



VOCABULARY, Chapter 19: Up and At It!

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. The sun rose, alarm clocks sounded, and the occupants of Buck Lodge pushed their snooze buttons and rolled over.

2. Behind them, Polly Poutway paused in the doorway and searched the porch. “There you are, Mr. Mouse! Excellent! I have a few things for you to carry. And I need to hold your arm.”
Moose stood stiff and expressionless while Polly hung a collapsible green chair around his neck, slid the straps of a flowered purse up his left arm, and thrust a purple umbrella into his hand.

3. With a scowl, Moose heaved Polly and her belongings onto the bus, followed her to a seat, and dropped her stuff beside her. “There you are, Ma’am,” he said, turning and exiting the bus, as if pursued by a wild boar. Once outside, he collapsed against the exterior, heaving great breaths of air

4. Moose marched toward his rear seat—the one where he had staked his claim years before. On that bus, no school kid ever dared approach “*The Moose’s Abode*,” his own personal backseat. But he wasn’t dealing with kids today. An animated, wiry fellow already occupied the spot. Moose glared at the trespasser, but the jovial chap was oblivious to any displeasure.



VOCABULARY, Chapter 20: Don't Sink in the Sinks!

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. Mr. Meckel slowly maneuvered his bus onto Highway 73. Both he and his out-of-town riders were planning a leisurely visit to the Smoky Mountains. Within just a few miles, they would enter the Park. Shortly thereafter, at the Townsend “Y,” he would turn left onto the Little River Road, and head east to several designated sites.

2. But after a moment’s silence, Bug elbowed Moose. “You, my man, should study bugs—the good ones and the bad ones. You could become famous—Moose, the Mountain Bug-man. You think on that! I would be glad to guide you—be your mentor every step of the way!”

3. Mr. Meckel steered carefully on the curvy, two-lane road, allowing his guests to fully enjoy the sights. To their left, the waters of the Little River tumbled and roared, creating frothy white rapids. On their right, the mountains rose straight up or even leaned over the road, seeming to encroach on the vehicle’s space. Trees—deciduous and evergreens—reached in from the embankment and in places, even brushed the exterior of the bus.

4. “Say, what happened to your van?” asked Doc, observing the damaged vehicle more closely. “Are you sure you want to get me started on that?” said Oscar, removing his hat and running his fingers through his unkempt hair. “I been vandalized and victimized by some scumrats! Happened a few days ago. Ranger Mace says I was clouted.

THIEF IN THE PARK: A SMOKY MOUNTAIN STICK-BOY ADVENTURE



VOCABULARY, Chapter 21: Bug Bugs the Moose

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. “Man, I’m sufferin’,” he **lamented** to himself. “I got ‘Jolly Polly’ outside the bus and ‘Bug the Rug’ inside. And the Three Musketeers are enjoying my predicament. Constant torture! Tomorrow there’ll be no Moose on this scene!”

2. “Well, I hear tell you got lots of mosquitoes in these lower elevations, but don’t worry. I’ve got my Bug-Be-Gone right here in my pocket. I’ll spray you and everybody else real good before we hike.”
“Can’t wait,” said Moose **sarcastically**, giving Bug a “don’t-speak-to-me” look—which had no dampening effect whatsoever on the little friendly dynamo.

3. “What about your no-see-ums?” continued Bug **undeterred**.
“No-see-ums? You got to be kidding! You makin’ that up?”
“No, siree, Moo,” said Bug, heating up over his topic. “I’m studied up on these here pesky insects.”

4. “Well, here’s the thing,” continued Bug, scooting in his seat so he could see Moose face to face. “A female no-see-um has to eat a blood meal before her eggs are any good. See? So, you breathe out, your CO2 gets her attention, and here she comes, with a bunch of her sisters, starving for blood. These females bite you with their cutting teeth and suck your blood up through their **proboscises**: ‘SSSllluuurrppp!’ Just like that! To them, you’re a **gargantuan** blood milkshake!”



VOCABULARY, Chapter 22: Wet Way Forward

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. Doc stood up at the front of the bus. “Okay, folks, this is the official disembarkation for your first hike in the Smokies. As soon as we’re unloaded, Mr. Meckel will be moving the bus.

2. Doc set a leisurely pace, just right for these older folks—including himself—giving everyone time to watch their feet, yet stop to observe their surroundings: the eroded bank and exposed roots, the towering trees and new saplings, the flowering rhododendrons and mountain laurel, the delicate ferns and mosses, the decaying fallen logs, and the blossoming wildflowers.

