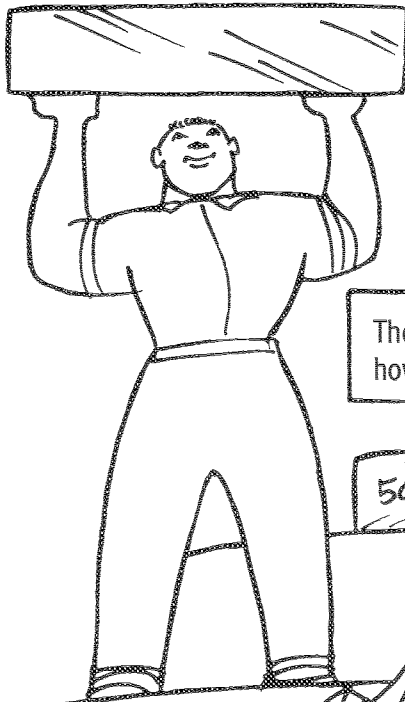


Joe Magarac

Imagine mining inside a mountain and discovering a giant man of steel buried beneath tons of iron ore! That's what one Pennsylvania miner did some 100 years ago: While mining for iron ore, he uncovered a steel giant named Joe Magarac!

□ 1 □



One by one, the young steelworkers came forward to lift the first weight, a 350-pound bar. The audience cheered and Mary smiled when Pete Pussick lifted it easily over his head. Most of the others lifted it easily, too.

The next bar is heavier. Let's see how many of you can lift that!

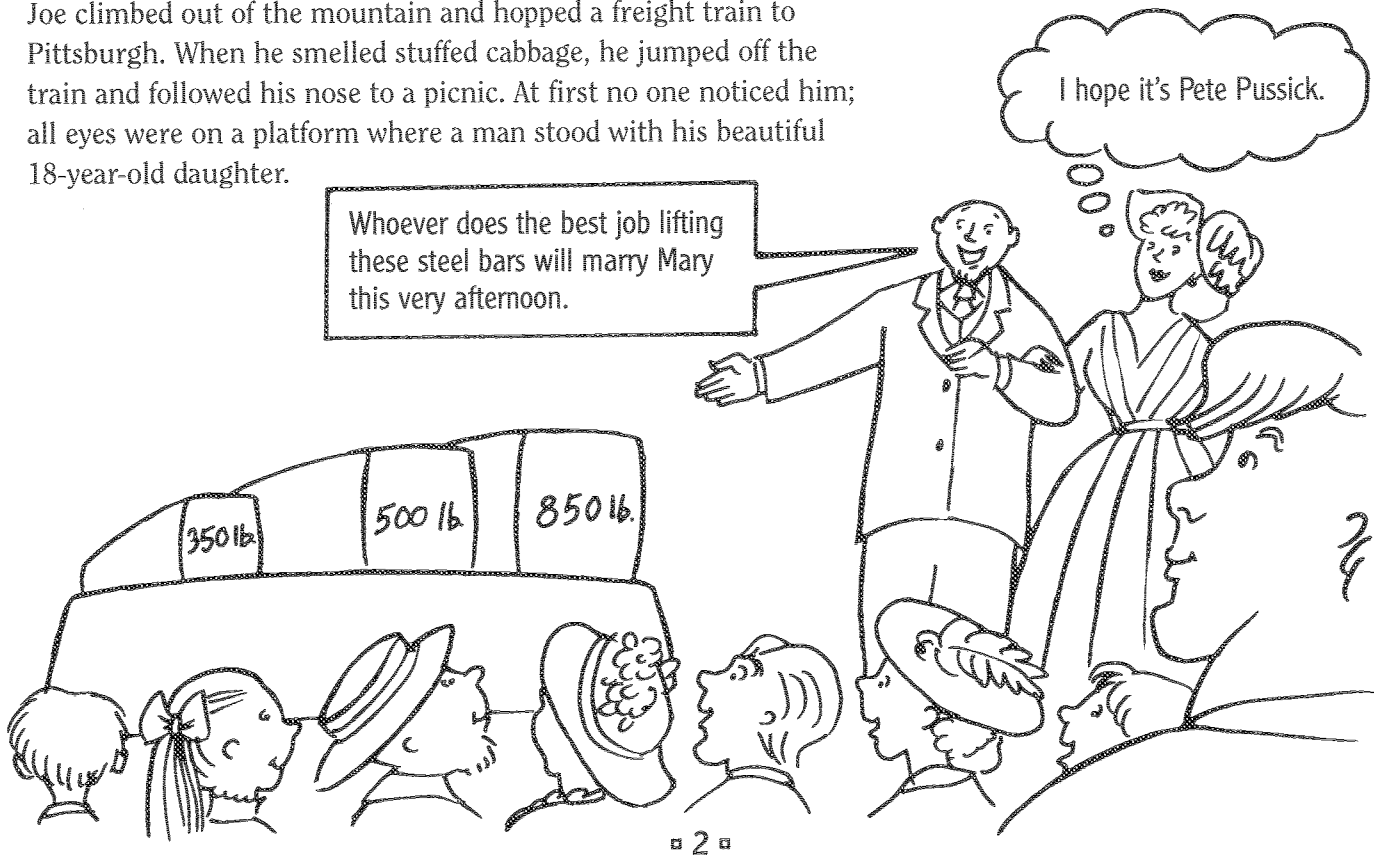
500 lb.

