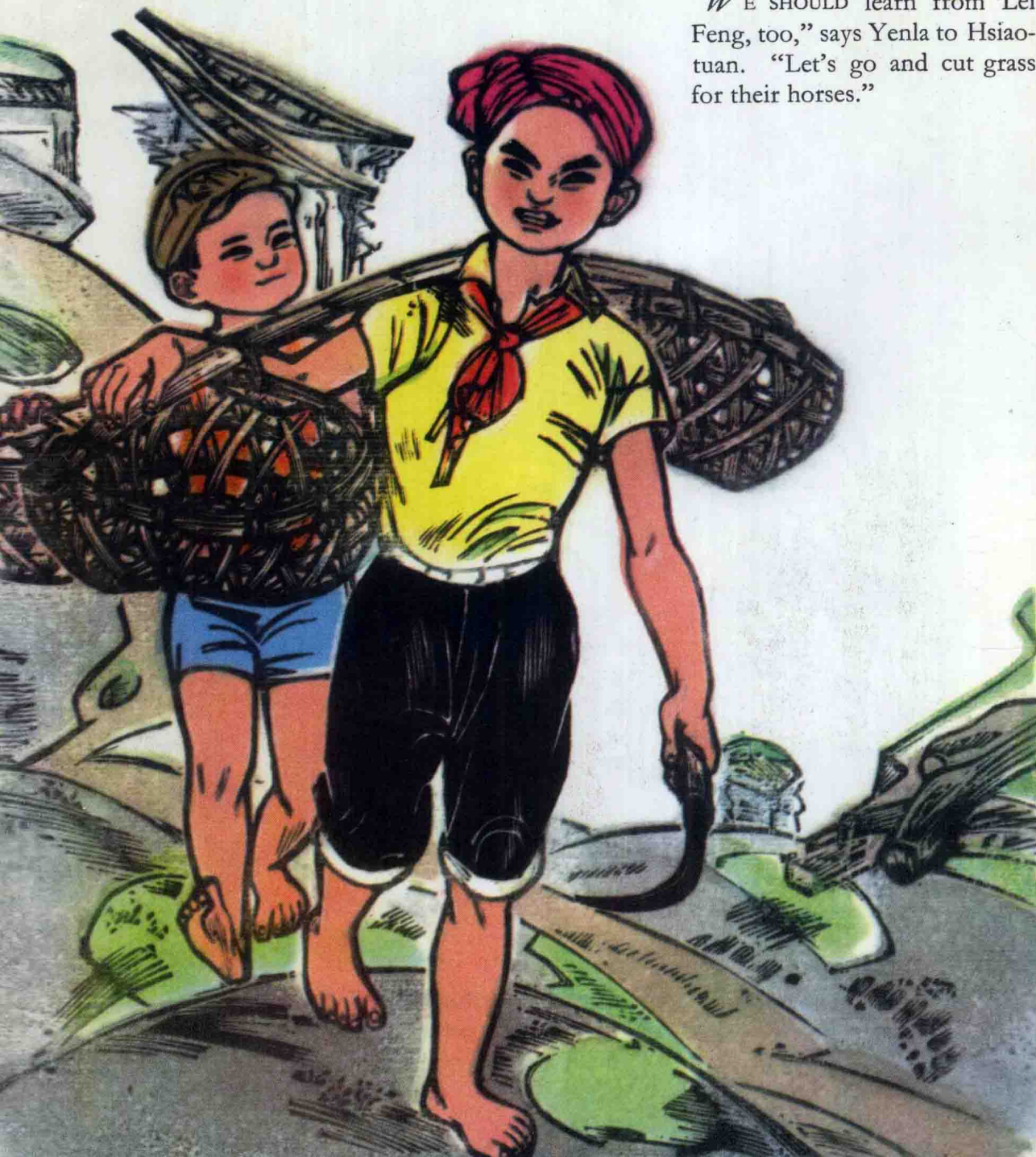




*W*HEN THEY get home, Grandma smiles and says, "These PLA comrades are just like Lei Feng. They no sooner come to camp for the night than they're out in the fields cutting rice. Why, they haven't even fed their horses."



"*W*E SHOULD learn from Lei Feng, too," says Yenla to Hsiao-tuan. "Let's go and cut grass for their horses."





THE MEADOW is like a thick green carpet. As they swing their sickles through the grass, drops of sweat fall into it. Their baskets will soon be filled.



SUDDENLY Hsiaotuan cries out. He has discovered two large eggs in the grass. "Look, duck eggs!" he exclaims.







*W*HAT WILL they do with the eggs? The two boys can't decide. Then Yenla says, "Better hatch them. When the ducklings grow up, they'll lay a lot more eggs and when the PLA uncles come next time we'll give them a good treat."



