

EARLY HISTORY OF CLOUD COUNTY BY H.E. SMITH

GELCHER'S EXPERIENCE

A hammer, which but an instant before had been so eagerly clutched, went, flying out into the next room among some pictures and mirrors that were loitering about in hopes of being hung up sometime, and a wild and frenzied man with one eye starting fiercely from its socket, went bounding down a long flight of tack-strewed stairs, came in noisy contact with various articles of furniture below, floundered through them to the kitchen and finally brought up on his knees in a chair before the sink and commenced to dash cold water into his eyes, and to roar, and groan, and grind his teeth, and howl, and dance about with an enthusiasm that showed that he entered fully into the spirit of the performance.

Then he sat down on a chair and held out his feet and wrung his hands and called on all the heathen deities, and howled, and wept, and extracting carpet tacks from the soles of his feet with the claw-end of a tack hammer and did them up in salve and pork-rind and rags.

They got through at just 2 o'clock the next morning, and Gelcher, blindfolded and smelling fearfully of a drug store, crept down-stairs on his hands and knees to bed and stayed there ten days; and when, shortly after this terrible night, the man came to finish laying that carpet, it took four strong men to keep Gelcher anywhere near his bed.

**Register of Deeds
Judy Lambert**