

(PROFESSOR WILLARD, a rural savant, pince-nez on a wide satin ribbon, enters from the right with some notes in his hand.)

May I introduce Professor Willard of our State University. A few brief notes, thank you, Professor, – unfortunately our time is limited.

PROFESSOR WILLARD. Grover's Corners...let me see... Grover's Corners lies on the old Pleistocene granite of the Appalachian range. I may say it's some of the oldest land in the world. We're very proud of that. A shelf of Devonian basalt crosses it with vestiges of Mesozoic shale, and some sandstone outcroppings; but that's all more recent: two hundred, three hundred million years old. Some highly interesting fossils have been found...I may say: unique fossils...two miles out of town, in Silas Peckham's cow pasture. They can be seen at the museum in our University at any time – that is, at any reasonable time. Shall I read some of Professor Gruber's notes on the meteorological situation – mean precipitation, et cetera?

STAGE MANAGER. Afraid we won't have time for that, Professor. We might have a few words on the history of man here.

PROFESSOR WILLARD. Yes...anthropological data: Early Amerindian stock. Cotahatchee tribes...no evidence before the tenth century of this era... hm...now entirely disappeared...possible traces in three families. Migration toward the end of the seventeenth century of English brachiocephalic blue-eyed stock...for the most part. Since then some Slav and Mediterranean –

STAGE MANAGER. And the population, Professor Willard?

PROFESSOR WILLARD. Within the town limits: 2,640.

STAGE MANAGER. Just a moment, Professor.