

Written By Michelle Myers

Illustrated By Brian Whitfield

**Bridget & Little Mac's**

# **Birthday Trip**



# Bridget & Little Mac's Birthday Trip

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***Dedicated to:***

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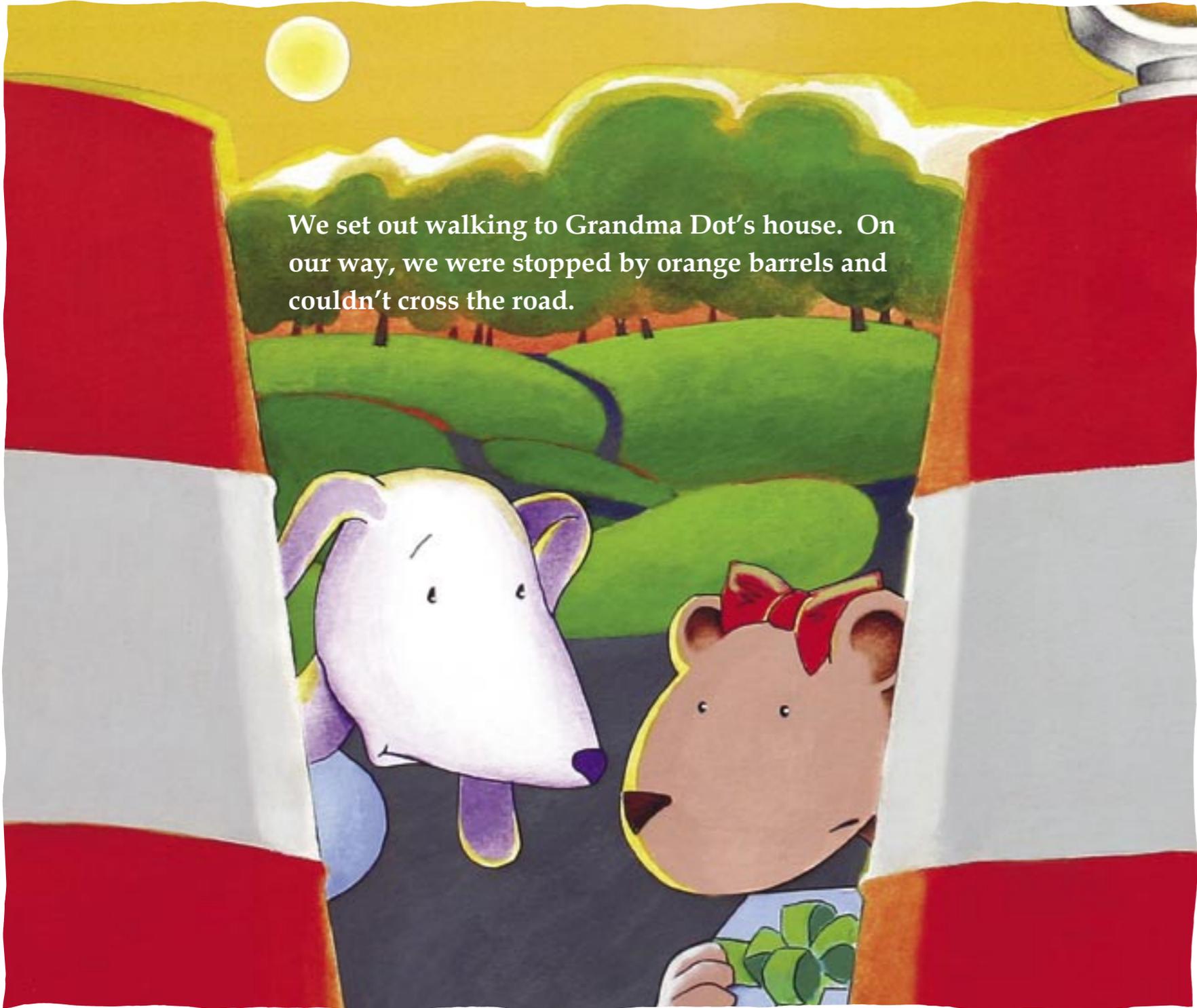
