



*Dan Schweitzer*

For several years now, Frisco's deputy sheriff, Clem Kadiddlehopper, has been pursuing some vary suspicious chili.

Every January, the Timberline Toppers provide a free chili dinner. Afterwards, the guests start laughing, hugging, and twirling around – with strangers!

Surely, believes Clem, this odd behavior must be due to something in the chili. The substance has to be powerful, since many guests follow up with twice-a-week sessions of grinning and twirling. These sessions last for ten weeks, all without additional chili. Whatever the additive might be, Clem is certain that it is addictive, illegal, or dangerous – probably all three.

Still, after years of sending samples to labs all over the state, nothing addictive, illegal, or dangerous ever turned up. Frustrating.

Clem takes his responsibilities seriously. He is certain that the good citizens of Summit County are being duped into sessions of laughing and dancing. Still, because the chili has always tested out as safe (and, actually, is pretty darn tasty), Clem is helpless.

Six years of these dinners, and no solution in sight. Very, very frustrating.

But Frisco Deputy Sheriff, Clem Kadiddlehopper, is not a quitter. "His" people deserve a normal life, and he needs to protect them from that unnatural laughing, and twirling. They have a right to spend evenings falling asleep in front of the TV, like most people. All this exercise, laughing, and making friends isn't normal.

So, he spent the entire Holiday Season on the internet, researching psychedelic drugs. No luck.

Then, inspiration, perhaps the beans bobbing in the chili are hypnotic! But no, that wasn't it.

The 2012 chili dinner approaches. The situation becomes desperate. Long, holiday, weekend, and evening, hours, yet Clem is still helpless, plus tired, frustrated, and a bit cranky.

Then, one night, over a late dinner, his wife cheerily informs him that she has signed them up for a free chili dinner – Tuesday, January 17.

"Isn't that wonderful honey? I know work has been stressful. You need a night to just laugh and dance. Plus, I hear that the chili is really good."