

THE SAGA OF DEAD DOG GULCH

An Operetta of the Old West
For
Elementary Grades or Junior High

Story by Joy Kurtz
Music by Wayne Simpson
Lyrics by Wayne Simpson and Joy Kurtz

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COSTUMES

LADIES OF THE BEAUTIFICATION SOCIETY: Long or mid-calf length full skirts or dresses - with petticoats, big aprons, dark tights or stockings, dark shoes, fancy hats or bonnets, some with shawls. Props - brooms and mops.

SWEET YOUNG THINGS: Long or mid-calf length brightly-colored skirts or dresses with petticoats. Light colored tights or stockings, dark or light shoes, large bows for hair - worn in back of head.

NETTIE AND PETUNIA: Short light-colored skirts or dresses with petticoats and pantaloons. Light-colored tights or stockings, strap shoes, bonnets or large hair bows. Props - rag doll for Petunia.

COWBOYS: Cowboy shirts, jeans, kerchiefs, cowboy boots, hats and chaps. Some wear long red or white underwear and some have beards and whiskers. Props - guns and holsters, bed rolls and saddles.

SHERIFF: Cowboy shirt, jeans, vest with big star, kerchief, cowboy boots and hat, key ring with large key on it. Props - lacy doily hidden in a pocket.

MINERS: Plain or plaid flannel work shirts or blue denim; dark pants or jeans, work shoes (hiking boots) or just plain dark shoes; big wide belts with buckles, miner's hard hats. Props - picks and shovels.

SAMUEL: Short pants, white shirt with big bow at neck, knee socks, plain shoes.

LITTLE JOSH: Short pants or cut off jeans, knee socks, plain shoes, old faded shirt, straw hat. Props - horse blanket pins and rope.

HIRUM, THE STORE OWNER: White shirt, dark pants, big apron with pink ruffle, bow tie. Props - feather duster.

HARRY, THE BARBER: White or striped shirt, dark pants, bright colored arm garter, bow tie, suspenders. Props - shaving mug and brush.

OLD JOSH: Dark pants or bib overalls, old shirt, suspenders, old shoes, old felt hat. Props - comfortable rocker at side of stage.

TOWNSPEOPLE: Same as Ladies, Sweet Young Things and Miners.

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THE CAST

MRS. McNUTT

EMMA

OLGA

HANNA

OTHERS*

Ladies of the Beautification Society

HANS

BIG HENRY

BLACKY

CARL

OTHERS*

Miners

COFFEE POT

BULLHEAD HUFF

SLIM JIM

BUZZARD

HAPPY HOMER

SHORTY

OTHERS*

Cowboys

LITTLE JOSH

NETTIE

SAMUEL

PETUNIA

Kids

BELLE

LULU

HARRIETT

IRIS

IRMA

OTHERS*

Sweet Young Things

HIRUM (Store Owner)

HARRY (Barber)

SHERIFF

OTHERS*

Townspeople

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OLD JOSH

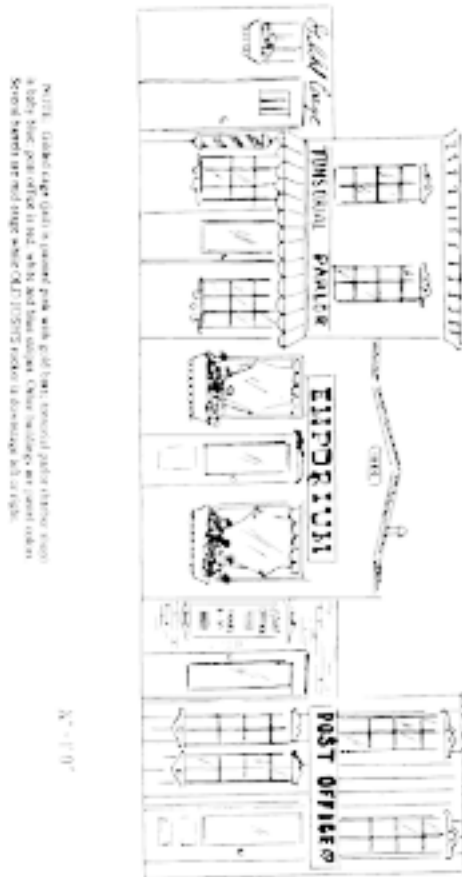
Your Story Host

*Others...to include a few or as many as desired

SYNOPSIS

TIME: Just before the turn of the century.

