

STATE OF JEFFERSON

Characters

Stanton Delaplane
Judge John C. Childs
Mayor Gilbert Gable
Herbert Freeman
Lucy Freeman
Lester Todd
Margaret Swenson
Lowell Hanson
Gus Walker
Ben Payne
Caesar Luigi
Cameraman
Senator Randolph Collier
Townpeople (Chorus)

ACT I Scene 1

Yreka Odd Fellows Hall, November 17, 1941. A podium is at the front of the room with three seats to one side, each occupied an elderly gentleman, Herbert Freeman, Judge John C. Childs, and Mayor Gilbert Gable. Judge Childs and Mayor Gable are in suits; Herbert is in a shopkeepers smock. To the other side is Lowell Hanson, who is in shirt sleeves and a tie. He is seated at a small desk. About a dozen men and one girl in her late teens are in the audience. Amid the rumble of casual conversations, the shopkeeper rises, moves to the podium, and speaks.

HERBERT

All right, everybody take your seats.

(Conversation continues)

Stop your jawin'. It's time to get started, so let's have some quiet.

(Conversation subsides)

I call this meeting of the Yreka 20-30 Club to order. Lowell, you read the minutes from the last meeting.

LOWELL

(He stands)

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President Freeman. The condition of Lower Loop Road was discussed, as were the plans for the repair of the Klamath River Bridge. The club voted unanimously to support a proposal banning dogs and other

domesticated animals from all eating establishments in Siskiyou County. Because of their possible usefulness in rodent control, an exemption for cats was suggested. The meeting adjourned at 10:57.

(He sits)

HERBERT

Thank you, Lowell. As I mentioned last week, we have a couple of special guests today. Our first speaker this morning is the mayor of Port Orford, Gilbert Gable. He's been in contact with me for the past month about problems that are shared by the border counties in Oregon and California. He has come here today to talk to us about his new proposal, and I think it's worth giving him a listen. Let's give a hearty Yreka welcome to Mayor Gilbert Gable.

(Applause. A young man, Stanton Delaplane, enters from the back of the room. He takes a seat next to the young woman)

MAYOR

Thank you, Herbert. It's certainly my pleasure to speak to you this morning, and I appreciate all of you making the trek into town on such a chilly day. As you all know, the counties along the border of Oregon and California have always had trouble squeezing money out of the state coffers to build roads and develop our region. I have just returned as part of a three man delegation from a visit with Governor Olson in Sacramento. I wish I had better news to report, but the situation is clearly at an impasse. Although he seems sympathetic with our plight, he was unwilling to pledge any support for increased funding for mineral development or the maintenance of roads in Northern California. Gentlemen, we are in crises. The demand for copper, chrome, and manganese has increased dramatically in the last five years, and yet not one extra dollar has come our way to improve our roads, harbors, or regional railways....

STANTON

(whispering to the girl while the mayor continues to speak)

Who is this guy?

LUCY

(looking straight at the podium, not at Stanton)

He is the mayor of Port Orford.

STANTON

Port Orford? Where in the heck is that?

LUCY

Sssh! It's over on the coast of Oregon. His name is Gilbert Gable.

STANTON

Just the man I came to see..

MAYOR

(continuing)

There is no indication from our representatives that this will change in the coming years. More and more money is being poured into Southern California, and we continue to be neglected. Big corporations don't want us to develop our mineral resources so they can keep their big profits, It's time for action.

GUS

(from the audience)

Well, what can we do? They're the ones holding all the cards.

BEN

Yeah, they've got the purse strings. If we can't pry their dirty hands loose, we're stuck!

MAYOR

That's right! So it's time to take things into our own hands. The solution is to take that power away from them for good. We can govern ourselves. I am proposing that the northern counties of California and the southwestern counties of Oregon band together and form the 49th state in the union.

GUS

Break away from California?

BEN

Form a new state? Are you crazy?

MAYOR

Now hear me out! I've talked to Board of Supervisors in Del Norte County, and they agree. The economic interests in this region are very different than in the southern part of California. We will never have the population to garner the political clout necessary to get what we need. Yet we are rich in natural resources, and we certainly don't need their help to manage our resources. I am proposing that the four border counties, Curry, Del

Norte, Modoc, and Siskiyou, band together and seek independence. Let's just make a clean break of it.

GUS

But this ain't the first time people have talked about secession in this part of the state, and it ain't never gotten off the ground. The leaders always end up getting labeled as wackos and nutjobs.

MAYOR

So what? We have nothing to lose. What are they going to do if we don't succeed, withhold funding? They don't give us any to begin with!

STANTON

(extends his hand to Lucy)

I'm Stanton Delaplaine.

LUCY

(Continues to look at the podium)

Sssh!

JUDGE

(Rising)

I'm Judge John L. Childs from Crescent City in Del Norte County, and I agree completely with Mayor Gable. As it stands, the revenue generated from our timber and minerals goes straight to Sacramento and never comes back. Let's keep it here in Siskiyou and Del Norte Counties. There would be more than enough money to maintain our roads and develop plenty more. There are regions in Northern California and Southern Oregon with untapped riches because we have no way of accessing them. New roads and bridges will create more jobs in the area; everyone would benefit.

MAYOR

And we will win, even if we don't achieve statehood. What better way to attract attention to the unfair treatment we receive from the state? What better way to get some press coverage?

STANTON

(to audience)

He's got a point there. And that's why I'm here: to cover the story. After ten hours of bouncing around in my beat up jalopy, I finally made it. The guys in the press room at the Chronicle thought it was a joke. Send the rookie off on some wild goose chase. A new state? Heck, as far as I can tell, it might as well be another planet.

(to Lucy)

Do you think he's a real judge?

LUCY

Will you hush!

MAYOR

What my colleague, Judge Child, and I are asking is that you join us in our quest for independence and statehood for the border counties. Add Siskiyou County to the list of counties that are sick of being treated like the ugly kid sister of Southern California. It is time for a change. What do you say?

(An excited clamor of approval ensues).

HERBERT

I think we should show Mayor Gable and Judge Childs our commitment to their cause. I propose that the Yreka 20/30 Club should ask the county supervisors to dedicate two hundred dollars to researching the feasibility of secession and pursuing independence as the 49th state.

MAYOR

That would be a brave and noble gesture, Mr. Freeman.

HERBERT

Shall we put it to a vote? All those in favor of pursuing statehood and independence from California, say "aye".

(a loud aye).

All opposed.

(no clear opposition)

Let the record reflect that the Yreka 20/30 Club has voted to support a movement of secession from California.

SONG #1:“MINER REBELLION”

ALL

IT’S A MINER REBELLION.
IT’S A MINER REBELLION.

MAYOR

THE PROBLEM IS MAJOR AND WE’RE TIRED OF WAITING,
WHEN BRIDGES ARE FALLING AND COSTS ARE INFLATING.

ALL

IT’S A MINER REBELLION.
EACH MAN A TUNNELING HELLION.

HERBERT

WE’LL CLAIM WHAT’S RIGHTFULLY OURS.
KEEP THE PROFITS SACRAMENTO DEVOURS.

ALL

A TIME FOR CHANGE HAS COME AT LAST.
WE’RE THE STATE OF THE FUTURE
NOT THE LAND OF THE PAST.

LOWELL

IT’S A TIMBER SEDITION,
NOT AN ACT OF SUBMISSION.

GUS

THE SOLUTION IS CLEAR CUT AS IT CAN BE.

BEN

WE WILL SEND UP A SIGN EVEN A BLIND MAN COULD SEE.

TRIO (LOWELL, GUS, BEN)

IT’S A TIMBER SEDITION,
IN OUR FRONTIER TRADITION.
SKIP THE STORIES AND GET TO THE FACTS.
TELL THE GOVERNOR HE’S GETTING THE AXE.
A TIME FOR CHANGE HAS COME AT LAST.
WE’RE THE STATE OF THE FUTURE
NOT THE LAND OF THE PAST.

MAYOR

LIKE AN UNFETTERED STALLION,

HERBERT

WE’RE A PLAIN-CLOTHED BATTALION.

ALL

DON’T MESS WITH US OR YOU’LL FIND

THAT WE'RE LIABLE TO KICK YOUR BEHIND.
A TIME FOR CHANGE HAS COME AT LAST.
WE'RE THE STATE OF THE FUTURE,
NOT THE LAND OF THE PAST.

HERBERT

Any other old business?

GUS

We ain't done with the new business. What are we gonna call the new state?

JUDGE

That's a good question.

MAYOR

We should call it "The Promised Land". We've been promised so much, but received so little.

STANTON

(to Lucy)

How about Pyrite? Fool's Gold?

LUCY

That's enough!

HERBERT

I have an idea. Let's have a contest! I think we have some money available after the Fourth of July 50/50 raffle, don't we, Lowell? We could offer a prize for the best name for the new 49th state, say, two dollars for the winning entry. This would be a great way to generate some interest and support.

