

Sylvester Seagull Finds Freedom



By Kathy Warnes

In the summer of 1944, Sylvester Sea Gull flew from California to Cleveland because his Uncle Fred needed help fishing the Lake Erie gull fishing grounds by the lighthouse in Cleveland harbor. He sent a feather letter to Sylvester begging him to come to Cleveland.

Sylvester didn't want to leave his home and friends in California, but he loved his Uncle Fred and Aunt Minerva, so he flew to Cleveland.





Uncle Fred's Feather Letter
Fred Pinfeather
Cleveland Lighthouse
Lake Erie, Ohio
August 6, 1944

Dear Sylvester,
There are so many fish by the
lighthouse in Cleveland that I must have
help catching them. Please fly in as
soon as you can.

Uncle Fred



Sylvester Seagull fished every day in Cleveland harbor from sunrise ...

To sunset.



Sylvester fished with his new friends in Cleveland
or Sylvester fished by himself.



One day Sylvester spotted a stranger walking down what he had come of think of as his beach. “What are you doing walking on my beach?” Sylvester asked the stranger.

The stranger who was a crab, smiled at Sylvester. “I am looking for a new home. The waves washed away my old one in the sand,” he said.



“You can’t stay here,” Sylvester said.
“This is my territory.”

“I need a new home. Please let me stay here,” the crab begged Sylvester.

“All right, you can stay, but you have to tell me everything you do,”
Sylvester said.



The crab wanted to make his new home on Sylvester's beach, so for a week he told Sylvester everything he did all day long. Soon the crab got tired of telling Sylvester everything he did and Sylvester got tired of hearing about everything he did.



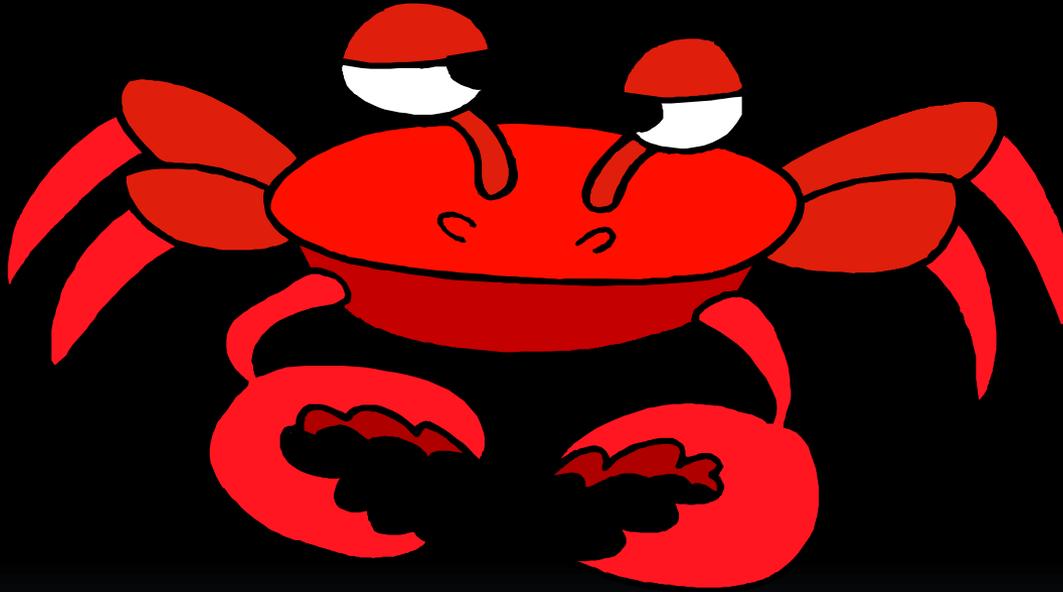
Finally, the crab said, "I must have my freedom!"





“This is my beach and I will tell you what kind of freedom you will have,” Sylvester told the crab.

“I am willing to live anywhere if I am free,” the crab told Sylvester. He scuttled away from Sylvester’s beach.





Sylvester and his friends guarded the beach to make sure the crab didn't return. The crab didn't come back to the beach, but someone else did.

A boy from Cleveland started coming to Sylvester's beach every day.
He built sand castles and watched the waves.

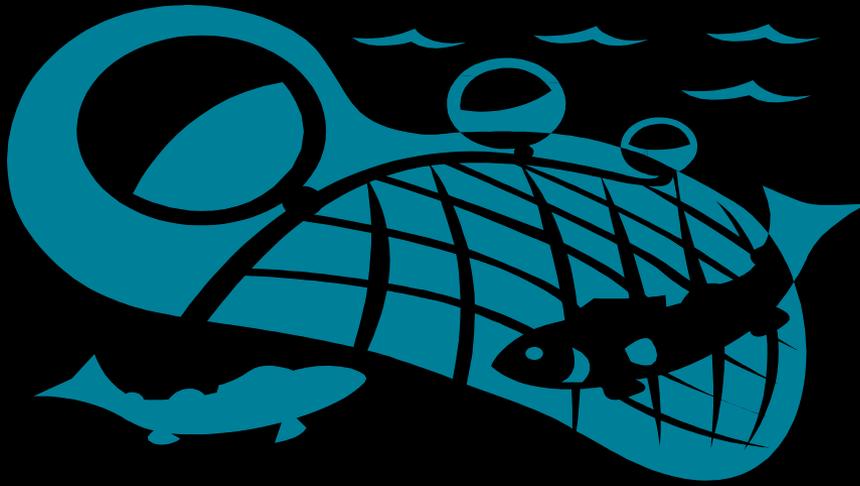




Sylvester wanted the boy to go away. He tried to chase him away. The boy kept building the sand castles.

