

downhill, he never forgot to put on the brake. James knew that these little things helped us save our energy and we were very thankful to him.

On the first day of the journey we travelled a great distance but it was getting dark so we had to stay at a hotel. James took us to the stables and made sure we were comfortable for the night.

Later, another young stable boy brought in a horse. He had a pipe in his mouth and talked to the other stable boys for a while.

The next thing I can remember was a burning smell that woke me up. It was dark and the stable was full of thick smoke. I could hardly breathe. I heard Ginger coughing and the other horses stamping their hooves uneasily. As I looked up, I saw flames.

'Fire!' I heard a man shouting as he came into the stables. He ran around untying the horses and then he pulled one horse with a rope. The horse did not move. He tried to pull out another horse but it didn't move either. He came to me, but I was so frightened that I could not follow him.

An older man came in. He was calm and this made us feel more relaxed so he was able to pull three horses out of the stables. Then I heard a voice I knew. 'Come on, Beauty,' said James and covered my eyes with a scarf. This made me feel more comfortable because I couldn't see the flames. He patted me and talked quietly to me as we walked out of the burning stables.

James gave the rope to a man outside and ran back in to get Ginger.

Suddenly I heard Squire Gordon's voice. 'James Howard! James Howard! Are you there?' he called. A long time passed before James came out of the burning stables with Ginger.

'You brave boy! James, you saved my best horses! Are you OK?' said Squire Gordon.

James couldn't talk and he just nodded his head.

The next day everybody was talking about the fire.

'How did the fire start?' asked a man, and another answered. 'One of the stable boys went into the stables with a pipe in his mouth.'

'John Manly always says that pipes are not allowed in the stables,' said James. Everyone agreed that this was a wise rule.