MAYOR

That sounds like an excellent plan. Our new state will be dedicated to the proposition of a square deal for all and unfettered freedom for its citizens. We will abolish the state sales tax, state income tax, and, above all, the liquor tax and the 2 AM curfew on saloons. .

(cheers)

All expenses of the state will be covered by royalties on minerals and timber

HERBERT

(gravely)

Talkin' about secession is easy. Goin' forward with the idea is a lot harder; it'll be a tough row to hoe.

MAYOR

It will be, but now is the time to get cracking. Let's start with something easy, something everyone can do. Let's have all the local shopkeepers and restaurant owners put a small bucket next to the till. Every time a customer makes a purchase, he can stick the pennies that would go to Sacramento as sales tax into the bucket. All the money collected will go directly to the coffers of the new 49th state. If Governor Olson wants his copper, he can come up here and dig it himself.

HERBERT

That's a great idea, Mayor. Now, let's put on our thinking caps this week and come up with some strategies for the next meeting. Meeting adjourned. *(all rise)*

Scene 2

Yreka Main Street, outside the Odd Fellows Hall, immediately following the meeting. Stanton and Lucy enter conversing, while others enter and pass by.

STANTON

I can see I arrived just in time.

LUCY

A tad too early by my reckoning. Don't they teach any manners where you come from?

STANTON

Yeah, they do. But I could never sit still in church either. Shall we try this again? I'm Stanton Delaplane from San Francisco.

LUCY

And I'm Lucy Freeman.

(genteel handshake)

What brings you to this neck of the woods, Mr. Delaplane?

STANTON

Please call me Stan. I was dispatched by the San Francisco Chronicle to cover a story on the secession movement in Northern California. The editor of the paper caught wind of some rumblings on the northern coast. So here I am.

LUCY

Yes, here you are - ready to report to the world about the half-witted barbarians in the woods of California who are taking on the glitzy moguls that run the rest of the Golden State.

(sarcastically)

I'm sure you'll paint a flattering portrait of us.

STANTON

Actually, the truth is that my editor wasn't so sure that this was a newsworthy story. I had to convince him to send me up here. I'm pretty fascinated with the notion of ordinary working citizens taking on the politicians from the big cities, and I think that a lot of our readers will be, too. I don't know if secession is the solution, but my mind is still open.

LUCY

I'm sure it is.

STANTON

(to audience)

Well, at least my eyes are definitely open. Wow, what a looker!

(to Lucy)

It's a shame that you're stuck out here in the boondocks. Have you ever been to San Francisco?

LUCY

Once, when I was about six years old. All I remember is that I was car sick the whole way. It wasn't a pretty picture. So my memory of the place isn't so rosy.

STANTON

Oh, you should come see it! It's a city of lights, a city of excitement. I could show you around sometime.

LUCY

Thanks, but no thanks. I have quite enough excitement here in Yreka. And I think my boyfriend Lester might have something to say about it.

STANTON

Just thought I would offer. If you ever reconsider –

LUCY

You'll be the first to know, but don't hold your breath. Although, I doubt you could do that for very long even if you tried!

STANTON

Yes, I have so much hot air and so little time. Good day, Miss Freeman!

LUCY

And "Good Day" to you Mr. Delaplane.

(Stanton exits)

HERBERT

(approaching Lucy with the Mayor)

Who was that young fella, Lucy?

LUCY

Some reporter from San Francisco.

MAYOR

Really? That may be a stroke of luck for us.

LUCY

If he's our idea of a stroke of "good" luck, we're in serious trouble.

HERBERT

(Laughs)

Oh, Lucy. Blessings come in all different forms. As I've said before, "Never look a gift horse in the mouth".

LUCY

That's what they said in Troy, and look where it got 'em.

MAYOR

(chuckles)

Quite true, young lady. I don't think we've been formally introduced.

HERBERT

Oh, I'm sorry! Mayor Gable, this is my daughter, Lucy.

LUCY

I've heard so much about you, sir. It's an honor to finally meet you.

MAYOR

The pleasure is mine.

(Margaret approaches and stands next to Freeman)

MARGARET

Good morning, Herbert!

HERBERT

Good Morning, Margaret!

MARGARET

And you to Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR

Herb, you didn't tell me that Yreka was filled with so many attractive women.

MARGARET

It's so wonderful for you to take the time to speak to us here in Siskiyou County. We rarely have outside politicians come here, let alone have one that speaks to the townfolk.

MAYOR

That is exactly why I am here. The politicians from Sacramento never travel to these parts to see the problems we face and listen to the voters. I may be just a hick mayor from a little hick town, but I think we can do a better job of governing this area than those pointy-headed politicians down south. We can develop the resources, develop the roads and the ports, and create more jobs with better wages for all our citizens. And to do that, all the northern counties of California and the southern counties of Oregon must band together. Siskiyou County is the hub of this area, and we need all of your citizens to be onboard if we are going to be successful in breaking the ties and forming a new state.

HERBERT

You can count on us, Mayor Gable.

MAYOR

I'm glad to hear that. Good day, everyone!

HERBERT

Good Day, Mayor Gable!

(Mayor exits)

MARGARET

My, he's very forceful!

HERBERT

He's the fellow driving this new secession movement. And I think he has half of a chance of pulling it off.

MARGARET

He seems like a man who gets things done.

HERBERT

I hope so.

MARGARET

Are you going to be in the store later today?

HERBERT

I'll be in and out most of the afternoon. We have a shipment of hand tools that are supposed to arrive at the depot sometime today that I will need to pick up. But Lucy should be around.

MARGARET

Well, I was going to run an apple pie over to you if you were going to be around. I just baked it this morning.

HERBERT

How can I refuse one of your apple pies, Margaret? You know they're my favorite!

MARGARET

I'll stop by around 2:00.

HERBERT

That'll be fine. I'll look forward to seeing you.

MARGARET

And I you. Good bye, Herbert.

HERBERT

Good bye, Margaret!

(She exits)

LUCY

Dad, isn't that the third pie she has brought you in the last two weeks?

HERBERT

(smiles)

Lucy, no matter how old a man gets, he can never have too much pie.

LUCY

I suppose you're right about that.

Scene 3

Freeman's Feed and Seed; later that afternoon. Lucy stands behind a counter with a cash register. The room contains several feed bins and racks holding a variety of tools and farm implements. Lester enters.

LESTER

There's my girl!

LUCY

Well, hello there, stranger!

(comes out from behind the counter for a romantic embrace. Lucy steps back in mock anger).

I'm mad at you. In your telegram, you said that you'd be in town on Tuesday. I expected you to drop by the house yesterday. I had dinner planned and everything! When did you get back to Yreka?

LESTER

Late last night. I'd of been here sooner, but my folks needed a hand with a couple of chores around their place this morning.

LUCY

I was sure you'd show up here all decked out, showing off your spiffy new uniform today.

LESTER

Nah. If I wear it too much, I'll have to clean it again before I head back to the base.

LUCY

You'll have to let me see you in it just once before you take off, wings and all.

LESTER

And my new bars. I received my new commission to Second Lieutenant.

LUCY

Welcome back to God's country, Lieutenant Todd.

(gives him another quick embrace)

LESTER

Lieutenant Todd, sir!

LUCY

Yes, sir. By the way, Lieutenant Todd, sir, you are looking remarkably tan for a young man who wrote me and told how he had no time for anything else but hitting the books and sitting in a cockpit. The Florida sun must really agree with you. I imagine you met a bronze beauty or two that was looking to snag an eligible young officer.

LESTER

Not a chance! It was all business on the base, and Pensacola is not my idea of a good time. It's the hottest, muggiest place on the earth, and besides, I wasn't interested in meeting other women. I was too busy thinking about one a little closer to home.

LUCY

Oh, who might that be? I'll bet it was that Jennings girl you met down in Weed!

LESTER

Don't be silly!

SONG #2: "GREAT NORTHWEST"

LESTER

ORANGES TASTE GREAT TO ME,
AND GRAPEFRUIT ARE QUITE SAVORY.
BUT THE SWEETEST TREAT DOESN'T SWING FROM A TREE.
SHE WAS GROWN RIGHT HERE IN THE GREAT NORTHWEST.

SHELTERED BY TALL DOUGLAS FIR.
SWEETENED BY THE BERRIES THERE.
NO GIRLS IN THE WORLD WILL EVER COMPARE
TO THE ONE THAT I LEFT BEHIND.

SOUTHERN BEACHES ARE WARM AND FINE
WHERE TOURISTS BAKE AS THEY RECLINE.
BUT THE WARMEST SMILE, COME RAIN OR SHINE
IS SHOWN RIGHT HERE IN THE GREAT NORTHWEST.

LUCY

TAMPA BEAUTIES WANDER BY
AND DO THEIR BEST TO CATCH YOUR EYE.

LESTER

MIAMI COEDS CAN ONLY TRY,
BUT I'LL STAY WITH MY GOLD RUSH GIRL.

LUCY

Well, you don't seem to want to stay too long with your "Gold Rush Girl". You come home, then you turn around and leave again.