850 lb.

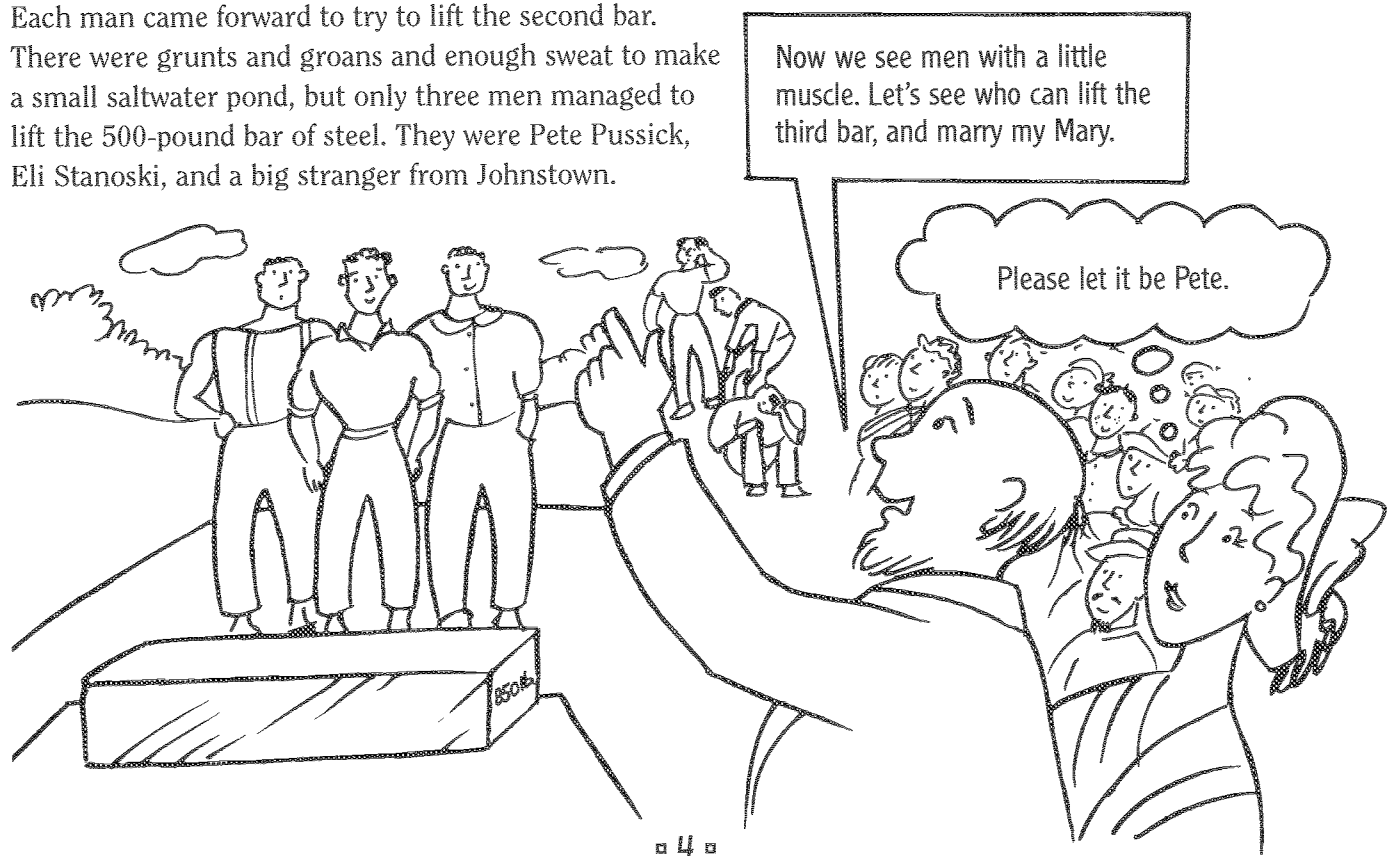


□ 3 □

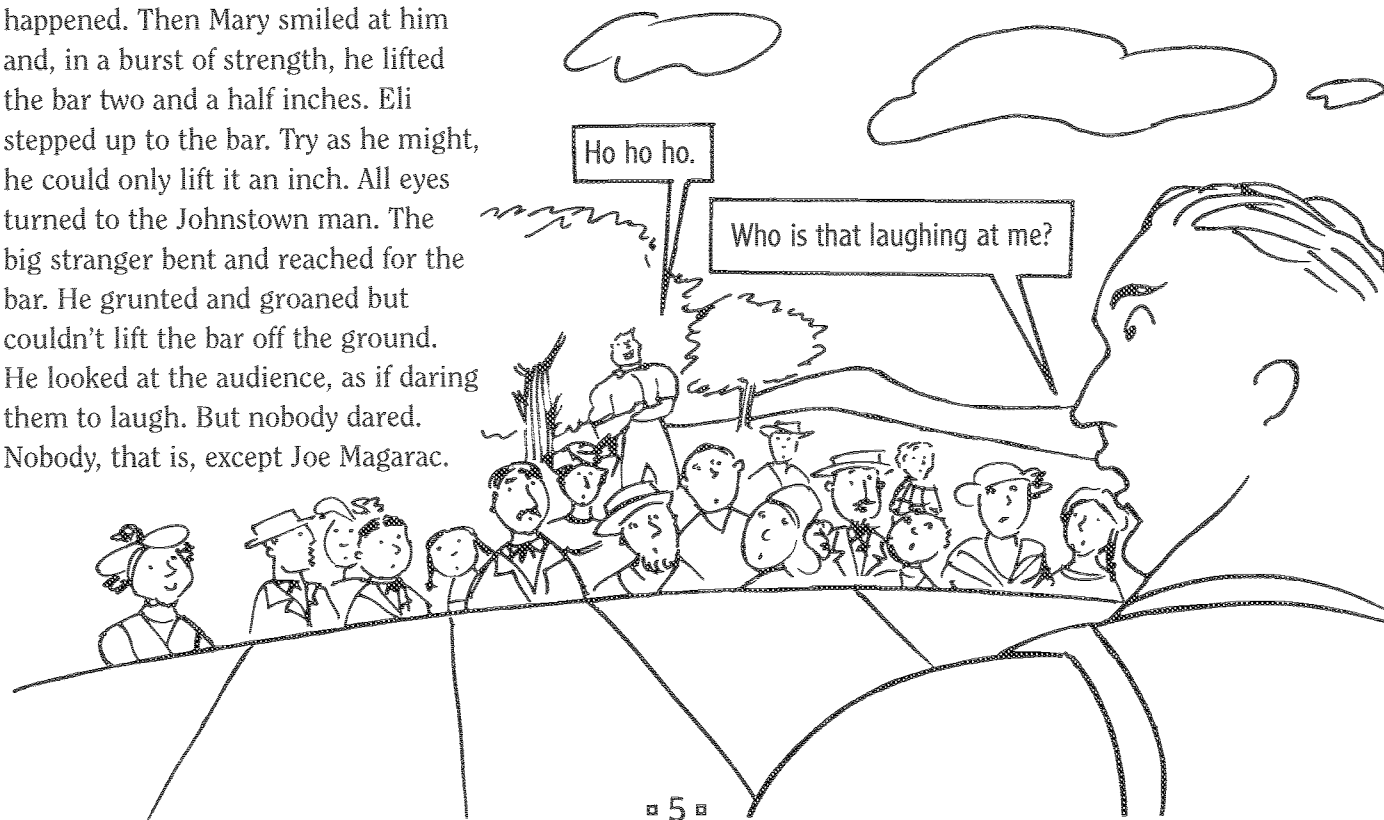
Joe climbed out of the mountain and hopped a freight train to Pittsburgh. When he smelled stuffed cabbage, he jumped off the train and followed his nose to a picnic. At first no one noticed him; all eyes were on a platform where a man stood with his beautiful 18-year-old daughter.