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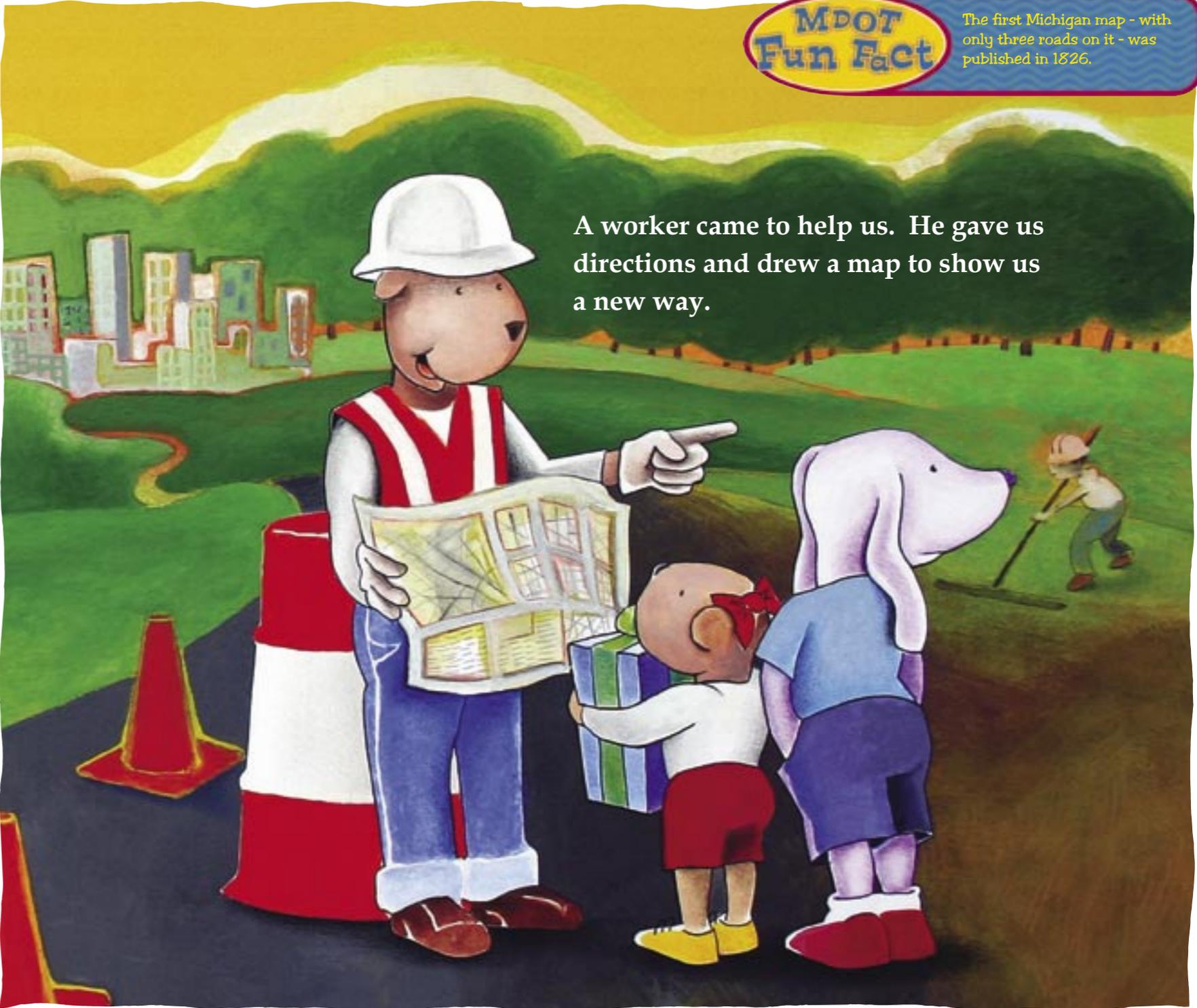
This book was written and illustrated to commemorate the Michigan Department of Transportation's 100th birthday in 2005. We hope you and your family enjoy the story of Little Mac and Bridget.