*W*HEN THE brothers take the grass to the PLA uncles for their horses, the company commander shakes their hands and praises them.



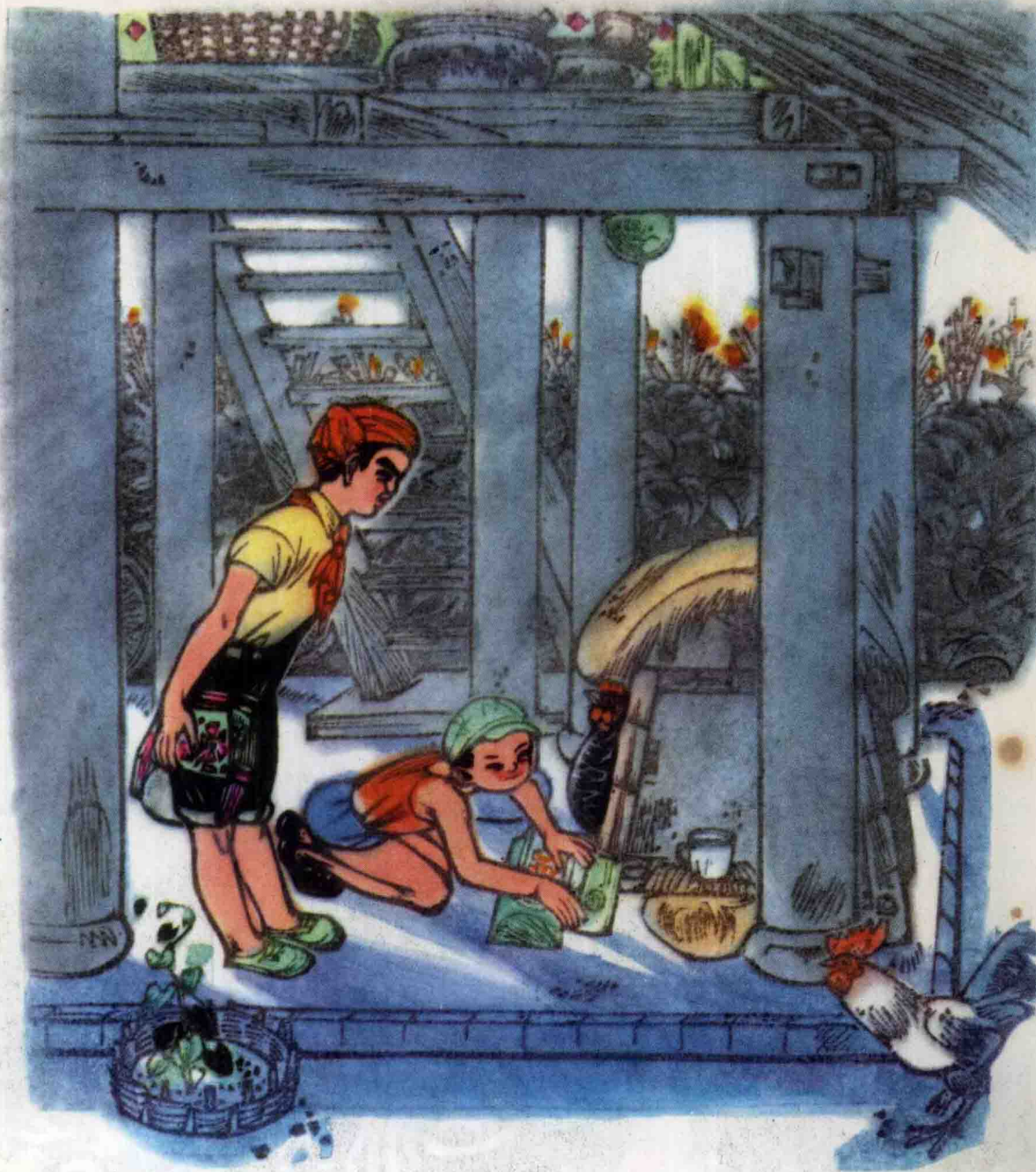


YENLA AND Hsiaotuan call at several houses looking for a brood hen, but can't find one. Finally they go to Meihan's house and find Meihan feeding a speckled brood hen. The two boys shout for joy.





THEY RUSH home to get the duck eggs. When they tell Meihan their plan, she is delighted. The three carefully place the eggs among the others under the hen.



YENLA AND Hsiaotuan can hardly wait for the eggs to hatch and go every day after school to watch the nest.



ONE DAY they see Meihan squatting before her new little chicks, looking worried. The speckled mother hen is clucking merrily with her chicks pecking around her.