LESTER

Oh that's only temporary, until I get a permanent assignment. But it's funny, this time I come home and the place is in a complete uproar. It's unbelievable! The whole town is buzzing about this morning's meeting of the 20/30 Club. Are they really going to push for us to secede from California?

LUCY

Yup. The Daily News has even offered to sponsor a contest to pick a name for our state.

(reads from pamphlet)

The name "should convey the idea of a land of plenty, vast resources, or something else connected directly with the region involved." It sounds like Modoc County may join the movement, too.

LESTER

Do you really think that a bunch of miners and lumberjacks can manage an entire state?

LUCY

Better than a bunch of shiftless entertainers and movie stars. You sound as bad as they do. Listen to this!

(Picks up newspaper and reads)

"The northern border counties barter only in bear claws and eagles beaks". Some guy actually said that from the floor of the State Assembly.

LESTER

I wish it were true. We'd be a lot richer than them! There are plenty of bear around here.

LUCY

I can't believe that people so ignorant are supposed to be representing our interests. We'll be a lot better off without 'em.

(beat)

So you're gonna take off on Friday.

LESTER

Yup!

LUCY

Why so soon?

LESTER

I don't know. But there's a rumor goin' around that we're gonna be shipped out to Hawaii, but it's not for sure.

LUCY

Well, that's one way of getting out of the rain here in the Northwest. Join the Navy, and enjoy the sunshine and pineapples.

(giggles)

LESTER

See, I told you that enlisting wasn't such a bad idea. Uncle Sam needs us all to do our part.

LUCY

Yeah, but you could have done your part for the war effort right here. The country needs our minerals, and if you all become soldiers, no one will be around to get them out of the ground.

LESTER

So I should have just stayed home and worked in the copper mine while others fight the Nazis. No thanks!

LUCY

Just make sure you come back in one piece. Stay in Hawaii where it's good and safe.

LESTER

Anyplace would be better than being stuck here for the rest of my life. Ever since we were kids, we've talked about gettin' out of here.

LUCY

I know. When you first left town, it didn't seem so bad because you were stationed in Oakland, and you could come home on leave every once in a while. But Pensacola was so far away....

LESTER

But I'm a full-fledged pilot and naval officer now. I have a career that can take us anywhere.

LUCY

Right now, I hope it will take you home when all of the fighting is over.

LESTER

Gus told me you were sitting with some stranger at the meeting this morning.

LUCY

Yeah, some squirrely reporter from San Francisco who is here to cover the movement to form a new state.

LESTER

Well, make sure that's the only thing he tries to cover, or I'll give him a taste of local color he won't soon forget.

LUCY

Don't worry; he's harmless enough. He's one of those guys who loves to hear himself talk and figures that everyone else loves to hear him, too.

LESTER

That better be the only thing he's in love with. If he's thinking about sweet-talkin' you, he's gonna have to answer to me.

(beat)

Oh, I told Roy and Don that I would meet them at Brown's Billiard Parlor at 3:00. Are we going to get together tonight, maybe take in a movie?

LUCY

Sure. That sounds good to me!

LESTER

Well, I'd better get going.

LUCY

Have fun. Say “hi” to the boys for me. I’ll see you after work.

(Lester crosses to the door and passes Stanton as he enters the shop. Stanton smiles and extends his hand to shake)

STANTON

Hi there! I’m Stanton Delaplane from the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

LESTER

So I’ve heard.

(Lester gives him a dark look, shakes his hand with slow deliberation and exits.)

STANTON

(to audience)

Whoa! Hospitality is running a little thin in here today.

(to Lucy)

Is that the greeting all your customers get?

LUCY

Oh, never mind him. That’s Lester. He can be a little possessive, especially if he thinks a guy seems to be in the hunt.

STANTON

So I see. Does that mean that I am “in the hunt”?

LUCY

Not if you’re thinking about tracking me. So what brings you by the shop? A shortage of manure for your paper? We’ve got plenty of that here!

STANTON

(laughs)

No, I’ve shoveled enough for one day! I just wired my story to the Chronicle. The editor loves it, and he plans to run the story on the front page this Sunday. If your boys wanted to make a splash, this should help.

LUCY

Sure. Just don’t make us the laughing stock of the state.

STANTON

Don’t worry. You’ll like it. I’ll show you the story when they print it. I think you have a very legitimate grievance up here, and I think I can be of assistance.

LUCY

(skeptically)

That's a nice offer, but I think we can handle it ourselves.

STANTON

No, seriously. Declaring your independence is one thing. Making it credible and sustaining the movement long enough to have some impact is quite another. You will have to continually find new and provocative ways of getting the word out, events that will stir sympathy in the Average Joe in some big city, who is sitting in his living room in his apartment reading the funny papers. It's tricky!

LUCY

And I suppose "tricky" is right up your ally.

STANTON

You bet.

HERBERT

(enters)

Lucy, has that mower part for Harold's John Deere arrived yet? It was supposed to be on the train this morning.

(sees Stanton)

Well, Hi there, City Slicker! It didn't take you long to find the most scenic sight in the northern counties

(smiles at Lucy).

STANTON

You're right there! But I actually came by to see you.

HERBERT

Did you get yourself a room at the Claredon?

STANTON

Yes sir, and it's a very nice room. And I was pleasantly surprised that the lights in the town didn't dim when I turned on my electric razor.

LUCY

From your behavior this morning, I figured you weren't old enough to be shaving in the first place.

HERBERT

(laughs)

Don't pay any attention to her. Growing up around miners and woodsmen toughens your hide and sharpens your tongue, even if you're a young lady.

STANTON

Ah, but rudeness becomes her!

HERBERT

Things around here are a little different than they are in the big city. It's a rugged country, filled with rugged people.

STANTON

So I've noticed.

HERBERT

We're all genuine frontier stock, descendants of Forty-niners. When there's a problem, we take care of things ourselves. People don't take kindly to outsiders meddling in our business, especially when it comes to money.

STANTON

What do you mean?

HERBERT

Men earn their money the hard way. Mining and logging is dirty, dangerous work, and they sure aren't paid much for their labor. So when someone tries to take it away from them, the men around here can get pretty agitated. And they'll deal with things their own way; take the law into their own hands.

LUCY

Yeah, about five years ago, four men got lynched while they were locked up in the county jail.

STANTON

No kidding?

LUCY

Yup. The sheriff didn't mind. It was cheaper than feeding 'em.

HERBERT

But it really isn't any different than it is in the big city. Money's behind everything. Do you think that big, fancy paper of yours cares about us? Not a chance! They see dollar signs, and if they can make a buck off of our story, you bet they will! That's the only reason they let you come all the way up here.

SONG #3: "ECONOMICS"

HERBERT

IT'S PURELY A MATTER OF ECONOMICS.
NO CONFLICT OR PROBLEM THAT MONEY CAN'T FIX.
A PENNY FOR A THOUGHT, BUT A FEW BUCKS WILL BUY YOU A
SOUL.
WHY SETTLE FOR PART, WHEN DINERO WILL GET YOU THE WHOLE?
WHEN IT'S TIME TO BUY, ANY MAN MIGHT THINK TWICE.
WHEN IT'S TIME TO SELL, EVERY MAN HAS HIS PRICE.
DON'T LOOK FOR ILLUSIONS OR TRICKS
WHEN IT'S PURELY A MATTER OF ECONOMICS.

YOU CAN STEAL A MAN'S CAR AND YOU'LL WIND UP IN A CELL.

LUCY

YOU CAN STEAL A GIRL'S KISS, AND SHE'S LIABLE TO TELL.

STANTON

YOU CAN STEAL A MAN'S WIFE, AND HE'LL PROBABLY WISH YOU
WELL.

HERBERT

BUT YOU STEAL A MAN'S WALLET, AND HE'S GOING TO FIGHT LIKE
HELL!

LUCY

IT'S PURELY A MATTER OF ECONOMICS.
FORGET ALL EMOTIONS, MONEY MAKES THE HEART TICK.
WHEN THE RENT'S OVERDUE, THE LANDLORD CAN'T WAIT TO BE
PAID.
WHEN THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE, IT IS MONEY THAT WAITS TO BE
MADE.

HERBERT

THEY SAY A PENNY THAT'S SAVED IS A PENNY EARNED.
BUT TO BE A SUCCESS, YOU NEED CASH TO BURN.

LUCY

IN THE CITY OR OUT IN THE STICKS,
IT IS PURELY A MATTER OF ECONOMICS.

(Caesar Luigi enters. His manner is very bright and gregarious)

CAESAR

Good Afternoon, everyone!

HERBERT

Good Morning, Caesar!

LUCY

Hi Caesar!

(Lucy resumes stocking the shelves)

CAESAR

Why, Miss Lucy, you look lovely today, as usual!

LUCY

(She continues to work without looking up)

Oh, I'm sure, Caesar. I always look my best when I'm standing between the dog chow
and the pruning shears.

CAESAR

You should come by and see me more often. It would make me so happy to see your
radiant face in my club some evening.