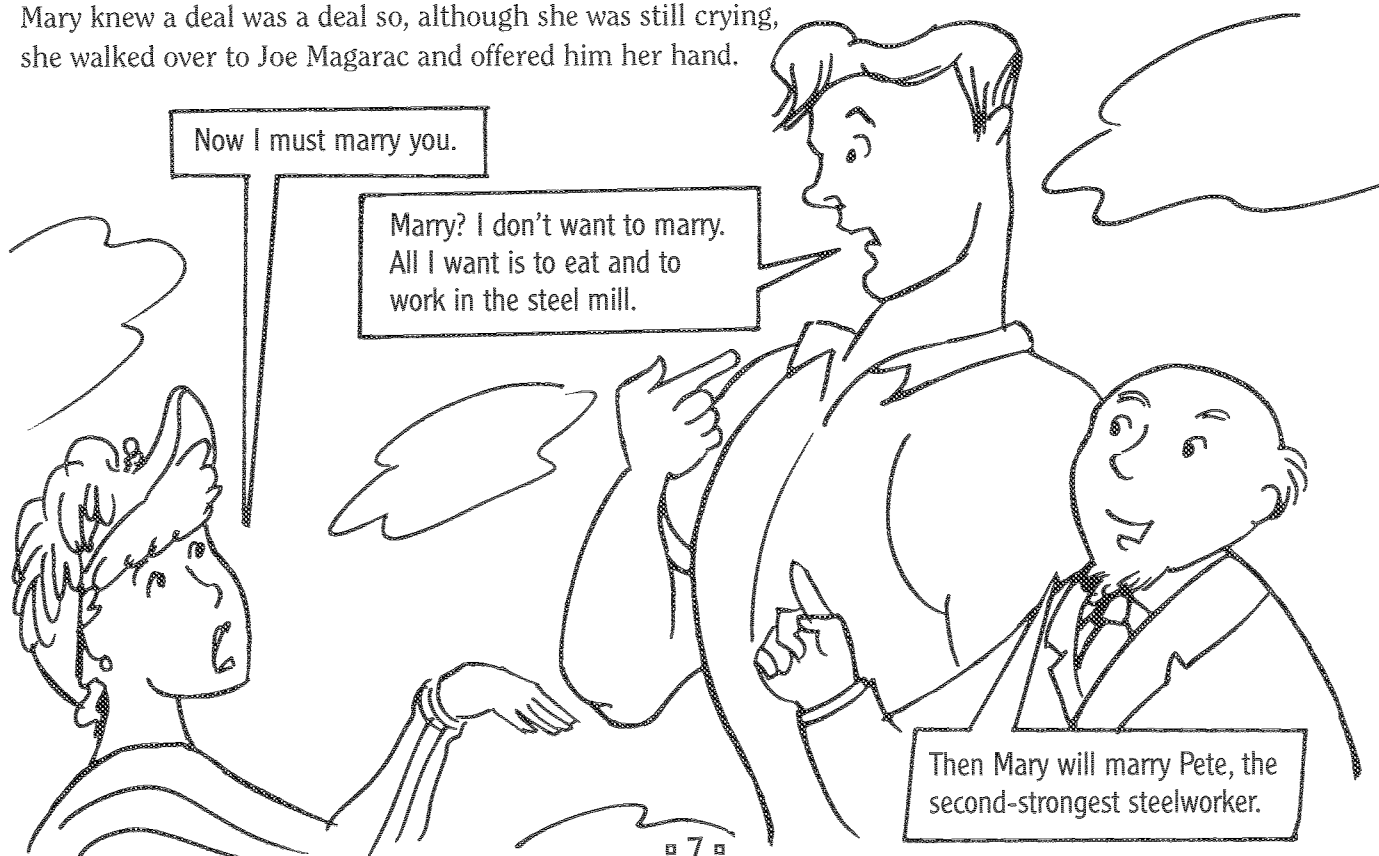
Each man came forward to try to lift the second bar. There were grunts and groans and enough sweat to make a small saltwater pond, but only three men managed to lift the 500-pound bar of steel. They were Pete Pussick, Eli Stanoski, and a big stranger from Johnstown.