"Today is Grandma Dot's birthday! Are you ready to go, Little Mac?" Bridget asked. "Ready!" I answered. We were both excited about surprising Grandma on her 100th birthday. It was going to be a fun trip.





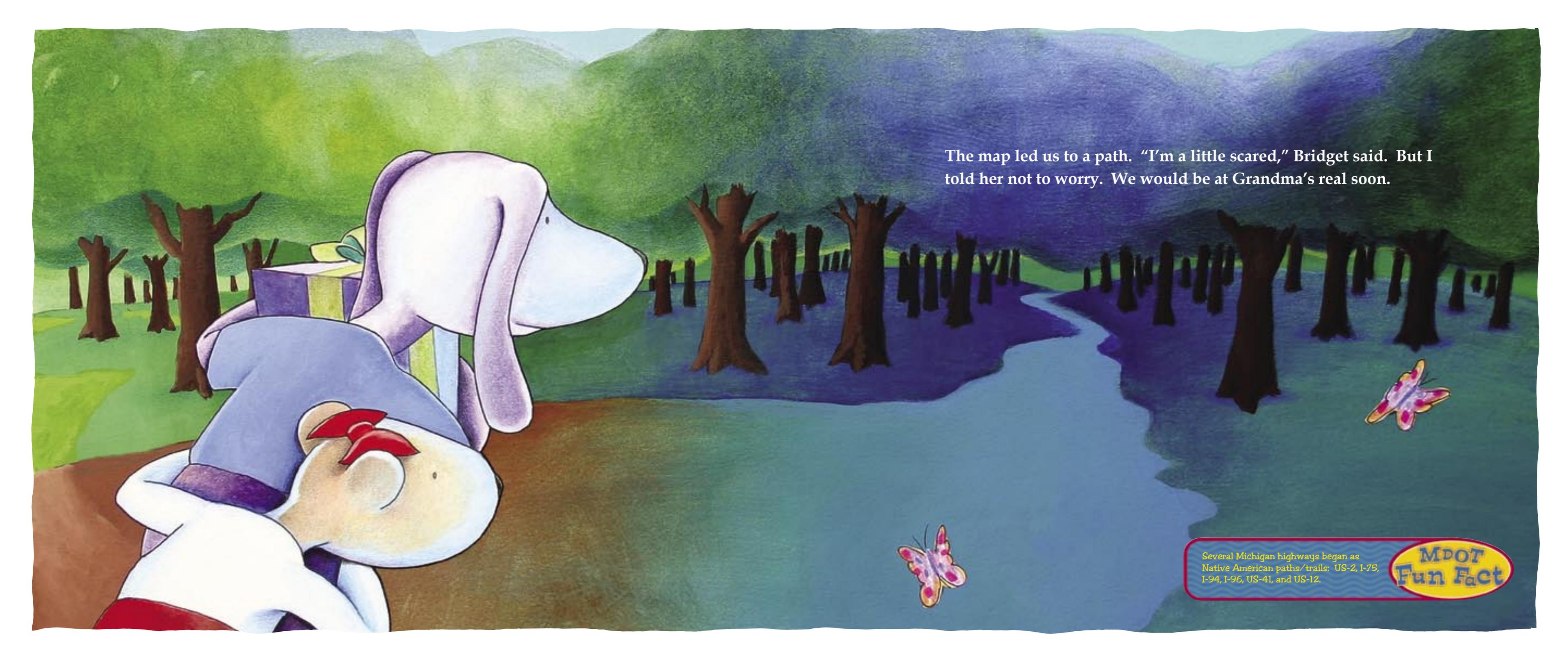
We set out walking to Grandma Dot's house. On our way, we were stopped by orange barrels and couldn't cross the road.



**MDOT  
Fun Fact**

The first Michigan map - with only three roads on it - was published in 1826.

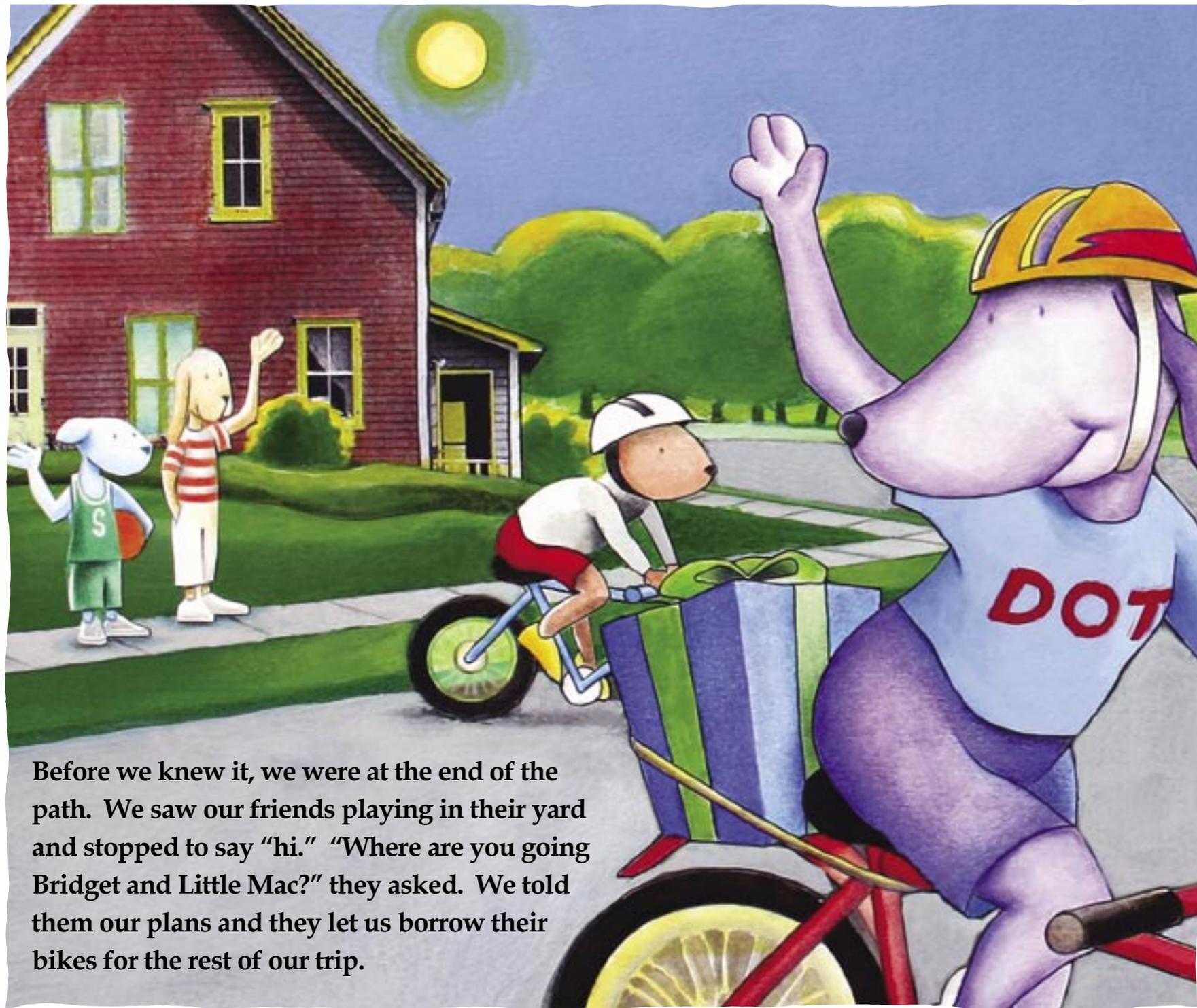
A worker came to help us. He gave us directions and drew a map to show us a new way.

