

EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD COUNTY

BY H.E. SMITH

A JEALOUS GHOST

The morning was warm and the windows were open. He stepped to the light with a sample-pan of plumbago, and was examining it, when the hall door behind him was opened and shut, and almost immediately after he was struck a staggering blow under the left ear from behind, which knocked him completely over upon the floor, throwing the plumbago over his face and into his hair.

At this outrage he sprang to his feet and with his hand upon his neck, smarting and gasping, he cried "Murder!" several times loudly. Then perceiving that there was no one present, he ran to the door, issued into the public passageway, and, looking over the balusters, saw only an old and inform apple-woman toddling carefully down the stairs with a heavily loaded basket upon her arm. He then ran back into his office, and was followed by the occupants of Treadwell's agency adjoining, who, seeing a man in a great state of excitement, and scarcely recognizable for the black lead that had covered his face, huddled at the door and inquired what the matter was. His reply was that he had been assaulted in his own room by some murderously-disposed ruffian, who had escaped. Believing that Mr. Surden was suffering from some kind of an altercation, and was indisposed to tell the circumstances of it, they finally left.

Having washed and dressed his face, which was plainly marked on the left side by a contused surface, Mr. Surden began to reflect upon the circumstances. It was plain to his mind at this time that some adroit enemy was persecuting him. Not having a mind disciplined to the examination and detection of this species of villainy, his first endeavor was to ascertain how the enemy could accomplish his purpose twice in so complete and unobservable a manner. After that Mr. Surden endeavored to fix upon the enemy. He exclaimed his room with the greatest care, taking down the two or three old garments that hung in the dark closet and sounding the walls for secret openings, and inspecting the partition on the east side narrowly.

Register of Deeds
Judy Lambert
(continued)