

5 MISS GULCH (SCENE CHANGE) (Orchestra) *(The music takes on a sinister note)*

ACT ONE: SCENE 3

KANSAS

(MISS GULCH astride her trusty bicycle rides down the aisle. She peers out into the audience intently. She is looking for culprits. She suddenly spots UNCLE HENRY off-stage and screeches to a halt as he enters)

MISS GULCH:

Henry Gale. Is that you skulking by the barn?

UNCLE HENRY:

I never skulked in my life, Miss Gulch. And I ain't about to start now.

(MISS GULCH dismounts and leans her bicycle against the picket fence. UNCLE HENRY holds open the gate for her. She passes through.)

MISS GULCH:

I want to see you and your wife right away about Dorothy.

UNCLE HENRY:

Dorothy? Why, what has Dorothy done?

MISS GULCH:

What's she done? I'm all but lame from the bite on my leg!

UNCLE HENRY:

You mean she bit you?

MISS GULCH:

No, her dog!

UNCLE HENRY:

Oh, she bit her dog, eh?

AUNT EM: *(Entering)*

Afternoon Miss Gulch. I just made a fresh batch of cookies if you've a mind to sit awhile.

MISS GULCH:

I'm afraid I have no appetite Mrs. Gale. Indeed I'm so shaken by the ferocious attack of your niece's vicious dog, I may never eat again.

UNCLE HENRY:

If you don't eat, you'll waste away. And I'd hate to see you dwindle.

(MISS GULCH gives him a beady look while AUNT EM calls off)

AUNT EM:

Dorothy could you bring Toto out here a minute? *(She turns back to MISS GULCH)*
I'm sure if Dorothy's upset you in any way she'll be only too glad to apologize as best she can.

MISS GULCH:

It's gone beyond apologies, Mrs. Gale. I have laid an official complaint with the County Sheriff.

UNCLE HENRY:

Was he sober?

(MISS GULCH gives UNCLE HENRY another look as DOROTHY enters carrying TOTO)

AUNT EM:

Dorothy, Miss Gulch here seems very upset.

MISS GULCH:

That dog's a menace to the community.

DOROTHY:

That's not true.

MISS GULCH:

As an act of public service, young woman, I'm taking that dog to the Sheriff and make sure he's destroyed.

DOROTHY:

Destroyed? Toto? Oh, you can't! You mustn't! Uncle Henry! Auntie Em! You won't let her will you?

UNCLE HENRY:

Of course, we won't. Will we Em? *(AUNT EM says nothing)*

DOROTHY:

Oh, please, Aunt Em! Toto didn't mean to. He didn't know he was doing anything wrong. I'm the one that ought to be punished. You can send me to bed without supper—

AUNT EM:

You hear how sorry the child is. Surely if she promises to give your place a wide berth...