A whimsical illustration of a landscape. In the foreground, a dog with long, floppy ears and a boy with a red bow in his hair are looking towards a path. The path leads through a field of trees with dark, gnarled trunks. The background features rolling hills in shades of green and blue. Two butterflies are flying in the air. The overall style is soft and painterly.

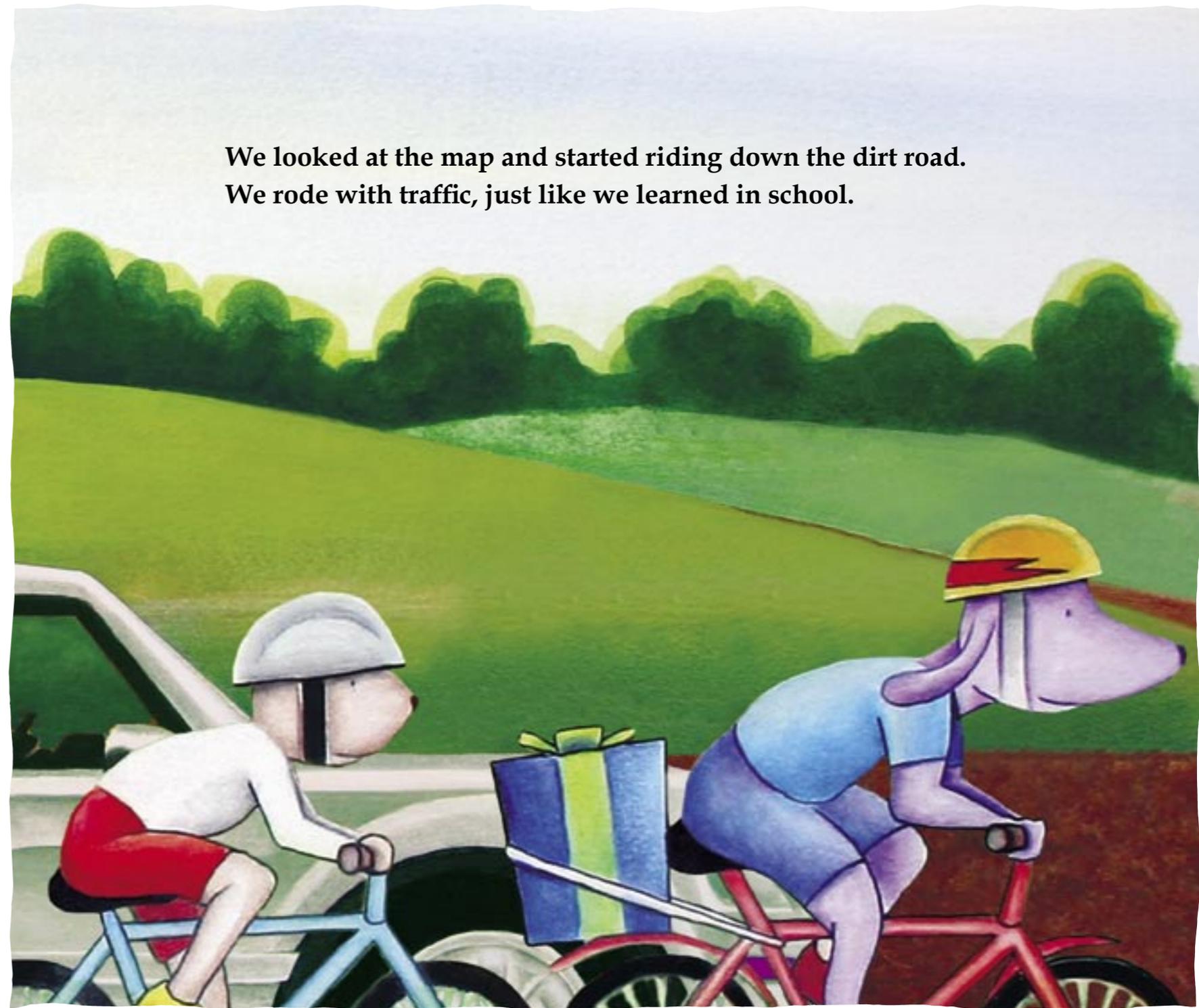
The map led us to a path. "I'm a little scared," Bridget said. But I told her not to worry. We would be at Grandma's real soon.