3. The group entered a cooler, shaded section of the trail. “Whoa!” said Mac. “We’re in a rhododendron tunnel—it’s overhead and on both sides of the path. A few steps off-trail, and a person could easily get lost.”

“Many have over the years,” said Doc. “Some people call the rhododendron thickets ‘woolly heads’ or ‘laurel slicks.’ They can be a death trap for a lost child or a disoriented adult.”

4. Then Evan made a mistake that he later regretted; thinking he had caught a glimpse of a frog in the creek, he bent over to investigate. Seeing his chance, Moose moved behind Evan and “accidentally” bumped him. With the unexpected jolt, Evan pitched into the creek so rapidly that he had no time to prepare. He did a belly flop into the cold, mountain stream, whacking his head on a protruding rock.



VOCABULARY, Chapter 23: A Mouse in the Water

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. As soon as Polly stepped onto solid ground, Evan clambered up the creek bank into the clearing and away from Motor-Mouth Moose. There he saw the rest of their entourage, reading information signs, going in and out of the schoolhouse, and examining the exterior of the split poplar log walls.

2. Inside the old log schoolhouse, Makayla, the retired principal, was talking about how effectively our forefathers had taught students with very little means. “A successful one room school meant there was a fantastic teacher in charge,” said Makayla. “They schooled those children with few books, slate boards instead of paper, no electric lights, little heat, a communal water bucket and dipper, and wallboards painted black for a writing surface.”

3. Meanwhile Evan, Mica, and Charu wandered over to the nearby graveyard that was surrounded by a picket fence. Neal, Tank, and Tootsie were already perusing the ancient markers.

4. “From what I’ve read, children in those days had to learn early on that death was a natural part of life. The mortality rate was high among the children and infants. Too many new mothers died giving birth, since there were few doctors available, and often a friend or midwife was the only assistance during the birthing process.”

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VOCABULARY, Chapter 24: Bash and Dash!

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. He worked in gloves—no fingerprints; plotted his hits—more yield; studied maps—flawless exits; and observed the movements of his victims—more time for pocketing the goods. He stayed active and kept his body lean; hence, faster getaways. He wore nondescript clothing; therefore, he melded in with a crowd or the forest.

2. On his strong, muscular legs, he lit out through the forest in his nondescript clothing, blending into the environment, and moving stealthily, indirectly, yet rapidly, back to where he'd left his vehicle—often miles away. He was in good shape—*from his perspective*, invincible.

3. Then, as was his custom after breaching the secured vehicle and causing the high-pitched shatter of collapsing glass, he quickly retreated into his secluded blind—like a hunter safe inside his camouflaged shelter, hidden from his prey. There unseen, he froze and forced himself to wait.

4. At the back of the bus he saw some coolers. Suddenly he felt thirsty and hungry. He searched and found both drinks and boxed lunches. Hey, why not—the workman is worthy of his hire, as the saying is. He snickered at his own twisted logic.

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VOCABULARY, Chapter 25: Mr. Meckel's Message

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. Even his beloved wife, Lizetta, who had almost worried herself sick over their leading this retreat, had relaxed and was having a great time with her childhood friend, Sarah Edwards.
A chuckle broke through his serious reflections, for there stood Polly ordering her Mr. Mouse, "Get down there in that water, young man! *Don't you let me get wet!*"
The small reservoir of patience that Moose previously possessed had run dry. He now made no effort to hide his seething anger.
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2. From time to time, Moose gave Evan a hate-filled stare. Evan, enjoying his time on dry land, only smiled. Of course he knew that in the future the bully would again exact his revenge. "Ah," thought Evan, "savor the moment."
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3. Down the far side of the bus in red spray paint were these words:
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!
"Grrr! The guy is brazen!" growled Ranger Mace. "I'd like to clamp handcuffs on the shameless creep!"
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4. Mica checked the two drink coolers. "I think some drinks are gone, but it looks like there are still more than enough to go around. Okay, how are we going to handle this dilemma? We don't have a boxed lunch for every person."
Charu began to laugh, and the guys looked at her skeptically.
"Charu," said Mica, "I don't see anything funny here. We have a big problem."
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VOCABULARY, Chapter 26: Barf, Boots, and Cookies!

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. Great vistas of blue mountain ridges beckoned them time after time. “Tell me when you want to stop for pictures,” said Mr. Meckel.