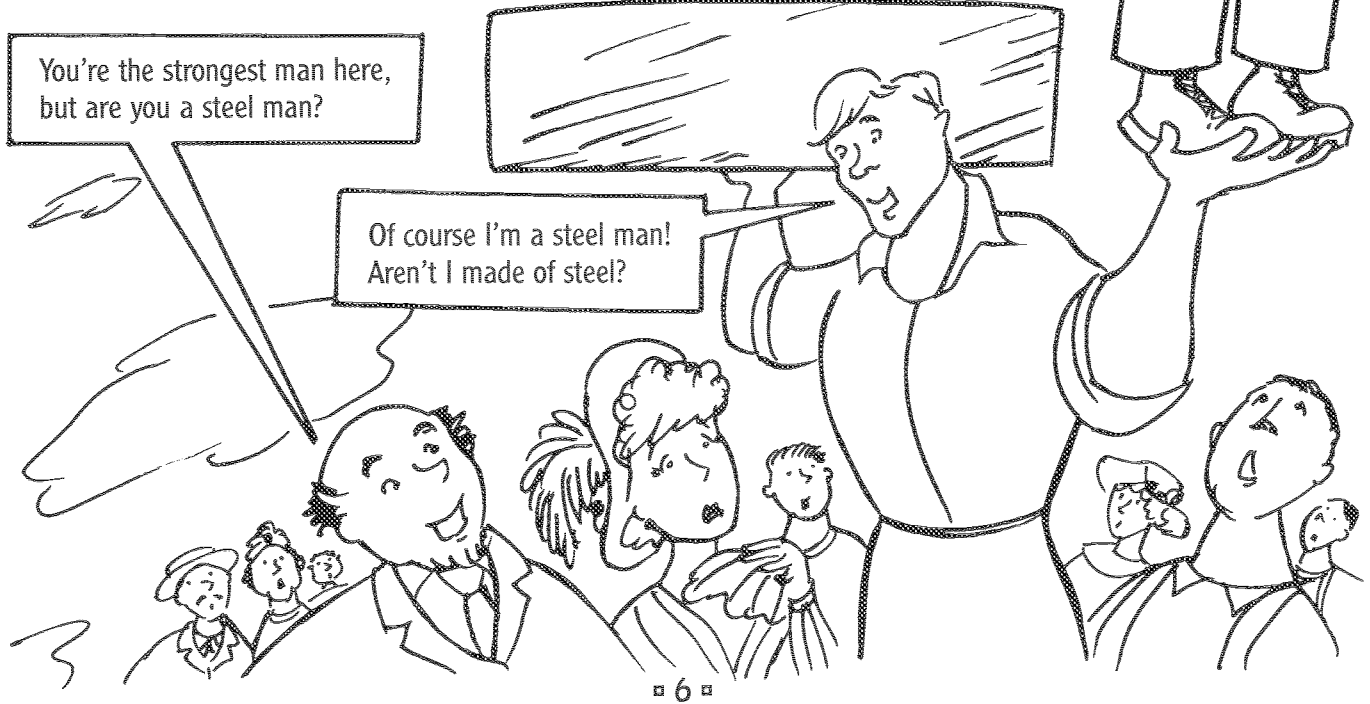
Pete tried to lift the bar, but nothing happened. Then Mary smiled at him and, in a burst of strength, he lifted the bar two and a half inches. Eli stepped up to the bar. Try as he might, he could only lift it an inch. All eyes turned to the Johnstown man. The big stranger bent and reached for the bar. He grunted and groaned but couldn't lift the bar off the ground. He looked at the audience, as if daring them to laugh. But nobody dared. Nobody, that is, except Joe Magarac.