One day after he had squawked at the boy and tried to chase him away, Sylvester went fishing in the harbor. He was so angry at the boy that he didn't notice a net that the fishermen had set.





Smack! Sylvester flew into the net!



The boy from Cleveland who had been fishing nearby, stopped fishing and helped Sylvester get free of the net.

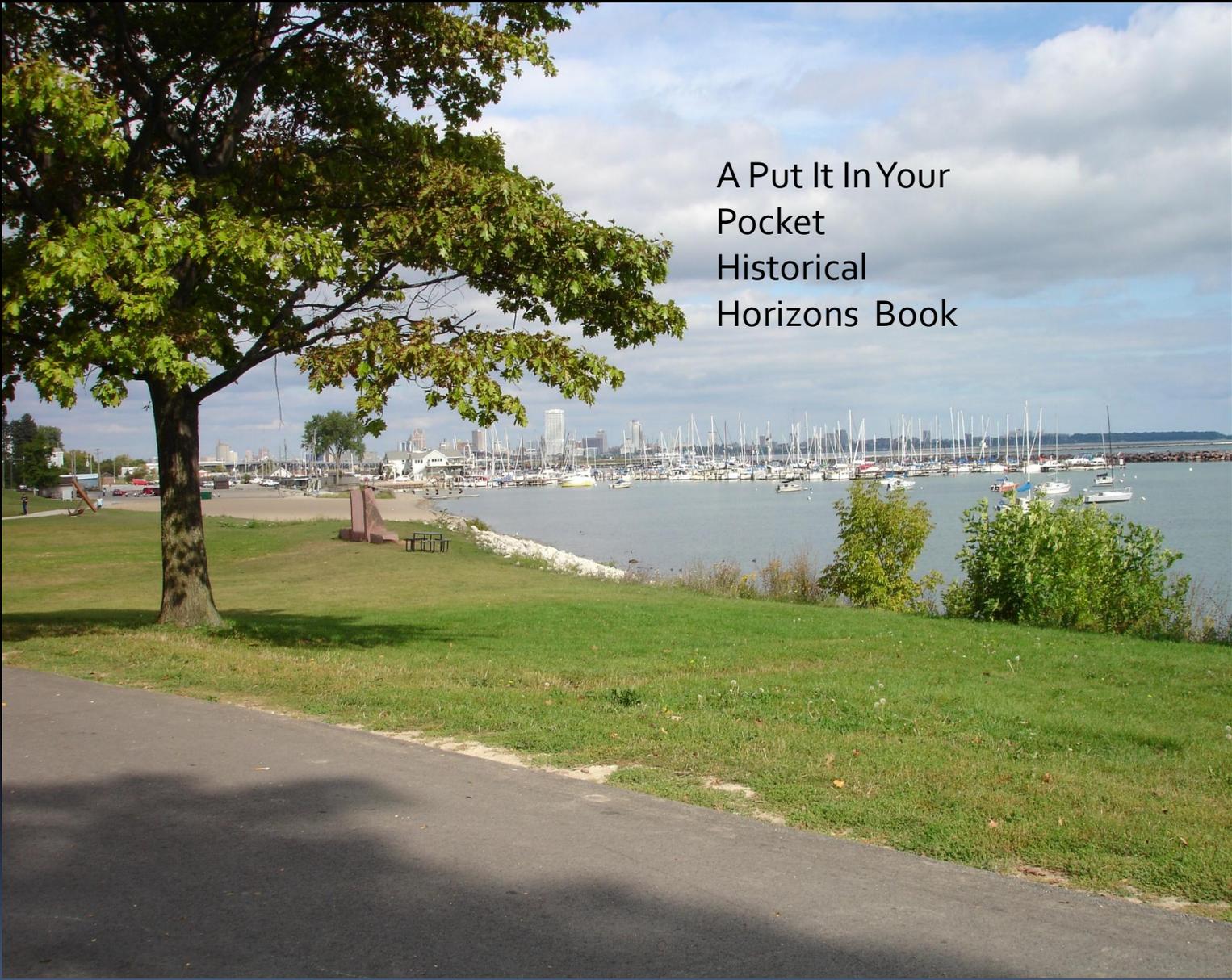


Sylvester celebrated his freedom. He would give a fish a day to the boy from Cleveland.



And he would find that crab and invite him
back to live on the beach for FREE!!!





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