2. Charu began digging in her backpack. Since she knew the bus would sway from side to side on its way up the mountains, she had come prepared for motion sickness. She slipped her hands into latex gloves. Then she gathered her supplies and wove her way between the seats, heads, shoulders, and legs of fellow passengers, who were sticking out in the aisle as they tried to see the riveting, yet repellant, sight of Polly and Moose.

3. “Here, Ms. Poutway,” said Charu, reaching her near the middle of the bus. “Let me help.” Charu handed Polly a blue barf bag, similar in size to a lunch sack, and some paper towels. The bag had a leak-proof, plastic lining and a closure clip to retain contents.

4. “Then you can wait,” said Charu, turning to receive a used, closed bag from Polly. “Ma’am, do you need another bag?”
“Yes, please,” said Polly pathetically. With tears running down her cheeks, she held the open bag near her mouth, and Charu wiped her forehead with a wet-wipe.



VOCABULARY, Chapter 27: Bedtime Surprise

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. By the time Evan showered and crawled into his bed, he was half-asleep! What a day! Climbing in and out of the creek, surviving Polly and Moose—man! He pummeled his pillow, creating a spongy lump, and dropped his head into the soft middle—dead on impact.

2. If all had gone as expected, the next thing Evan would have heard would have been the alarm clock ringing after hours of undisturbed, restorative slumber. But what rang out wasn't the clock—and it wasn't after hours of sleep. Mica was shouting, and only a few minutes had passed!

3. Mica, red-faced and irate, was standing by his bed, his blankets thrown on the floor. "I'd like to punch Moose Meckel in the nose! Look at my bed. See those leaves and vines. That's *poison ivy*, crushed and rubbed into my sheet. I lay down on that nasty stuff!"

4. "I saw Moose going in and out of the lodge after we got back tonight," said Evan. "He was carrying stuff, smiling like an angel, knocking himself out to be helpful in front of all the visitors. Should have known!"

"Right, and on the sly, he sabotaged our beds with that three-leafed, itch-weed," said Mica. "I've heard him brag that he's too tough to get poison ivy."

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VOCABULARY, Chapter 28: Ranger Clouted!

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. Last evening a young man had fallen from the top of a waterfall onto the rocks below, and one of his buddies had hiked out for help. The initial responders reached him about midnight, did a full body check, and detected possible internal injuries, along with multiple breaks in both legs.

2. About an hour later, a twelve-person carry-out team arrived. Jonathan was pleased to see that they had brought a wheeled Teton Litter. This type litter—with its single motorcycle wheel that could be dropped down, conditions permitting—would give the transport team sporadic relief from their backbreaking load.

3. The passenger window on his Park truck had been bashed out, and the door stood ajar; the glove compartment contents had been dumped on top of the broken pieces of glass. But overriding all was the menacing message written on the side of the truck. The words shouted in bold, red paint:

*IN YOUR FACE—MACE!
CLOUTER ONE*

4. A quick check revealed that Jonathan was the only clouting victim, the lone target of a private vendetta, it seemed. Feeling sick and weary, Jonathan had new insight into how other victims felt . . . and a renewed determination to *catch the culprit*.

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VOCABULARY, Chapter 29: Nosey Knows Commodes!

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. On their second touring morning, the senior citizens from Indiana once again boarded Mr. Meckel's clouted school bus. Each regretfully noted the ugly red message painted down one side, the broken window panel in the entrance door, and the bent door mechanism.

2. A few brave persons had chosen to spend a large portion of their day being "river rats," that is, tubing in the Little River that flows out of the Park and through Townsend. Each would ride down the river on top of his or her own inner tube.

3. Instead of horseshoes, the contestants were given toilet seats to throw at the stakes. Neal's obsession with cleanliness caused him to reject the first three seats without even touching them. Finally, the game hostesses lined up all the toilet seats in a row, inspected them, and handed the three cleanest to Neal.

4. Neal coiled his skinny body, then unwound, and let go—almost. The commode seat stuck in his hand, discharged late, and practically hit a cowgirl on the head.



VOCABULARY, Chapter 30: Bug Takes over Gatlinburg!

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. Perchance Bug would walk down the street in a dignified manner, without drawing undue attention. NOT! Mr. Bugle Spray always made a scene. The funny part was that he didn't try to be noticed. It just happened. His normal self was uniquely magnetic—for good or for bad. What was the word they learned last year to describe people who were 'one of a kind'? 'Idiosyncratic'—yes, that described Mr. Spray!

2. “Hey!” said Bug, suddenly wakened by the activity. “I gotta have a look at these stores!” Too impatient to wait for a clear view to open up, he clambered onto his seat and poked his head out the trolley window. “Yo! Over there! I see my bear in that window! We’re movin’ out, Mica!”

