

James M. Spangler was working in a department store in Ohio. He was indispensable to the everyday practice in the company, fulfilling the demands of an average job that would have been intolerable for any other servant. One of his greatest pleasures was to spend hours sweeping the floor in the most attentive way.

One evening I found Spangler in the street in a pensive mood. He told me that over the years he had started to sneeze and cough very badly. Gradually it became difficult for him to fulfil his duty in the store. Spangler had developed an allergy that was causing him much trouble: whenever he cleaned the floors the dust raised from his broom and intensified his asthma. He knew he'd have to do something about it or quit his job. He could not continue like this. Spangler had to pull the dust away from the air he breathed.

It was two days after, I think, that Spangler gathered a tin soapbox, a fan, a sateen pillowcase, a broom handle and goat bristles. He used the fan to pull air and dust into the pillowcase. He then made a roller brush from goat bristles and stapled them to a piece of broom handle. Afterwards he carefully attached the fan and pillowcase dust bag to the goat bristle brush. Spangler sealed everything inside a wooden soapbox with adhesive tape to make it airtight.

Some days passed and Spangler went over to his cousin Susan's house. "And what is the use of it?" she asked as he carried in the machine. Spangler finally persuaded her to try the machine. While she was testing it the doorbell rang and her husband came in. He seemed depressed, tired of running an unsuccessful leather goods manufacturing shop. However, on seeing the machine he became excited by its perfection: it was removing the dust and dirt from the floor, surprisingly easy to use and was very dependable.

Susan's husband bought the patent from Spangler. Soon he had six employees assembling six units a day in a corner of the leather goods shop. The First 1907 Model "O" Hoover® Suction Cleaner was put into production and eventually there was a vacuum cleaner in nearly every home.

One can dispute the matter of these circumstances, but here it must be said that it was possible for Spangler to keep his job as a cleaning man in the department store.

I am a man who, from his youth upwards, has been filled with a profound conviction that the easiest way of life is the best.