LUCY

Thanks, but I think I'll pass on your invitation. Besides, most of the girls in your club
show a lot more than their radiant faces. I'd feel overdressed.

CAESAR

You are such a kidder.

(to Herbert)

Herbert, your Lucy is one hot pistola.

(to Stanton)

And you are...

HERBERT

Oh, I'm sorry, Caesar. This is Stanton Delaplane, a reporter from the San Francisco Chronicle. Stanton, this is Caesar Luigi, the owner of the Rex Club, just around the corner.

CAESAR

The finest establishment west of the Mississippi! Every night we feature some of San Francisco's best talent.

STANTON

I can imagine.

CAESAR

Come by, and you'll see!

STANTON

I may just do that. It sounds like business must be pretty good.

CAESAR

Business is always good. When people are happy, they come to celebrate. When people are sad, they come and we cheer them up. Now that alcohol is legal, people drink a lot. When alcohol was illegal, then people really drink a lot. It is a how do you say.. a lucrative business, no?

STANTON

I suppose that's true.

HERBERT

Economics at its best. What can we do for you, Caesar?

CAESAR

I'm here to pick up a new broom. The janitor set fire to my last one this morning.

HERBERT

I see. Well, there is a large selection right behind the trash cans in the back. Pick one out and I'll ring it up.

CAESAR

Thank you so much.

(to Stanton)

It was a pleasure to meet you.

STANTON

Likewise.

CAESAR

Good bye Miss Lucy!

LUCY

(doesn't look up, continues to work)

Ciao, Caesar.

(Caesar exits)

STANTON

So if it's economics that drives people's interest, will it be enough to get them to stand behind your secession movement?

HERBERT

I don't know.

STANTON

Neither do I. But, I'll give it some thought and see if I can come up with.

(to audience)

And you know, I may have a strategy that will draw some attention to their little corner of the world.

(Stanton exits)

Scene 4

Yreka Odd Fellows Hall, November 21. The room is set up as before. The audience is larger, with more women and a bit more animated. Herbert rises to the podium

HERBERT

Quiet down!

(The din continues)

Let's have some order!

(The din subsides)

Greetings, Friends and Neighbors. The Yreka 20/30 Club and the Siskiyou Daily News would like to welcome you to our first town hall meeting. We're here to discuss plans to form the new 49th State in the Union. Recent events have brought us to this momentous

decision to cut ties with the states of California and Oregon. These states have established policies that are not in the best interest of the citizens of the coastal counties. We are prepared to move forward with secession and the establishment of a new state. It is our pleasure today to announce the name of the great 49th state in the Union. Mayor Gable, I would like to give you the honor.

MAYOR

Thank you, Herb. It gives me great pride to announce the winner of our “Name Your State” contest. The winner is J.E. Mundell of Eureka in Del Norte County. He has submitted the winning name, “Jefferson”. Mr. Mundell reasoned that Thomas Jefferson was the author of the Declaration of Independence, he was the President who acquired this great land through the Louisiana Purchase, and had the foresight to dispatch the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore this part of the country. Congratulations to Mr. Mundell for his fine submission. Let’s have a round of applause from the citizens of the 49th State of the Union, Jefferson.

(applause)

BEN

(speaks over applause and cheers)

I still liked Bonanza the best.

HERBERT

We would also like to announce the establishment of the Jefferson Citizens Committee. This will be the committee that will work out the plans and policies for the State of Jefferson until our statehood is officially recognized.

GUS

How are we gonna get people to recognize our new state? We give ‘em this proclamation, and the rest of the world can just go on and ignore it. We ain’t no better off than we were before.

BEN

Let’s just stop paying our taxes. That’ll get their attention!

GUS

That’ll get us thrown in jail, sure shootin’!

BEN

Not if we all do it!

STANTON

(rises)

May I speak?

HERBERT

The floor is yours.

STANTON

For those of you who haven't met me, I am Stanton Delaplane from the San Francisco Chronicle. I have been traveling around the county for the past few days, talking with folks about how unresponsive the legislature has been, and concerns about seceding from California. And I have a couple of ideas that might help.

JUDGE

We're all ears.

STANTON

Now, correct me if I'm wrong, but Highway 99 is really the only way for a motorist to drive from San Francisco to Portland. Any other route is virtually impassible, right?

HERBERT

Not unless you're in a Jeep...

GUS

...or on a donkey.

(crowd laughs)

STANTON

I propose that we set up a blockade, not to prevent people from completing their journey, but to pass out pamphlets and bumper stickers recognizing the State of Jefferson. We can list the reasons for secession and the policies of the new state, and we can also ask for some symbolic gesture in support of our cause.

HERBERT

Such as?

STANTON

I talked with one gentleman east of here that was complaining that there was no government support to develop a local copper mine.

HERBERT

That's true.

STANTON

So, let's ask the motorist to withhold their one penny sales tax in protest and as a show of support for the 49th State.

JUDGE

But how can we hope to effectively block Highway 99? There is traffic on that road seven days a week, twenty four hours a day. We couldn't possibly come up with the manpower to operate a blockade like that.

STANTON

Nor would we need to. We can pick one day a week to operate the blockade. A weekday, so we can catch more of the business and commercial traffic. We set up billboards at the northern border of Siskiyou County, stop all vehicles, give them our pamphlets, and allow them to proceed on up the road. It is disruptive enough to grab their attention. But it's not violent or too aggressive. Otherwise, Governor Olson might feel like he had to send in troops to break it up. I could call some of the major news organizations; they will eat this stuff up!

JUDGE

I think this has potential.

MAYOR

Mr. Delaplane, you have a splendid idea.

HERBERT

We could have Secession Thursday. Most of us can rearrange our work schedules one day a week to pull a shift on the blockade. We can start this week.

MAYOR

We could also have a big Independence Day rally; a celebration to solidify local support and create a splash big enough for the outside world to see.

JUDGE

Let's shoot for December 6. That will give Mr. Delaplane time to contact his newspaper friends, and give us enough time to prepare for the celebration.

HERBERT

But, if we are creating a new state, don't we need to create some sort of official governing body? A senate, or governor, or something like that?

MAYOR

Absolutely! I propose that we set the first meeting of the Provisional Territorial Assembly for next Wednesday, and we'll create a temporary legislative body with Pro Tem officials. If the coastal counties can bind together, the states will have to listen.

SONG #4 "UNITY"

MAYOR

UNITY.
TO GET THE JOB DONE, WE GOTTA HAVE UNITY.
WE ALL MUST PULL TOGETHER.
ALL HANDS MUST GRIP THE LEATHER.
THE CRISES WE CAN WEATHER
WITH A SHOW OF UNITY.

JUDGE

UNITY.
TO KEEP OUR FREEDOM, WE GOTTA HAVE UNITY.
IT'S BASIC TO SUCCESS.
MOVE FORWARD OR REGRESS.
IT'S CHAOS AND A MESS
WITHOUT A SHOW OF UNITY.

MAYOR

FOR EVERYONE, A JOB IS FOUND.

JUDGE

LET EVERYONE BE DUTY-BOUND

MAYOR

AND EVERYONE MUST STAND THEIR GROUND
WHEN OPPOSITION LURKS AROUND MOST EVERY TURN,
JUDGE

AND EVERY INCH WE GAIN'S AN INCH WE'VE EARNED.

MAYOR AND JUDGE

WHAT HISTORY CAN TEACH US, WE ALL MUST LEARN.

CHORUS

UNITY.

TO GET THE WAR WON, WE GOTTA HAVE UNITY.

THE CONFLICT WILL BE HEATED.

NOW WHAT IS REALLY NEEDED IS A SHOW OF UNITY.

UNITY.

Scene 5

Freeman's Feed and Seed, later on the same afternoon. Lucy and Herbert are checking the stock. Lester looks on.

HERBERT

It looks like we're running a bit low on kerosene.

LESTER

It's the season. Folks must be anticipating a cold winter

LUCY

People are buying it hand over fist. I'll be surprised if we don't run out by the end of the week.

HERBERT

I'll order more in the morning.

(Stanton enters)

Hello, Stan.

STANTON

Hi Herb!

HERBERT

We sure got things rolling today.

STANTON

I'll say! I've been at Western Union all afternoon. Both Time and Life magazines are going to cover the rally, and at least five newsreel services will be on hand, too.

LUCY

That's incredible, Stan. And your idea of the blockade was brilliant.

STANTON

Tomorrow will be the first of many Secession Thursdays. We are already filling a list with volunteers to man the posts and pass out pamphlets.

LUCY

Do you need another volunteer for the morning slot?

(She looks at Herbert)

I think I can talk my boss into giving me the time off.

HERBERT

I can hold down the fort here for a few hours. And I would be happy to cover a shift on the blockade in the evening, if you can use another hand on deck.

STANTON

We can use all the hands we can get! If we are going to get this thing off the ground, it's going to take a lot of commitment from a lot of people.

HERBERT

We're lucky to have you here to help us out. It's easy to see a problem, but sometimes it takes imagination to see a solution. By the way, would you like to swing by the house for dinner tonight? I'm sure you're sick of eating at the diner, and Lucy cooks a mean pot roast.