3. “I’m with you!” said Mica, noticing that Bug already had an audience of gaping, pointing tourists.

4. “See that stuffed bear straight ahead?” called Bug over his shoulder. “That’s the one!”
“Are you sure?” asked Mica, knowing *he* would be the carrier. “That bear’s probably six feet tall. It’s bigger than you or me.”
“Oh, yeah! That’s my bear!” said Bug, almost ramming into the back of a little old lady.
“But where will you keep it? Do you have room for one that big in your apartment?” protested Mica, still hoping another bear, maybe a medium-sized bear, would catch Bug’s attention.



VOCABULARY, Chapter 31: Doctors and Gery-Acs

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. The day had been hot—high eighties; but now at 7:00 P.M., the sun was shining at a lower trajectory, and the temperature was dropping.

2. Esther, sitting beside Nandan, was worried. For two whole days she had been fretting about those poor old people with their flabby arms, heavy wrinkles, and drooped faces. They were in danger: they might be lost or sick—or *even dying*.

3. She noticed Nandan’s satisfied smile. “You’re not supposed to be grinnin’! Stop it right now!” she ordered.
“I can grin if I want to!” said Nandan, contrarily widening his smile into a distorted grimace. “I’m gonna have fun.”

4. “I don’t believe you! I’m gonna ask!” said Nandan. “Grandpa Doc, are you a gery-ac?”
“Not that I know of,” said Doc Mace, grinning in the rearview mirror at Nandan.
Nandan gave Esther his best “see-you-are-wrong” look.
“Uh-huh, Grandpa, you are,” said Esther unrelentingly. “I heard Grandma say you had to have gery-ac doctors cause you’re gery-ac. Didn’t you say that, Grandma?” she insisted.

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VOCABULARY, Chapter 32: A Life Is Saved!

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. “I’m not wearin’ that old white thing!” said Nandan. “It looks like a dress. You wear yours!”
“We both must wear them, ‘cause we got doctors’ rounds to do. If we don’t have these white coats on, the gery-acs won’t know we’re real doctors. So put that thing on—and hurry up!”
“Aw, alright.” Nandan complied, knowing he had to do it, or spend all night fussing with the Bossy Beast.

2. Esther surveyed the grounds with a critical eye. Something was wrong—she saw no gery-acs. Suddenly she gasped and pointed to a small elevated area behind the shelter.
“Hurry, Nandan!” Esther began running as fast as her legs could carry her up the steep incline, her doctor’s lab coat flapping open and her medical bag thumping against her legs.

3. At the top of the grassy slope in the shade of the adjacent forest, stood a long, reclining lounge chair and on its surface lay a woman, her face covered with a large white handkerchief, her arms folded over her stomach, her toes pointed skyward, and her body immobile.

4. Sarah Edwards, Gran’s forever friend, happened to overhear this interaction between Polly and the children. She said to herself, “The age of miracles has not ceased!”



VOCABULARY, Chapter 33: An Unlikely Celebrity!

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. “That’s for sure!” said Camilia. “As the mother of three boys, I know the most embarrassing thing you can do is act like you care about them in front of others. Even Nandan says, ‘Mommy, I’m not a baby! I’m almost a man!’”

“And how do we know these fundamental motherhood truths?” asked Susannah, raising an eyebrow. “We know because we have on occasion overdone the public show of ‘Mommy-love’ and gotten ourselves scolded by our kids.”

2. But no explanation came. The adults seemed frozen in time, unable to discern what had happened and why—or what to do about it. In vain, Esther and Nandan looked at everybody for answers.

Finally, Makayla spoke. “Doc, are you sure that caller said jail? Mr. Bug Spray is a character, but he’s not a criminal.”

3. “Uh-oh!” said Neal. “Bet he chased bugs into forbidden areas.”

“Yeah,” said Tank, “and Bug will never back off. If he thinks he’s seen bad bugs where they shouldn’t be, you can’t stop his overzealous pursuit.”

4. Doc nodded his head. “I’d say you’re right, Mica. The police officer on the phone said Bug crawled across the restaurant floor and into the kitchen—even went into the cooler. In the process, he frightened off customers and upset the workers. No matter what the restaurant owner said, Bug wouldn’t let it go. So the man called the police, and they arrested him for illegal trespassing.”
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VOCABULARY, Chapter 34: Bear Jam!