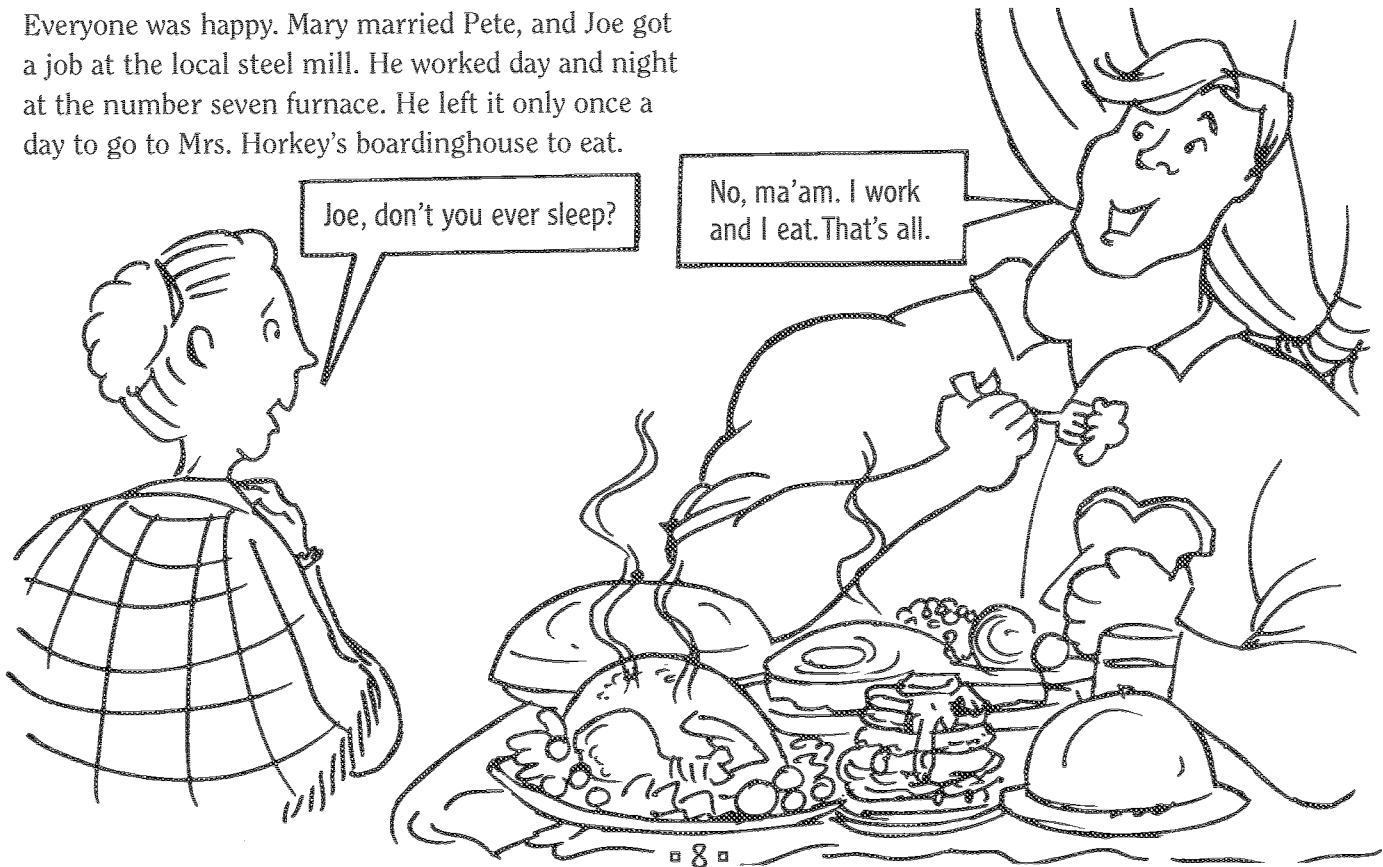
Mary knew a deal was a deal so, although she was still crying, she walked over to Joe Magarac and offered him her hand.



