

(MISS GULCH astride her trusty bicycle clatters on-stage. She circles the stage peering out into the audience intently, looking for culprits. She suddenly spots UNCLE HENRY off-stage and screeches to a halt.)

MISS GULCH

Henry, Gale. Is that you skulking by the barn?

(UNCLE HENRY enters)

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 GLUCH 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.