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. Once inside the cove, the folks “ooed” and “aaahed” over the lush, grassy fields of the isolated valley—its beauty magnified by the striking contrast to the surrounding mountain ridges.

2. At Abrams Falls, everyone, including Mr. Meckel, chose to hike at least part of the trail, and most of the folks made it all the way. There, sitting on rough boulders, they devoured their sack lunches, and lazily watched the water gush over the twenty-foot drop, bounce back up in the deep pool at its base, and then dance downstream. A fresh mist filled the air. Birds flew from tree to tree singing in glorious harmony.

3. The senior citizens hiked back to the trailhead, feeling quite proud of themselves and their five mile roundtrip. But once they reached the parking lot, they discovered the wretched results of two clouter strikes. A van belonging to a young family had been hit on the front passenger side. The husband, wife, and two small children leaned on each other, miserably considering their losses.

4. “Jumpin’ corpses!” said Neal Nozeworthy, careening himself to the front of the bus. “I’m off-loading. Open that door, Mr. Meckel! I’m getting me some bear pictures.”



VOCABULARY, Chapter 35: Run Over by a Tank

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. Today had been a great day for business, with several lucrative strikes. He had worked his way through thick forest, scouting potential hits along the Cades Cove Road, sometimes even walking openly like any other hiker. Then at the Abrams Falls trailhead, he chanced upon a woman hiding her purse under the front seat. Piece of cake!

2. “Okay,” he whispered, focusing on the long line of stopped cars, “what’s the best way to hit jammers?” He was daring, but not dumb. Thought before action—always!
Meticulously, with careful, quiet movements, he worked his way toward the parked cars; almost everyone had left in a hurry to see the bears.

3. Keeping himself low to the ground, he left the sheltering trees and crept toward the fourth unoccupied car. “I wonder,” he said, as he reached for the door handle with his gloved hand. “Ah, not locked! What fools!” Sure enough he found a purse under the front seat, extracted cash from the billfold, and then, wanting no alarming noise, he eased the door shut—all in less than fifteen seconds.

4. Set free from her silence by Tank’s roar, Tootsie yelled, “Go, Tank, Go! Go, Tank, Go!” Tootsie’s cheer pumped adrenaline into Tank’s system. He could hear his own heart beating. Tank willed his feet and legs to move faster and faster.

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VOCABULARY, Chapter 36: Trying to Understand

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. Mrs. Joan Mace quietly examined the expressive faces of her beloved family, speculating on how the week's events had affected each: Evan's adult-like responsibilities and Moose's taunts; Esther's steadfast friendship with the most unlikely, grumpy lady; and her husband's apprehension of a clouter who had a personal vendetta against him.

2. But grave questions paraded through Evan's mind. "Dad, why was Oscar Finch a clouter, and why did he taunt you? I thought he was your friend."
"I thought he was my friend, too," said Jonathan Mace, laying his fork down and pausing for the serious discussion that he had known would come. He was himself trying to work through the disappointments in the Oscar Finch episode.

3. "But, Dad," inserted Evan, "becoming a thief just because his wife dies? That doesn't make any sense. A good man becomes bad because he's sad?"
Jonathan looked at his wife, Joan, knowing she was aware of the seriousness with which Evan was approaching this apparent contradiction. She nodded her encouragement, as Jonathan attempted to walk their son through this moral dilemma.

4. "I think with Addie's death, Oscar became deeply depressed. Then one thing led to another: he lost his job, his house, and his sense of right and wrong. He was scrambling for an identity; unfortunately, he turned to thievery in the Park to find it. Perhaps it made him feel superior to prey on hikers and picnickers. He used many wrong rationalizations to justify his thievery.

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VOCABULARY, Chapter 37: Payback

Instructions: Read the passage. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Consult a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. An hour or so before sunset on Saturday, Evan, Mica, and Charu, along with Boone, met at The Rock. The dog happily probed the banks of Hickory Creek, while the threesome sat comfortably in the evening shade and thought back on the remarkable events of the past few days.

2. Mica responded heatedly, “It took us forever to clean it the last time. I’m not scrubbing Moose’s muck again, no matter what! Let’s confront him, and live with the consequences!”

3. Not only had Moose failed to get the hog manure on The Rock, he had gotten a dose of his own medicine!
The kids were jubilant. Instinctively they chased Moose down the path that ran through Doc’s land—though keeping their distance from the odor!

4. Suddenly the ATV powered down. As they approached, they saw Evan’s grandpa, Doc Mace, standing right in the middle of the lane, looking like the sheriff from Dodge City. Moose had no alternative but to stop.