STANTON

Well that's a very nice invitation, Herb. I'd be delighted to come .

(He looks at Lucy)

On the other hand, maybe I'd better give it some thought. A "mean pot roast" sounds like a scary prospect!

(Lucy and Herbert laugh, Lester remains grim)

LUCY:

Oh stop! You'd better hope it's not too tough. You may have to defend yourself!

HERBERT

Then we'll see you about 7:00?

STANTON

I'll be there!

(Stanton exits)

HERBERT

It's time for us to get back to work. I'm heading down to the train depot to pick up a couple pallets of fertilizer. I'll be back in an hour or so.

LUCY

Do you need any help? Lester could ride along.

HERBERT

Nah, I've got it handled.

LUCY

Also, are you remembering that Margaret's fiftieth birthday is the day after tomorrow?

HERBERT

How could I forget?

LESTER

Do you have anything special planned? She's probably expecting a big wing-ding.

HERBERT

I doubt it. I think she'd prefer that we have a quiet evening together.

LUCY

I think you're right, Dad.

HERBERT

OK, then, I'm off to the depot.

LUCY

See you in a bit!

(Herbert exits)

(She gestures to Lester)

Can you hand me that rag over there? Something has spilled under the counter.

LESTER

(He hands her the rag)

Your father seems to be quite partial to Margaret.

LUCY

I should say so. They'll come up with any excuse to spend time together.

LESTER

You seem to really like that reporter from San Francisco.

LUCY

Yeah, he's turned out to be an O.K. guy.

LESTER

I think "brilliant" were your exact words.

LUCY

Now don't get your nose all bent out of shape. He's alright, and I'm glad he's here to help us out. It's good timing.

LESTER

For you, maybe. But I'm shipping out tomorrow; going straight to Hawaii.

LUCY

So soon? I thought you were gonna be here for another week.

LESTER

Nope. It will be my last night in town, and my girl is going have dinner with another guy.

LUCY

Lester, that's ridiculous! You know you are invited, too.

LESTER

It won't be the same. I wanted to have some time alone with you tonight. Besides, I think you have some feelings for this guy.

LUCY

That's just nonsense. I barely know the man, and, if I was looking for another man, I can tell already that he's not my type.

LESTER

So you are thinking about looking for another man.

LUCY

Now just hold on-

LESTER

Even before I leave town, you're checking out the available replacements.

LUCY

That's enough, Lester. I'm not going to fight with you about this.

LESTER

Well, neither am I. You can forget about me coming to dinner. I'll leave you and the brilliant Mr. Delaplane to yourselves. I'm not going to be the third wheel on your dinner date.

LUCY

Fine. If you can't behave like an adult, I don't want you to come over. Maybe you can grow up a little while you're in Hawaii. Maybe a falling coconut will knock some sense into your thick skull.

(Lester leaves abruptly and slams the door. Lucy starts picking up cans and begins to fiercely build a new display. Margaret enters.)

MARGARET

Oh, Hi Lucy! I happened to be passing by and thought I'd see if your father was in.

LUCY

(a bit terse)

No. You just missed him. He's headed over to the depot to pick up some fertilizer

(Lucy continues to stack the cans)

MARGARET

Oh, it's too bad I didn't get here sooner. But I can talk to him later.

(Margaret starts to leave, then stops and watches Lucy stack cans)

You know, I ran into Lester a minute ago as he was leaving the store. I haven't seen him since he's been back. But, you know, he looked pretty tense, like he had a lot on his mind.

LUCY

(sharply)

I'm sure he does. But, of course, anything would seem like a lot when you have a mind as small as his!

(She stacks the cans with even more ferocity)

MARGARET

I guess you two had a little tiff?

LUCY

(She stops stacking the cans)

I just don't understand him! Things were just fine. Then one day, he runs off and joins the Navy. Now, I see him once in a blue moon. And when he does come to town, he acts like I'm the one who isn't serious about our relationship!

MARGARET

Men sometimes have a funny way of thinking that they can gallivant across the country, chasing whatever notion pops into their head, and expect that we'll quietly wait for them, twiddling our thumbs and not getting on with our lives.

LUCY

Yeah, well I'm sick of it!

(a pause, then calmer)

Sometimes men are more trouble than they are worth. It's hell when he's gone, and it's hell to have him around. Why in the hell do I even bother with him?

SONG 5: "GOOD INTENTIONS"

LUCY

THE ROAD TO LOVE IS ALWAYS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS.
THE HAZARDS OF THE ROCKY PATH THAT LIES BEFORE US
WE IGNORE ALL WISE CONVENTIONS.

THE ROAD TO LOVE IS ALWAYS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS.
DESPITE THE WARNINGS WE RECEIVE,
WE ONLY HEAR WHAT WE BELIEVE.
AND WHEN BUMPS ARISE,
WE REALIZE IT'S ALL OUR MIND'S INVENTION.

I KNOW, I'M SURE THAT HE REALLY LOVES ME.
I FEEL I'M STILL ALWAYS MISSING THE MARK.

THE ROAD TO LOVE IS ALWAYS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS.
WHATEVER COURSE I MAY CHOOSE,
BETTER OR WORSE, I'M BOUND TO LOSE.
NO MATTER HOW I TRY,
I'LL NEVER FIND THE WAY TO LOVE'S REDEMPTION.

Scene 6

Yreka street around dusk on the same day. Stanton stands on the sidewalk. Gus, Ben, and Lowell are ambling down the sidewalk singing.

SONG #6 "REDWOOD SAL"

GUS, BEN, AND LOWELL

THEY CALL HER REDWOOD SAL.
SHE'S A RED-HEADED, RED-BLOODED LOGGER'S GAL.
GUS

NOW I'M NOT A MAN WHO LIKES TO BOAST,
BUT SHE'S THE PRETTIEST GAL ON THE PACIFIC COAST.
GUS, BEN, AND LOWELL

SHE'S REDWOOD SAL.
JUST A PLAID-SHIRTED, GOOD-HEARTED WOODSMAN'S PAL.
BEN

YOU CAN OFFER HER ASSISTANCE,
BUT YOU WON'T WEAR DOWN HER RESISTANCE.
GUS, BEN, AND LOWELL

BECAUSE REDWOOD SAL BELONGS TO ME.

THEY CALL HER REDWOOD SAL.
SHE'S A RED-HEADED, RED-BLOODED LOGGER'S GAL.
LOWELL

A HOST OF MEN HER SMILE ATTRACTS,
WHEN SHE'S SWINGING HER HIPS OR SWINGING AN AXE.
GUS, BEN, AND LOWELL

SHE'S REDWOOD SAL.
JUST A PLAID-SHIRTED, GOOD-HEARTED WOODSMAN'S PAL.
GUS

LOTS OF GUYS WANT TO GET COZY.
BEN

BUT THEIR FUTURE IS NOT SO ROSY.
GUS, BEN, AND LOWELL

BECAUSE REDWOOD SAL HAS CHOSEN ME.

(Stanton gives mock applause. The trio bows awkwardly)

STANTON

Good evening, gentlemen. You seem to be in a very festive mood tonight.

GUS

Yes, sir, Mr. Delaplane. It's a mighty fine evening.

STANTON

Call me Stan. I agree completely. It looks like the three of you got an early start on the celebration.

BEN

Yup. After the meeting, it was too late for me and Gus to drive into the woods to work. We didn't want to stiffen up from takin' the day off. So we wandered over to the Rex Club, just to make sure we stayed good and oiled.

GUS

At least it'll keep our right arm in shape. For a city slicker, you look like you've bent your arm a few times.

STANTON

Sure have. In fact, I'd join you tonight, but I'm heading over to Herb's for dinner.

LOWELL

Lucy's cooking? Well, son, you're a lucky man.

GUS

Say, you're not thinkin' about gettin' lucky with Lucy tonight, are ya?

STANTON

No, Gus. The only thing on the menu tonight will be pot roast.

GUS

That's too bad. She's quite the looker.

STANTON

She is indeed. But she seems to only be looking at Lester, which is fine by me. She's still a nice kid.

BEN

And nice to look at.

STANTON

That too!

LOWELL

And she can sure cook a mighty fine pot roast!

STANTON

So I've heard. I'll let you know tomorrow.

(Caesar enters)

CAESAR

Hey you guys! Don't run off so soon!

GUS

Caesar!

CAESAR

You haven't paid for that last round you ordered. You still owe me a buck and two bits.

BEN

Oh, we weren't leavin', Caesar. We were just gettin' a little fresh air.

LOWELL

We were comin' right back.

CAESAR

You'd better be!

(Caesar sees Stanton)

Ah, good evening Mister Delaplane!

STANTON

Good evening, Caesar. Call me Stan.

CAESAR

Are you going to drop by the Rex Club tonight? We are the finest establishment west of the Mississippi!

STANTON

Not tonight. I have other plans. But I will take a rain check.

CAESAR

(quizzically)

A rain check?

