

EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD CLOUNTY BY H.E. SMITH

GELCHER'S EXPERIENCE

A man came into Mr. Belcher's office a few days ago and tried to sell him a patent-cast-iron-universal-combination-little-giant-family-handy-andy made up of a stove cover lifter, bed-wrench, claw-hammer fruit, can opener, kettle and pie-plate lifter, screw-driver and carpet stretcher, all in one handle, for the small sum of fifty cents; and because Mr. Gelcher called it a humbug and would not buy it, the man told him he'd regret it-and he did.

AT 8'clock that evening Mr. Gelcher, who had just moved into a new house, stood in his shirt sleeves in the middle of a great, blank, front room, and ran his hands through his hair, and smiled grimly as he surveyed the rather painful prospect of a carpet loosely spread out upon a floor which in turn spread out beyond the carpet on one side to a discouraging extent. It was terribly clear that carpet would have to be stretched some, and this, in connection with the fact that it was made up of a great square, sprawling pattern that would not put up with a great deal of stretching, and at the same time look well, was what caused Mr. Gelcher to run his hands through his hair so much and think. Mrs. Gelcher was down-stairs hunting up some carpet tacks that Mr. Gelcher had reported as being in his breast pocket; but as he hadn't designated the coat nor specified as to whether the pocket was outside or in, she didn't return immediately, which allowed him plenty of time for reflection.

Mr. Gelcher had worked himself up into a very amiable condition of mind when his wife came up-stairs very red in the face, making soothing remarks on the beautifully explicit style of a man's directions, and bearing in her hand an old saucer full of carpet tacks, not so full as when she had started, to be sure, for she had distributed them around rather lavishly on the stairs coming up, but enough, as she declared, when he pleasantly hinted that carpet tacks cost money, to last till 2 o'clock next morning, which from the rather brisk manner in which that carpet was then going down would be about the time he'd be through.

**Register of Deeds
Judy Lambert
(Continued)**