

## **EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD COUNTY BY H.E. SMITH**

### **A TRANSACTION IN STOCKS**

In a moment, as it occasionally happens, they had struck the oleaginous fluid, and the despised well became a flowing fountain of wealth. And of, course, the company's stock went leaping up to an enormous distance beyond par.

Silas heard all this, and his heart and head at once became light with hopeful expectation.

"Shouldn't wonder a bit if 'twas our well," he murmured to himself, "cause the Judge said we was jest on the p'int o' striking somethin'. I'm sure it's our well!" Then, as a man went hurrying by, he asked; "Say, Mister, is it the 'Great Petroleum Company' that has struck oil?"

"Why, of course it's a petroleum company," replied the man, hastening on.

"I jest knew it! Horray for General Jackson!" shouted Silas, throwing his best hat recklessly into the air, much to the surprise of the bystanders. Then he hurried back to the hotel, scarcely knowing whether he stood on his head or heels. After he reached that place he didn't know what to do with himself. He walked around, and then he sat down; then he got up and walked about again. Presently he entered the reading-room, and as he did so he heard a gentleman near one of the tables say;

"Well, last night I would have sold my four shares for fifteen cents on the dollar, but now I hardly know what I would take for them."

"Have you got shares in the Great Petroleum? So have I," exclaimed Silas, rushing straight up to the stranger as if he were his long-lost brother.

"Bully, ain't it? Horray for ----"

"Don't get excited," interrupted the stranger, laughing. "Perhaps you are mistaken. Let me compare your stock-certificates with mine." As he spoke he placed his own certificates on the table, and Silas did the same with his. The papers certainly bore a general resemblance, but just as the stranger was about to examine them closely someone came to the door and called him.

### **Register of Deeds**

**Judy Lambert**

**(continued)**