Several Michigan highways began as Native American paths/trails: US-2, I-75, I-94, I-96, US-41, and US-12.





Before we knew it, we were at the end of the path. We saw our friends playing in their yard and stopped to say "hi." "Where are you going Bridget and Little Mac?" they asked. We told them our plans and they let us borrow their bikes for the rest of our trip.



We looked at the map and started riding down the dirt road. We rode with traffic, just like we learned in school.

**MDOT  
Fun Fact**

Both the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit (1929), and the Mackinac Bridge (1957), were the world's longest suspension bridges when they were built.



**We crossed a bridge and stopped for a rest. There were many boats in the water. Some were small and fast, while others were large and slow.**



In 1818, Michigan's first steamboat traveled between Detroit and Buffalo, New York.

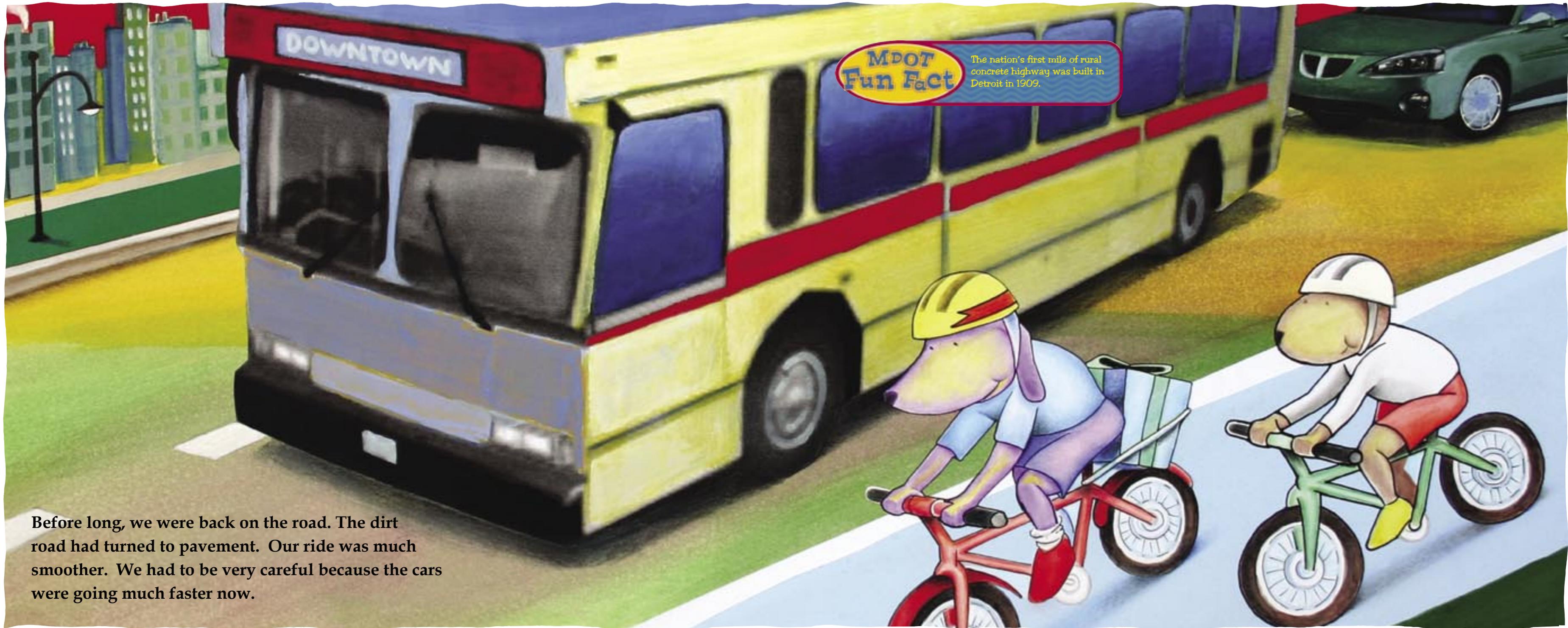
**MDOT  
Fun Fact**

As we started back on the road, we heard a loud horn and saw red flashing lights. Big gates blocked the cars from crossing. Just as we stopped, a train raced by. It was really long and we had fun counting all the box cars.