Joe Magarac took several giant steps to the wooden platform. He lifted the 850-pound bar with one hand and the stranger from Johnstown with the other. The crowd gasped, Steve gulped, Pete frowned, and Mary burst into tears.



Everyone was happy. Mary married Pete, and Joe got a job at the local steel mill. He worked day and night at the number seven furnace. He left it only once a day to go to Mrs. Horkey's boardinghouse to eat.



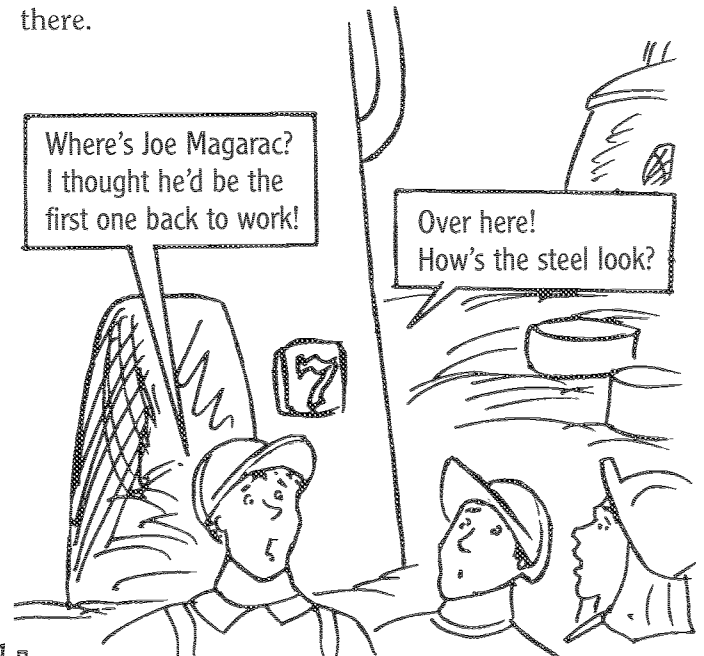
Joe was an amazing steelworker. The other men watched in awe as he stirred boiling metal with his bare hands, tasted hot steel for flavor, and squeezed warm steel between his fingers to make eight perfect steel rails at a time.