(a dancehall girl, Candy, enters running)

CANDY

Mr. Luigi! Mr. Luigi!

CAESAR

What is it now?

CANDY

We just blew the fourth keg tonight, and Misty can't get the tap on the new one.

CAESAR

Alright, alright! I'm coming.

(to Stanton as he exits with Candy)

Mechanical things are not the biggest talent for some of the girls.

STANTON

I don't imagine that it's an important qualification in their line of work

(Ben, Gus, and Lowell chuckle)

It's time for me to be off.

LOWELL

Us, too. Our stools at the Rex are going to get cold if we don't hurry.

GUS

And ol' Caesars gonna blow his tap if we don't pay for that last round!

STANTON

Stay out of trouble tonight, boys!

BEN

See ya around, Stan! And enjoy that pot roast.

(Gus, Ben and Lowell continue down the street and exit. Stanton continues down the street.)

STANTON

(to audience)

You know, wherever you go, you always manage to have a few very interesting neighbors.

(He gestures in the direction of the trio)

Those old boys are friendly enough, although they may want to stay away from an open flame. Now, let's take Lester. There's a piece of work! A real life of the party! He and Lucy have absolutely nothing in common. Yet he still wants her, and she wants him, I suppose. But they're not looking for friends, it's more like acquiring property. I'm sure ol' Lester has done a little bit of shopping around, but he still comes back to the first dress he saw on the rack

(Smiles)

Now Lucy's pickings are a lot slimmer. No selection around here at all. Lots of drunken miners and loggers, and then there's Lester. He may not be the greatest catch in the

world, but what other choice is there? As long as they can keep each other chained up, they'll probably do just fine. Look at Herb and Margaret. They're so considerate of each other now. But wait until they tie the knot. How many apple pies is she going to bake him two years from now? It's like buying a car: you start out washing it everyday, but all that polishing ends the day you put the first ding in the fender.

SONG #7: "POSSESSION"

STANTON

IT'S NOT A NEW REFRAIN,
TO MEASURE LOSS AND GAIN
BY WHAT WE HAVE IN OUR HAND.
BUT GOLD NEVER LINGERS,
IT SLIPS THROUGH OUR FINGERS
TRUE WEALTH'S NEVER AT OUR COMMAND.
AND WHEN WE TASTE SUCCESS,
WE FEEL NO HAPPINESS,
ONLY A NEED TO HAVE MORE.
MATERIAL THIRST,
A DESIRE TO BE FIRST
ONLY BRINGS OUT THE WORST
OF OUR DEMONS THAT SCREAM TO KEEP SCORE.
POSSESSION IS ALL THAT WE CRAVE.
POSSESSION. IT'S WHAT'S YOURS AND WHAT'S MINE.

ALL FORTUNE AND FAME COMES AT A COST.
ALL BAGGAGE YOU CLAIM SOON WILL BE LOST.

THEY SAY THAT LOVE IS BLIND.
BUT WHAT YOU REALLY FIND
IS LOVE LOOKS MORE THAN IT FEELS.
INSTEAD OF AFFECTION,
WE SEEK IMPERFECTION,
ANY WEAKNESS OUR LOVER REVEALS.
THE WEDDING BELLS THAT RING
TOLL LIKE THE STOCK EXCHANGE.
DON'T SAY "I DO", SAY "I OWN".
"TO HAVE AND TO HOLD"
MEANS CORRALLED AND CONTROLLED.
IT'S YOUR FREEDOM THAT'S SOLD.
BUT YOU'RE BANKRUPT IF YOU'RE LEFT ALONE.
POSSESSION IS ALL THAT WE CRAVE.
POSSESSION. WON'T YOU TELL ME, WHAT'S MINE?
POSSESSION. PLEASE TELL ME WHAT'S MINE.

Scene 7

The Rex Club on the same evening. The trio, Ben, Gus and Lowell are seated on stools. Other patrons are seated at tables. Dancehall girls busy themselves delivering drinks, bussing tables, and chatting with the patrons.

CAESAR

Misty! Mr. O'Brian is looking a bit thirsty. See if he needs a fresh drink. Rapidamente!

MISTY

(smiles at Caesar, then darts across the room)

Yes, Mr. Luigi.

CAESAR

Where's Candy!

CANDY

(approaching from behind him, smiling)

Yes, Mr. Luigi.

CAESAR

How is our stock of Bombay holding up.

CANDY

We're almost out, Mr. Luigi.

CAESAR

Well, start pouring a little more of that bathtub swill from Hood River. They will never no the difference at this time of the evening.

CANDY

Yes, Mr. Luigi.

BEN

Hey Caesar! How do you train all of these fine ladies to do what you say?

GUS

Yeah. My wife won't even iron my shirts!

LOWELL

(sniffs Gus)

Or wash them!

CAESAR

My friends. It is a talent I inherited; a gift I mastered many years ago.

SONG #8: "SPEAK IT WITH AN ACCENT"

WHEN I STEPPED OFF THE BOAT FROM MILANO,
A RAGGED KID IN RAGGED SHOES.
NO MOTHER, FATHER, FRIEND OR COMPAGNO.
MY DESTINY WAS MINE TO CHOOSE.
MY SPEECH WAS POOR. I DID NOT KNOW THE LANGUAGE.
BUT MY ITALIAN ROOTS HAD ONE DISTINCT ADVANTAGE.
WHEN I LEARNED TO SPEAK ENGLISH, I LEARNED IT NICE.
SO LET ME OFFER YOU ONE LITTLE WORD OF ADVICE.

YOU WANT TO SPEAK IT WITH AN ACCENT,
AND YOU'LL STAND OUT IN A CROWD.
JUST TRY TO SPEAK IT WITH AN ACCENT.
WITH A STATEMENT, MAKE YOUR ANCESTORS PROUD.
THE GENTLEMEN MAY CALL YOU A BIG BUFFOON.
BUT A PHRASE OR TWO IS SURE TO MAKE THE YOUNG GIRLS
SWOON
WHEN YOU SPEAK IT WITH AN ACCENT.
LET YOUR HERITAGE SHOW THROUGH.
IF YOU SPEAK IT WITH AN ACCENT,
ALL THE LADIES WILL SPEAK HIGHLY OF YOU.

I'VE ALWAYS PURSUED THE FAIRER SEX,
BUT AS A YOUNG MAN I WAS WAY TOO SHY.
IN MY HOMETLAND, I SEEMED TO NEVER CONNECT.
JUST ANOTHER ORDINARY GUY.
BUT IN THIS LAND OF OPPORTUNITY,
I SOON MADE THE MOST OF MY ABILITY.
MY ARRIVAL IN THE NEW WORLD WOULD CHANGE MY LUCK.
MY GIFT AT CONVERSATION EARNED ME MORE THAN JUST A BUCK.

I LEARNED TO SPEAK IT WITH AN ACCENT
FROM A STRANGE EXOTIC LAND.
I ALWAYS SPEAK IT WITH AN ACCENT,
AND THE WOMEN ARE QUICK TO GIVE ME A HAND.
A GUY THAT'S ON A DATE MIGHT ORDER MEAT AND CHEESE.
BUT MY "VEAL-A -PARMESAN-A" KNOCKS HER TO HER KNEES.
TRY TO SPEAK IT WITH AN ACCENT.
LET YOUR HERITAGE SHOW THROUGH.
IF YOU SPEAK IT WITH AN ACCENT,
ALL THE LADIES WILL SPEAK HIGHLY OF YOU.
DANCEHALL GIRLS

WE'VE HAD OUR FILL OF BEDROOM EYES,
AND LUSCIOUS LIPS HOLD NO SURPRISE.

TWO ARMS OF STEEL, FOR A WHILE, ARE FUN.

CAESAR

BUT THERE'S NOTHING QUITE AS SEXY AS A FOREIGN TONGUE.
BACIAMI MOLTO!

GIRLS

AH!

CAESAR

BACIAMI INTENSO!

GIRLS

AH!

CAESAR

BACIAMI MI CULO!

GIRLS

AH!

CAESAR

THERE'S CHARM AND ELEGANCE IN EVERY WORD I SPEAK TODAY.
BUT MUSSOLINI IS THE ONE WORD THAT WE NEVER SAY.

BUT IF YOU SPEAK IT WITH AN ACCENT,
THEN YOU'LL STAND OUT IN A CROWD.
JUST TRY TO SPEAK IT WITH AN ACCENT.
WITH A STATEMENT, MAKE YOUR ANCESTORS PROUD.

GIRLS

THE GENTLEMEN MAY CALL YOU A BIG BUFFOON.

CAESAR

BUT A PHRASE OR TWO IS SURE TO MAKE THE YOUNG GIRLS
SWOON

GIRLS AND CAESAR

WHEN YOU SPEAK IT WITH AN ACCENT.
LET YOUR HERITAGE SHOW THROUGH.
IF YOU SPEAK IT WITH AN ACCENT,
ALL THE LADIES WILL SPEAK HIGHLY OF YOU.