**MDOT  
Fun Fact**

The first functioning railroad in Michigan - the Erie and Kalamazoo Railroad - began operating in 1837.

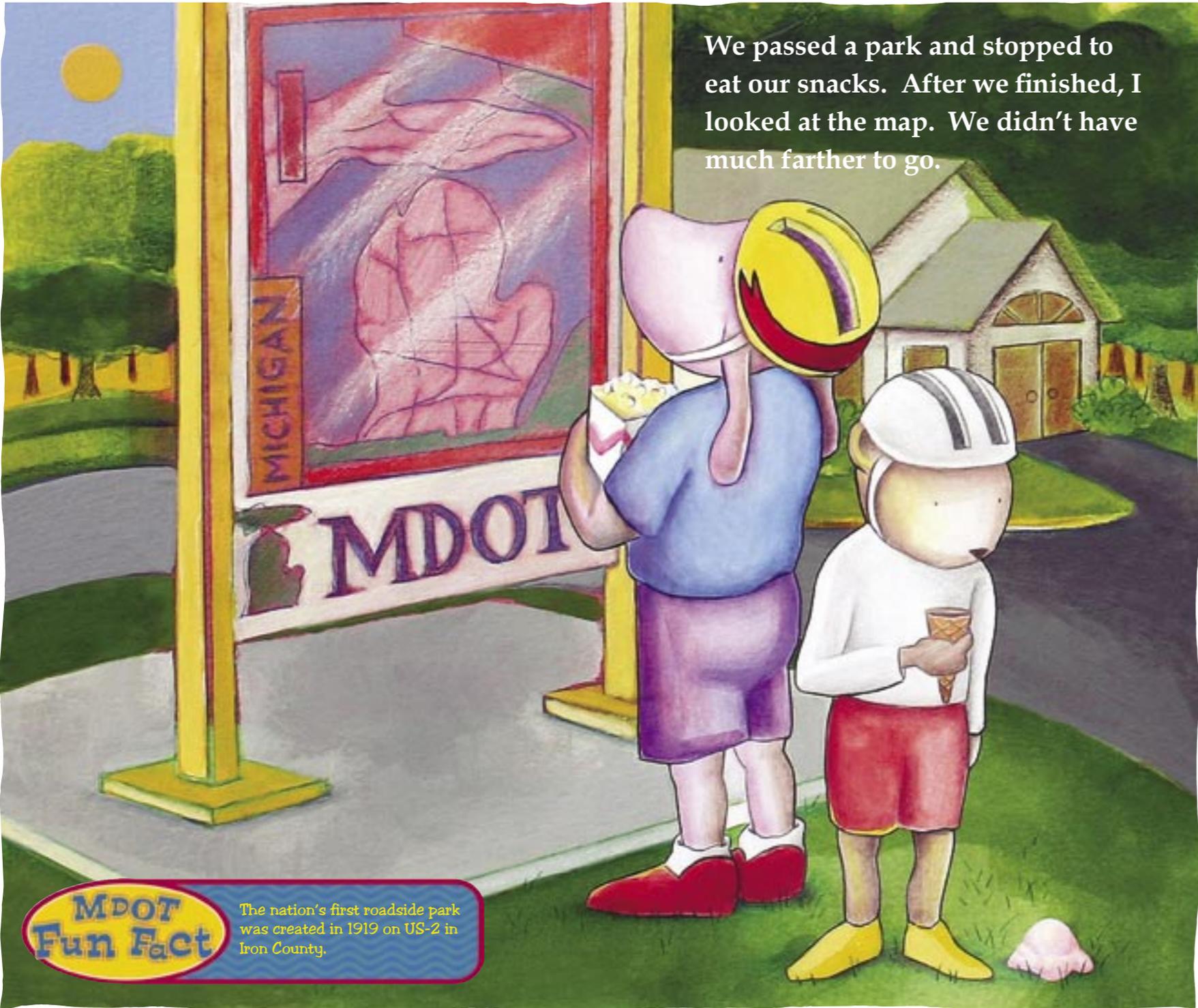


**MDOT  
Fun Fact**

The nation's first mile of rural concrete highway was built in Detroit in 1909.

Before long, we were back on the road. The dirt road had turned to pavement. Our ride was much smoother. We had to be very careful because the cars were going much faster now.

We passed a park and stopped to eat our snacks. After we finished, I looked at the map. We didn't have much farther to go.



**MDOT Fun Fact**

The nation's first roadside park was created in 1919 on US-2 in Iron County.

As we were leaving, we saw an airplane in the sky. It glided through the clouds. "If we had a plane, we'd be at Grandma's by now," I said. "But we're having so much fun," Bridget answered. And I agreed.



