

# Northeast Missouri Folklore

## Local Legends and Tales



### THE FORESHADOW OF DEATH

Over the centuries there have been legends that the howling of dogs signified death. This legend became reality for my mother's family on the night of November 26, 1962.

My grandpa, Henry Clote, had been a successful farmer all his life. His farm was located in Knox County, east of Edina about four miles. While he was engaged in farming, he would get up in the wee hours of the morning, go to the fields till around noon, come home, and then go back in mid-afternoon, and stay till the sun turned in. Henceforth, supper was served late during crop season. He retired from farming in 1961 and moved into Edina to set up permanent residence.

It was on this night, November 26, 1962, that my grandpa, my grandma, their youngest daughter and her husband were seated around the table eating supper. When supper was over my grandpa got up and said, "I can't decide whether to sit in my new recliner, or go to bed." He finally decided he would go to bed, since he wasn't feeling too well. He just thought he was overly tired.

But as he started walking for his room, his two dogs shattered the eerie stillness by howling. It was as if they sensed death and knew something was wrong. This might have changed my grandpa's idea of "just being tired," because the howls certainly captured everyone's attention, and they all knew that howling dogs prefixed death.

As he entered the room he dropped into bed, neglecting to change clothes. The rest of the family followed to see if he was all right. But as they entered his room they noticed his ankles were swollen to an abnormal size and were blood red. He had died of a heart attack and the blood had rushed to his feet.

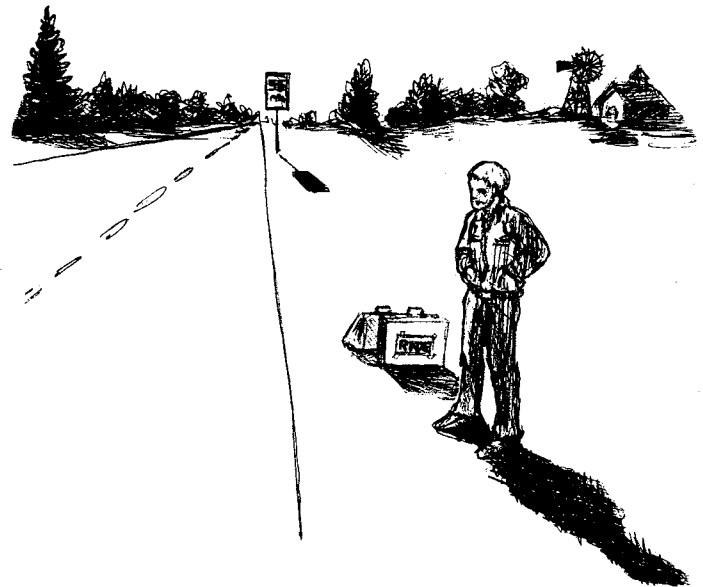
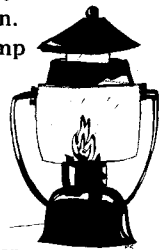
My grandpa's dogs continued howling on into the night. They couldn't have been howling at the moon because they were on the back porch and it was completely enclosed. They knew their loved master was gone and they, too, mourned his death.

Call it superstition, or coincidence. But it really happened, and I feel there is more than just chance behind the meaning of this.

—By Bobby Poston

### THE LAMP THAT WENT OUT

There is a barn about five miles west of Yarrow where an older couple used to live. The man always went out at night to feed the livestock in his barn. Every night he took with him an old oil lamp and every night he would set the lamp on a bench right inside the door. Time after time the lamp would go out. Finally the man got curious, so he decided to dig under the bench. After digging for awhile, the man came across the bones of a man. It is said the man under the bench kept blowing out the lamp so he could rest in peace.



### JESUS IS COMING...

Although this story reportedly came over the AP Wire as a news spot about a year ago, in less than six months it was circulating in Kirksville. The location had moved from southern Missouri and Arkansas to Fulton, and girls from Kirksville became the vehicle for the story. This is a fascinating example of how fast and how far stories travel, and how the people in the story become local in order to make it more interesting.

A group of girls from around Kirksville were driving down by Fulton when they decided to pick up a hitchhiker. When they stopped, the man began talking. He said, "Jesus is coming soon. He's coming sooner than you think." After he said this, he turned around and disappeared into thin air.

The girls, naturally shocked, decided to tell the local police about their experience. The police, who had previously been skeptical, admitted that they were beginning to wonder. They had had six reports of similar incidents that day.