Scene 8

Freeman's kitchen, evening on the same day. To one side of the kitchen is a small dining room table with four chairs. Lucy is busy at the sink

LUCY

Dad, can you get some more napkins out of the pantry?

HERBERT

(offstage)

Sure.

(beat)

I got 'em.

(He enters)

Shall I set 'em on the table?

LUCY

Thanks. While you're at it, you can put one under each silverware setting. I still need to mash the potatoes. Aside from that, I think dinner is almost ready.

(doorbell rings).

And not a minute too soon.

(rings again)

Dad, can you get that?

HERBERT

(offstage)

Hi Stan. Come on in. Lucy's in the kitchen. I'll be there in a minute.

(Stanton enters)

STANTON

I see he's got you hard at work, even when you're at home. I guess that's a good way to keep you out of trouble.

LUCY

Actually, I enjoy cooking. It's much more pleasant than mixing paint and bagging peat moss. And the smell of things cooking in the kitchen always reminds me of being a little girl.

STANTON

Has it been that long since you've had a home cooked meal? You'd better get you dad on the stick and have him fix you a few meals.

LUCY

Oh, Dad's a great cook. He's taught me almost everything I know.

STANTON

If you don't mind me asking, have you always been the lady of the house?

LUCY

No. My mom passed away when I was five years old.

STANTON

Oh, I'm so sorry.

LUCY

Don't apologize.

(Herbert enters, but stands unnoticed in the doorway)

My fondest memories of her are helping her in the kitchen. I'm sure I was a complete nuisance, but she was always very patient with me. I think that's one of the reasons I love cooking so much.

HERBERT

And another is that she's so darn good at it. And that pot roast smells delicious!

STANTON

If you don't mind me asking, what happened to her?

HERBERT

Lillian was pregnant with our second child. At the time, we lived quite a ways out of town. There were complications. By the time I got her to the hospital, it was too late.

STANTON

It must have been very hard to even think about raising a young girl without her.

HERBERT

Lucy was the one who kept me going, the only thing that got me through it.

LUCY

(a bit brighter)

After Mom died, Dad bought the store and moved into town. Since then we've been up to our ears in rakes and rain barrels-

HERBERT

Hoses and housepaint-

STANTON

Barricades and blockades.

(all laugh)

HERBERT

I have to admit that a year ago, I would have never imagined that our quiet little town would be involved in an act of revolution against the state of California.

STANTON

Civil disobedience at its best. Henry David Thoreau would have been proud.

HERBERT

Who?

STANTON

A writer from the East who said that the actions of ordinary people can make the most extraordinary difference. Tomorrow, the citizens of Siskiyou County will start to share their story with the rest of the world. Secession Thursday will be on the screen in every theater from Seattle to Miami.

LUCY

Have a seat, gentlemen. Dinner is served!

(Everyone is seated)

STANTON

Herbert, you were right; this looks scrumptious. What a feast!

HERBERT

Lucy can lay out quite a spread.

LUCY

(to Stanton)

Here, help yourself to some potatoes.

STANTON

Thanks.

HERBERT

Here, try the beets. We canned them last summer.

STANTON

No thanks. I'm sure they're wonderful, but I'm not too keen on vegetables.

HERBERT

Really?

LUCY

Mom used to make me eat all of my vegetables. She told me that if I would clear my plate that it would be a clear day tomorrow.

STANTON

Well, I've grown accustomed to lots of rain. But, beets or no beets, I think we've got some fair weather ahead of us. In the last few days, I feel things are changing for me, and I think they might be for you, too, and for everyone here in Yreka.

SONG #9: "THE COAST IS CLEAR"

STANTON

THERE'S A FRESH WIND BLOWING OVER THE WESTERN HILLS
AND IT CARRIES A MESSAGE FROM THE SEAS.
A CURRENT FROM THE TROPICS WARMS THE MINES AND MILLS,
AND IT RUSTLES WITH EXCITEMENT THROUGH THE TREES.
IT SWEEPS THE CLOUDS AWAY.
THERE'LL BE NO RAIN TODAY.
THE BLUE SKIES WILL BE COMING ON THE BREEZE.
(Stanton rises from the table)

THE COAST IS CLEAR
AND A NEW WAVE IS HERE
THAT BRINGS THE PROMISE OF PROSPERITY.
NOW IT'S "ALL ASHORE",
TO THE FUTURE WE'LL MOOR,
AND WE'LL ANCHOR OUR HOPES AND REST OUR DREAMS
IN FAITH, HARD WORK, AND INGENUITY.
(Lucy and Herbert rise)

LUCY

A BRIGHT STAR IS GLOWING IN THE NORTHERN SKIES,
AND ITS SOFT LIGHT WILL LEAD US THROUGH THE DARK.
THE OBSTACLES WE FEAR ARE CLEAR BEFORE OUR EYES,
ILLUMINATED BY ITS RADIANT SPARK.

HERBERT

OUR DEMONS ARE AT BAY;
NO DRAGONS LEFT TO SLAY.
WE'VE SET A GOAL TOGETHER; WE'LL MAKE OUR MARK.

LUCY

THE COAST IS CLEAR
AND A NEW WAVE IS HERE
THAT BRINGS THE PROMISE OF PROSPERITY.

HERBERT

NOW IT'S "ALL ASHORE",
TO THE FUTURE WE'LL MOOR,
AND WE'LL ANCHOR OUR HOPES AND REST OUR DREAMS
IN FAITH, HARD WORK, AND INGENUITY.

STANTON, LUCY, AND HERBERT

THE COAST IS CLEAR
AND A NEW WAVE IS HERE
THAT BRINGS THE PROMISE OF PROSPERITY.
NOW IT'S "ALL ASHORE",
TO THE FUTURE WE'LL MOOR,
AND WE'LL ANCHOR OUR HOPES AND REST OUR DREAMS
IN FAITH, HARD WORK, AND INGENUITY.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

Scene 1

Highway 99; Secession Thursday, November 27. Large sign reads "Welcome to the State of Jefferson, The 49th State". Lucy, Stanton, Gus, Ben, and Lowell are passing out pamphlets to drivers in cars which are lined up offstage.

LOWELL

Welcome to the State of Jefferson. Take one of our pamphlets.

(beat)

Yes, sir. The next gas stations about twenty-five miles north of here. Have a good trip!

BEN

You are now entering Jefferson, the 49th State. Read this and drive safely.

(beat)

You bet. We'll be here every Thursday. Maybe we'll see you on your way back through.

LOWELL

How are you today, sir? Welcome to the State of Jefferson. Take one of our pamphlets.

(beat)

Myrtle Creek? Oh, that's about a six hour drive. You won't make it by night fall.

(beat)

Yup. There're a couple of motels right in the middle of town.

BEN

You are now entering Jefferson, the 49th State. Read this and drive real safe.

(beat)

Your headin' east to Klamath Falls? Good luck; you'll need it!

SONG #10:"BARRICADE"

BEN

A DAY ON THE BARRICADE.
THE CARS LINE UP IN ONE SNOWY CAVALCADE.
NO ONE PASSES WITHOUT DELAY;
SPREAD THE MESSAGE TODAY.
FROM LOGGER TO RENEGADE;
A DAY ON THE BARRICADE.

LOWELL

A DAY ON THE BARRICADE.

RIDERS WAVE AS THEY WATCH THE SLOW PARADE.
PASS A PAMPHLET AS THEY PASS BY.
JOIN THE MOVEMENT, ENJOY THE RIDE.
MINERS IN MASQUERADE.
A DAY ON THE BARRICADE.

GUS

CHRYSLER, HUDSON, FORD, AND DESOTO.

LOWELL

CHEVY, MERCURY, OLDS STOP AND GO

LOWELL, BEN, AND GUS

AS WE HALT TRAFFIC WITH OUR EMBARGO
ON HIGHWAY NINETY-NINE.

ALL

A DAY ON THE BARRICADE.
THE CARS LINE UP IN ONE SNOWY CAVALCADE.

LUCY

STOP THE DRIVERS AT THE CHECKPOINT SIGN.

STANTON

KILL YOUR ENGINE AND WAIT IN LINE.

ALL

MINERS IN MASQUERADE.
A DAY ON THE BARRICADE.

Scene 2

Yreka Street in the evening of the same day. Streetlights are on. Herbert and Margaret enter strolling, engrossed in conversation.

MARGARET

...and the new Baptist minister created quite a stir last Sunday when he condemned all drinking of alcohol, even for medicinal purposes.

HERBERT

Is that so?

MARGARET

Yes. Of course, I believe that you should never drink to excess, but I think a glass of wine every now and then is good for your overall constitution.

HERBERT

I'm glad I missed that sermon. I think it would have been enough to make me join the Catholics at St. Joe's across town.

MARGARET

Oh, Herbert, now really!

HERBERT

With a good Irish name like Riley, I'm surprised he's not Catholic. I heard he's not married, to boot. No alcohol, no women. That doesn't sound like much fun for a young man.