**MDOT Fun Fact**

The first scheduled passenger airline service in Michigan was Stout Air (Detroit to Grand Rapids) in 1926.

**MDOT  
Fun Fact**

In 1977, Michigan developed the nation's first bicycle path constructed along a freeway - 37 miles along I-275 in Detroit.



On our trip, we saw pretty wildflowers growing along the road. And once in a while, when we were very quiet, we saw animals eating the grass.



We came to a stop sign. We stopped and looked left, then right, then left again. No one was coming, so it was safe to keep going.

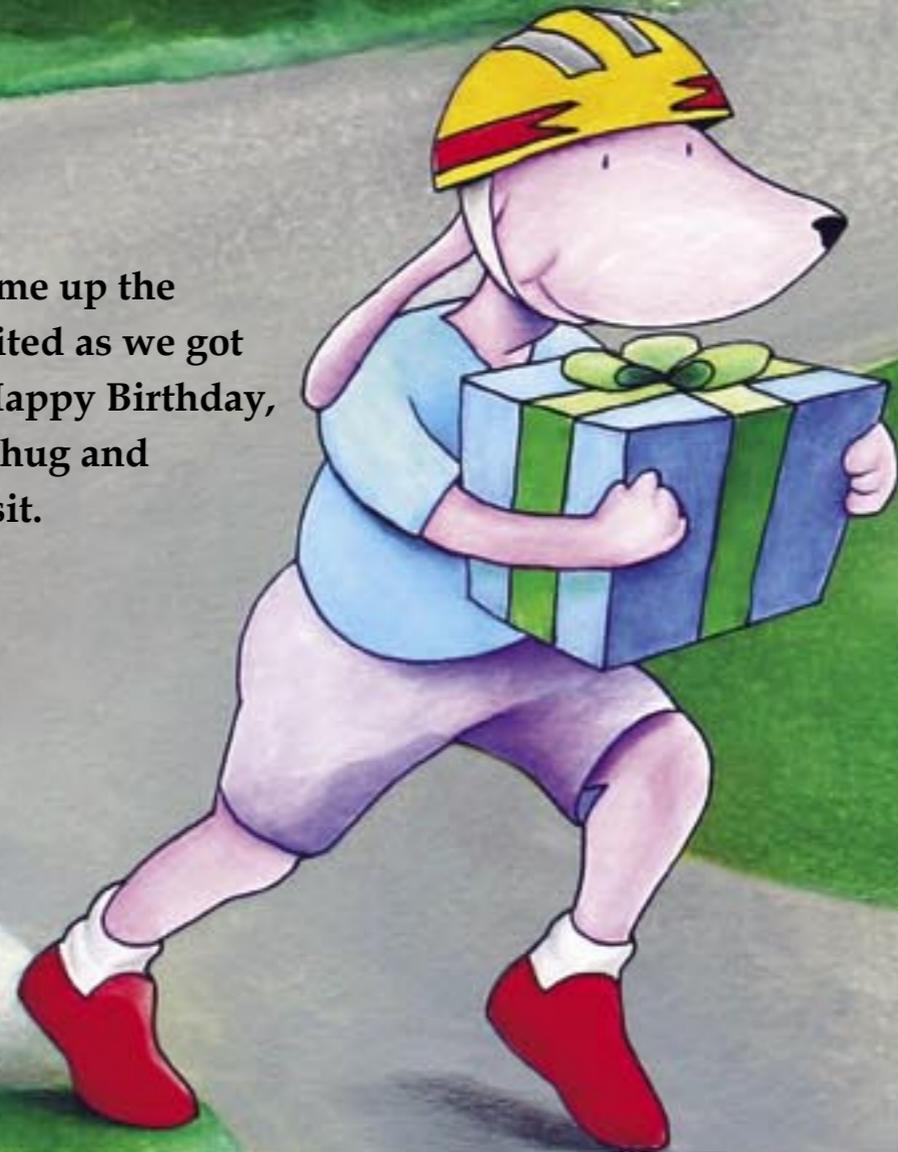
Michigan's first stop sign was erected in Detroit in 1914.