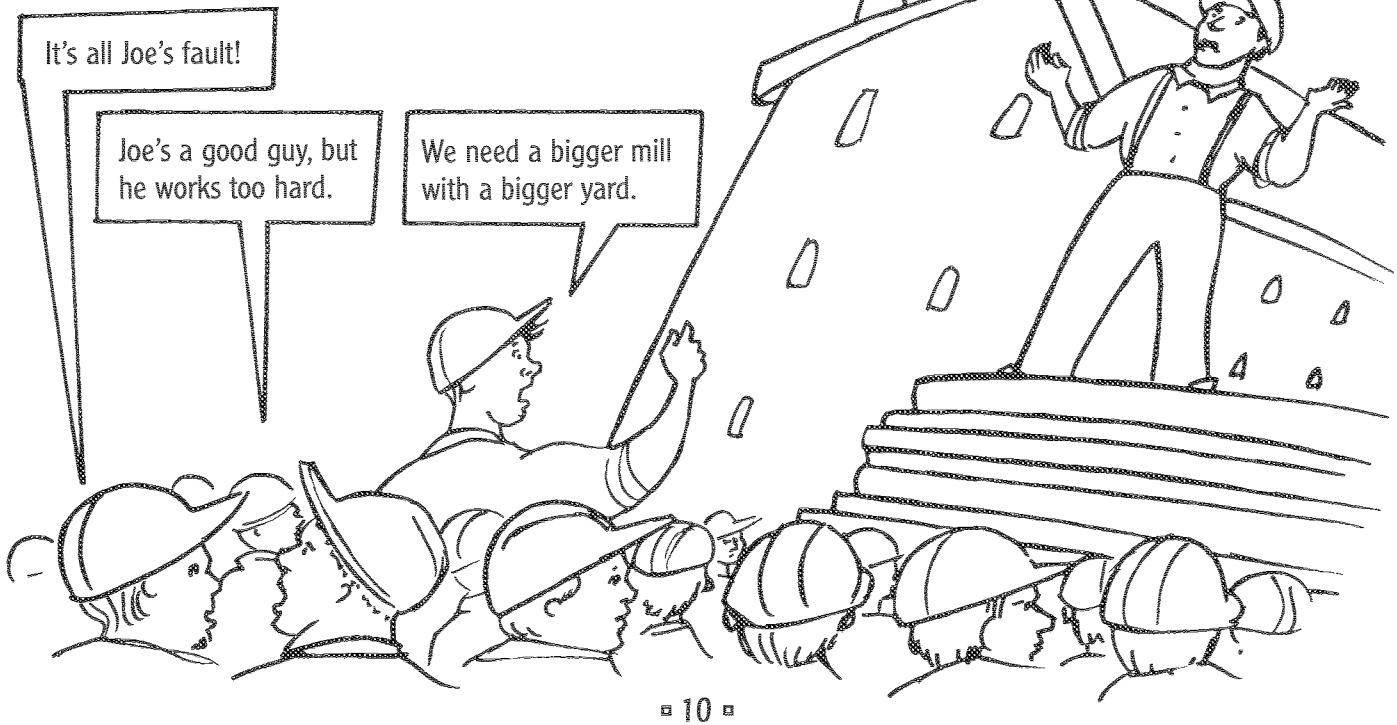
All of the steelworkers put their furnaces on a slow burn to keep them warm before heading home to their families. All except Joe Magarac, that is. Joe sat and stared into number seven furnace, dreaming of a bigger steel mill.



Three days later, the mill boss called the steelworkers back to the mill. The men were happy to be back to work. They wondered what Joe had done while the mill was closed. They went to number seven furnace to ask him, but he wasn't there.



Pete was right. Soon the mill yard was filled with rails. The mill boss told the steelworkers that he had to close the mill for a few days. The yard was too small to hold any more rails.



Pete and the others followed the voice to a big bucket ladle filled with boiling steel. In the center of the giant pot was the smiling head of Joe Magarac.

