

## The Adventur

By B. HILL.

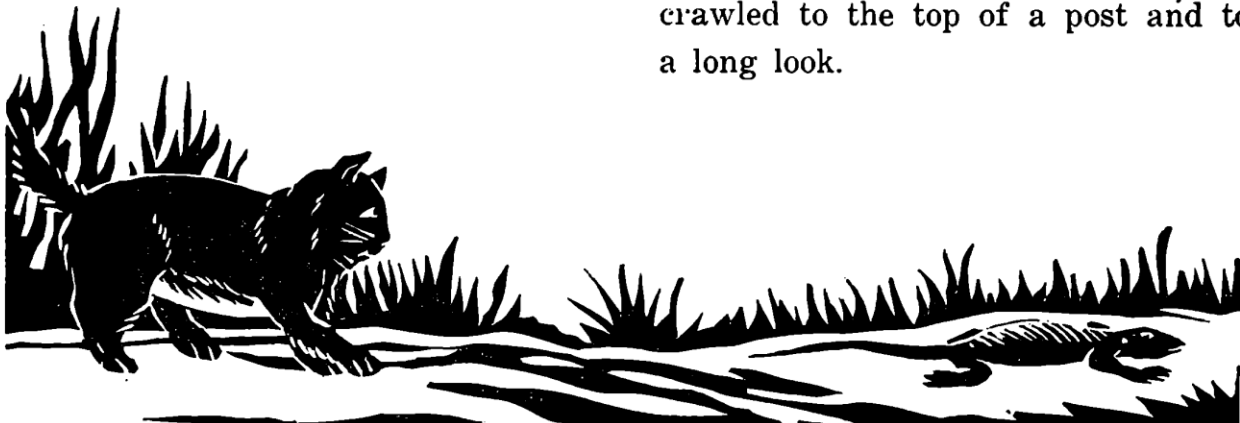
PICKANINNY was a kitten. He was as black as pitche. He, his mother, and his sister had a happy home in an old barn. At least it was a happy home until Pickaninny disappeared and that left the mother cat in great despair. She called and called but her little kitten did not come.

The mother cat was named Paddy. She took good care of her family. Every morning she gave her children a bath by licking them with her tongue, for that is the cats method of bathing. She licked their ears, heads, backs, and paws. The kittens liked this and purred while the mother made them fresh and clean. After the bath each day the whole cat family liked to go up on the roof of the barn where the dogs or naughty boys could not disturb them and stretch out for a sunning and a long sleep.

They often had big romps and plays with each other, chasing and hiding

about the barn. The mother cat liked the kittens to play for she knew that plenty of exercise would help to make them strong and healthy. She taught them how to crouch and spring for a mouse. She wanted them to know how to take care of themselves.

Once while Paddy and her little kitten, Nan, were sleeping, Pickaninny decided to explore a little and see what he could see. The kittens were still young and the mother had never taken them outside of the barnyard. When they were a little older she wanted to teach them the way to the pond where they could sometimes find crawfish and other things for food. Now Pickaninny was a good kitten and did not want to run away or cause his mother any distress, but he was curious to know what the world on the outside of the barnyard looked like. He crept to the fence, crawled to the top of a post and took a long look.



## es of Pickaninny

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As he sat there viewing the outside world he saw a lizard crawling through the grass. "Oh!" thought Pickaninny, "I'll catch this lizard for my mother's lunch." He sprang to the ground and started the chase. The poor frightened lizard went as fast as it could and ran up a tree. Up the tree Pickaninny went too. The lizard was too quick and the kitten lost sight of it. The little kitten remembered what his mother had said, "When you lose sight of your prey sit very still and watch closely and by and by the animal will start moving and then start the chase quickly." So Pickaninny sat watching and waiting.

As the kitten sat there on the branch of the tree along came a little girl. She noticed the kitten all alone. "You poor little thing," she said, "you are lost. I wonder where your home is. I'll try to find your home. Come, kitty, kitty, kitty. Come, little black kitty."

*(To be continued next month)*