**MDOT  
Fun Fact**



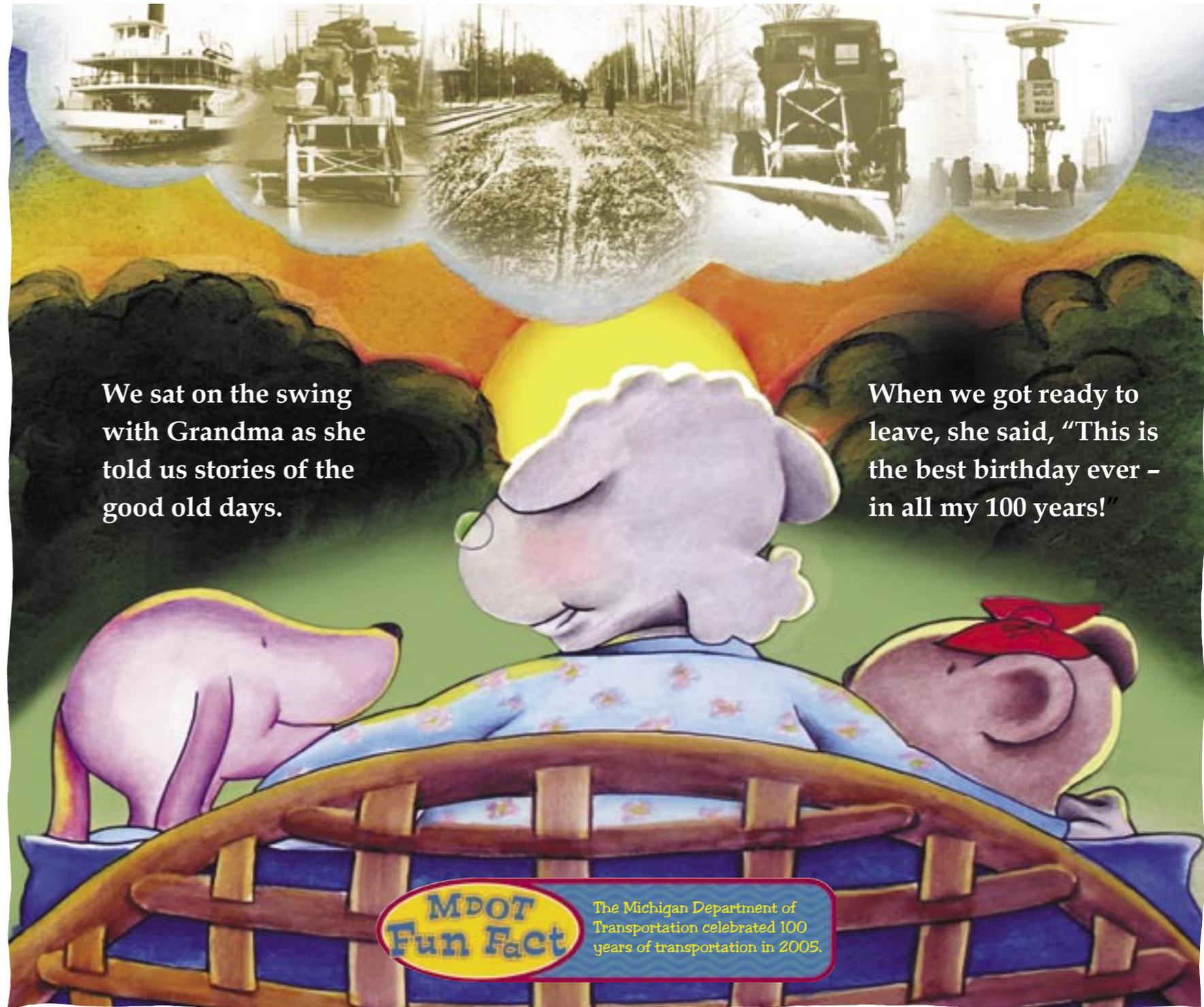
As we turned the corner, I could see Grandma Dot's house. We were very excited and peddled as fast as we could. It wouldn't be much longer now.

Grandma Dot saw us as we came up the drive. I could tell she was excited as we got off our bikes. We shouted, "Happy Birthday, Grandma!" She gave us a big hug and thanked us for the surprise visit.





Bridget told her the story of how we got from there to here.  
Grandma said she was proud of us and squeezed us really tight.



We sat on the swing  
with Grandma as she  
told us stories of the  
good old days.

When we got ready to  
leave, she said, "This is  
the best birthday ever –  
in all my 100 years!"

**MDOT  
Fun Fact**  
The Michigan Department of  
Transportation celebrated 100  
years of transportation in 2005.

# Transportation Word List

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Trip	Bikes	Cars
Directions	Road	Park
Map	Traffic	Airplane
Orange	Bridge	Wildflowers
Barrels	Boats	Stop sign
Worker	Train	Left
Walk	Gates	Right
Path	Pavement	

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Match the sign to its meaning.



Okay to Walk

Crosswalk

Stop Sign

Railroad Crossing

Bike Path

Do NOT Walk

Okay to Go

# Bridget & Little Mac's Birthday Trip

This story is told by Little Mac, who is traveling with his younger sister, Bridget. They have decided to visit their Grandma Dot for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Little Mac and Bridget's trip takes them on a journey and loosely describes the history of transportation (walking, paths, bicycles, dirt roads, paved roads, etc.) Many modes of transportation are represented during their trip. Valuable safety lessons also are described and illustrated throughout the story.

Enjoy the trip!