PLACE: Colorado mining town of Dead Dog Gulch.



Scene 1

(AT RISE: Main Street in front of jail. Whole COMPANY on stage for opening number, then CURTAIN closes. OLD JOSH comes on in front of curtain in SPOTLIGHT. Rest of scene takes place on Main Street in full light.)

MUSIC: #1 - "Howdy, Folks"

OLD JOSH: *(Enters in front of CURTAIN)* Howdy, folks. I'd like to tell you about my hometown. My story goes back quite a few years, back about the turn of the century. This here is the story about the time the young 'uns saved the town. But, before we git on with the story, I'd like to show you how Dead Dog Gulch looked way back then. *(CURTAIN opens and JOSH walks toward set.)* I might jest explain this is the way Dead Dog looked after the Women's Society decided the town needed refining. *(Points to jail)* Now that there is the jail. Yep, I said the jail. The ladies decorated it all themselves. One thing I kin say fer it, not much crime lately, as none of the menfolk would be caught dead in it. *(Points to emporium)* Close to the jail...I mean the Gilded Cage...is Hiram's store. But it's plain to see the ladies got it, too....

HIRUM: *(Enters quickly carrying a feather duster and wearing HIS ruffled store apron. Hurries up to JOSH and shakes duster in his face)* Now jest a minute, Old Josh! I kin speak for myself. Those women make me so mad. That Emporium thing there is mine. It used to jest say "Store" before them nosey women got so civic-minded. Terrible, jest terrible. Now anyone coming into town has to ask where the store is. Women should stay at home and mind their own business..Can you imagine what'll happen if'n they ever git the right to vote? *(Throws up hands in disgust, exits muttering to HIMSELF)*

OLD JOSH: Seems I can't but think Hiram's 'bout right. Them women should be home minding their young'uns. *(Points to post office)* Now let me see....*(Scratches HIS head)* Well, that used to be called the post office. One thing about them ladies, they sure are patriotic. *(Points to assayer's office)* They

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couldn't do much to the assayer's office, but they tried. Now Dead Dog is bigger than this - about a block - but them women wouldn't let me show it to you as they are still beautifying it. I 'spect you noticed in the song they even beautified the name...Columbine Valley. *(Disgusted)*

HARRY: *(Enters quickly carrying shaving mug and brush. Hurries up to JOSH and shakes the brush in HIS face, getting shaving cream on him)* Josh...Josh...Josh! You've got to stop them! It's them fool women! They're painting my barber shop blue.

OLD JOSH: But blue ain't so bad--

HARRY: Baby blue! And they're calling it a tonsil...tonsil...tonsil something or other....We've just got to do something.

OLD JOSH: Now, whoa there a minute, Harry. *(To the audience)* Let me get on with the story. *(To HARRY)* Sit down here 'til I git through with my story.

HARRY: *(Noticing the audience; acts surprised)* Didn't know you had company, Josh. *(Hurries off SR)*

OLD JOSH: Guess Harry didn't like your company. Say, I'd better quit my gabbing and git on with my story, seein' as that's why I'm here. *(As OLD JOSH is talking, the MINERS stroll on stage. The "CHUCKLEHEADS" enter SR. The "ROSEBUDS" enter SL.)* Now back in those days we had two real good silver mines. There was the Chucklehead Diggins' *(Points to the MINERS SR. They cheer.)* And the Podunk Holler Mine. *(Points to the MINERS SL. They cheer.)* Now the ladies got hold of them Podunk fellers and they ended up the Rosebud Mining Company. *(The ROSEBUDS cheer and CHUCKLEHEADS boo.)* Now them two mines didn't get on too well to start with, but Rosebud - that was the last straw. *(OLD JOSH moves out of way...the MINERS get ready to fight. They lay down picks, shovels, take off jackets, roll up sleeves.)*

MUSIC: #2 - "Miners' Braggin' Tune" or "There Ain't No Other Men Like Us"

(During the song THEY line up facing each other; shake their fists all during the song. After the song, they scuffle. This should be