

COVERS HIS HOUSE WITH PUNCTURED TINS TO DESTROY ALL EVIL SPIRITS

Dimondale has a unique citizen. Delos Marvin, of whom the town is rather proud and who furnishes its people with a great deal of harmless amusement with his quaint vagaries and wonderful flights of fancy.

Mr. Marvin lives alone in a strange little house close beside Grand river. He believes himself to be in constant communication with a superior spirit, but he avers that there are good spirits and bad spirits and that the only way to exterminate the bad shades is to take pieces of tin, or sheet iron or zinc and punch them full of holes. Every hole made in these pieces of metal destroys an evil spirit. Consequently he has gathered all the pieces of tin, galvanized, iron, washboards, stove pipes and the like, has perforated them with small nail holes until they resemble a colander and has literally enveloped his one room cabin with this fantastic covering. He is a pensioner and lives mainly upon the money he receives from the government. He cooks his own food and does all the work about his odd home.

The women of various lodges and societies send Marvin generous baskets of food from their public suppers and he receives many a glass of jelly and other dainties from the good housewives of the town.

When alone, he keeps up an animated conversation with his spirit companion. These arguments, although apparently one-sided are none the less wordy and "spirited."

Marvin wears small round pieces of tin perforated with nail holes, hung about his neck, beneath his clothing, believing that these will prevent diseases of all kinds. He declares that he is the most wonderful person living, having single-handed and alone destroyed nearly every spirit of darkness. Sometimes he makes tremendous clatter on a tin pan with a horse shoe. This is not as might be supposed, for the purpose of scaring away evil spirits, but to call the good ones to him.

Mr. Marvin was a one time a well paid newspaper reporter, and many a good news story flowed from his pen, and that too, in days when "good stuff" was not plentiful. The age of Mr. Marvin is not exactly known, but he must be upwards of 60 years old.

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