MARGARET

Well, he's probably not going to stay here very long. There aren't many available young women for an eligible young bachelor like Reverend Riley to choose from.

HERBERT

There are plenty of available young women that hang out down at the Rex Club every evening.

MARGARET

Not for a man of the cloth!

HERBERT

Sure, they're perfect! Those girls are living a life of sin. And who would know more about sin than the Reverend? It's a match made in heaven!

MARGARET

Mr. Freeman, you are such a rascal!

(beat)

You know, Reverend Riley is not the only unattached man in Yreka. You've been alone for a long time, Herbert. You're still in the prime of your life. Have you ever thought about sharing your life with someone?

HERBERT

I've thought about it a lot, Margaret. But I don't know if I'll ever be able to let another woman into my life after losing Lillian.

MARGARET

Lillian was my best friend, Herb. I miss her dearly, and I see so much of her in Lucy. But she has been gone for twelve years. At some point, don't you think you deserve to move on? Don't you ever feel lonely?

HERBERT

I am lonely, but it doesn't make it any easier to forget the past.

MARGARET

You shouldn't forget the past; you should always cherish the time you had with Lillian. I will never forget Frank. He's been gone for ten years and there's still not a day that goes by that I don't think about him. But that doesn't mean that we should be alone. Lillian would have wanted you to be happy.

HERBERT

You're probably right. But it doesn't change the fact that I'm not ready.

MARGARET

(with deliberation)

Herbert, this has been a wonderful evening. It's been the best birthday I've had for a long, long time. You are a wonderful man, and I think we could build a life together. But you have to let go of the past, and I am beginning to wonder if you can. We may spend our whole lives living in the shadows of what use to be and never experience what we have now. You can change that...

HERBERT

But it's not that easy –

MARGARET

Yes it is! Just let yourself love the woman who loves you!

SONG #11: "Love the Woman Who Loves You"

LOVE THE WOMAN WHO LOVES YOU.
FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS AND SEE.
SHE'S THE ONE WHO HAS STOOD BY YOU FAITHFULLY.
SHE'S YOUR ROCK IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY.
ANSWER HER PLEA AND SHE WILL ANSWER YOUR PRAYER.

TRUST THE WOMAN WHO TRUSTS YOU.

TIE YOUR HEART TO HER MAST.
DON'T MOOR YOUR SHIP TO THE GHOSTS OF THE PAST.
UNCHAIN YOUR MEMORIES AND SAIL AT LAST.
THE DYE IS CAST.
THE FUTURE IS YOURS IF YOU DARE.

LOVE THE WOMAN WHO LOVES YOU.
TRUST THAT THE WOMAN IS ME.
HERBERT

(spoken)

I'm not sure I can, Margaret. I don't know if I can trust my own feelings.

MARGARET

Well, if you can't trust your feelings, how can I trust your feelings? I need more assurance than that, more conviction than that, more faith in us.

(sings)

TRUST THE WOMAN WHO TRUSTS YOU.
TIE YOUR HEART TO HER MAST.
DON'T MOOR YOUR SHIP TO THE GHOSTS OF THE PAST.
UNCHAIN YOUR MEMORIES AND SAIL AT LAST.
THE DYE IS CAST.
THE FUTURE IS YOURS IF YOU DARE.

LOVE THE WOMAN WHO LOVES YOU.
TRUST THAT THE WOMAN IS ME.
(Herbert is unable to respond)

(spoken)

I'm sorry, Herbert. I just don't know if I can do this any longer.

(Margaret exits)

HERBERT

Happy Birthday, Margaret.

Scene 3

Yreka Odd Fellows Hall, December 2. Three chairs, one small table, and a podium, same as before. Herbert and Judge Childs are seated, the third chair is empty. The room is filled with the din of conversation. Herbert rises to the podium.

HERBERT

Everyone have a seat.

(The din continues)

Now let's all just settle down.

(The room quiets)

I know you all are anxious to get started. I would like to call the first meeting of the Provisional Territorial Assembly to order. I am now going to turn the meeting over Judge Childs for an announcement.

JUDGE

This is a remarkable day in the history of the Pacific Northwest. On such an historic occasion, it is with a very heavy heart that I announce the passing of the Honorable Mayor Gilbert Gable.

(commotion from the audience)

As many of you already know, our esteemed colleague succumbed to a heart attack yesterday afternoon. Let's pause for a moment of silence in memory of our friend, a distinguished public servant.

(pause)

HERBERT

Mayor Gable was the very heart of our secession movement. His death brings us to an important crossroads. We must decide if we can continue and push forward with our break from California and Oregon.

JUDGE

It was Mayor Gable's vision and perseverance that has brought us to this point. Let's not let his passing extinguish our fight for independence. It was his strength that pushed us to the brink of independence. It is his memory that will take us the distance. His work has not been in vain. We can see his vision through. The rally must go on, with all the fire, energy and imagination that the mayor would have provided if he were with us.

HERBERT

We've made all of the preparations for a very big wing-ding on Independence Day. Mr. Delaplane has lined up reporters from Time Magazine, photographers from Life, and over a half-dozen news organizations to cover our rally. Let's put it to a vote right now. All those in favor of proceeding with the December 6 rally, say "aye".

(loud response of approval).

All opposed.

(silence).

The motion is carried.

(applause and cheers)

A second order of business is selecting a Provisional Governor for the State of Jefferson.

Do I hear any nominations?

GUS

(stands)

How about Judge Childs?

BEN

(stands)

I'll second that nomination. The judge is a good man.

HERBERT

Judge John Childs is officially nominated. Are there any other nominations?

LOWELL

(stands)

Heck no. I say that we move for unanimous approval.

HERBERT

Is anyone opposed to installing Judge Childs as the Provisional Governor of the State of Jefferson? Hearing none, Judge Childs, you are now the first provisional governor of the State of Jefferson. Congratulations!

(applause)

JUDGE

(Judge rises, acknowledges the applause, and steps to the podium)

Thank you. It is indeed an honor to be elected as your first governor. However, there is no time for celebration. In just two days, we have to put together the most spectacular rally these out-of-town folks have ever seen. Lowell, have you contacted the high school's drum and bugle corps to march with us?

LOWELL

Yes, sir!

JUDGE

The mounted border patrols seemed to have made quite an impression on visiting motorists. Let's see if we can get every man with a horse tame enough to ride in the parade to come out for the rally.

STANTON

I think we can really play the "rustic pioneer" angle up for the photographers and newsreels. Let's have everyone dress up in cowboy and western garb; really give the rest of the country something colorful to look at. If they already think we deal in bear claws and eagle beaks, we might as well put on a good show.

GUS

I'll do you one better! I've got this friend that has two trained black bears, Itchy and Scratchy, We could let them lead the parade!

(Rumbles of approval from the audience)

STANTON

Perfect!

JUDGE

Wait a minute! That sounds like it could be dangerous.

GUS

Nah, they're as gentle as lambs. You can stick your hand right in their mouths.

JUDGE

I'll take your word on that one. Just keep them away from me!

(snickers from the audience)

We also need a torch in the hand of every citizen in the county.

HERBERT

I've got the materials on hand. Lucy and I can use some help putting them together and distributing them at the rally.

BEN

I can help.

JUDGE

O.K. Make sure everyone brings a sign to carry. The signs have gotta be legible, with no profanity. We don't want our message lost in the ruckus. Any other last minute details we

need to address? Good. We all have work to do. Good luck, and I'll see you all at the rally.

(crowd begins to mingle and disperse)

SONG # 12: "UNITY REPRISE"

CHORUS

UNITY.
TO GET THE JOB DONE, WE GOTTA HAVE UNITY.
WE ALL MUST PULL TOGETHER.
ALL HANDS MUST GRIP THE LEATHER.
THE CRISES WE CAN WEATHER
WITH A SHOW OF UNITY.

Scene 4

Yreka Main Street, outside the Odd Fellows Hall, immediately following the meeting. Stanton and Herbert enter conversing, while others enter and pass by.

HERBERT

That was a great meeting. I'm glad that everyone agreed to continue with the secession movement. I was kinda worried that without the mayor, our plans for the state of Jefferson would fizzle.

STANTON

I was afraid that might happen, too. But instead, everyone got behind the judge and we moved forward. It was a great show of support.

HERBERT

I think this rally is going to put us on the map. Things are really coming together.

STANTON

I agree completely. By the way, Herb, it strikes me that things are coming together for you and Margaret, too.

HERBERT

Well, unfortunately, things are pretty rocky at the moment. As much as I enjoy her company, I can't seem to convince myself to close the deal completely. And closing the deal is exactly what she is looking for.

STANTON

Oh, I get it; you still enjoy playing the field. Good for you, Herb!

HERBERT

No, that's not it at all. I'm certainly not interested in seeing anyone else.

STANTON

So you like the bachelor life. Always able to do what you want to do, when you want to do it. No one appreciates that more than me.

HERBERT

No, that's not it either. There's nothing I would rather do than spend time with Margaret. But I can't get over a sense of guilt because of Lillian.

STANTON

Wait a minute, Herb. I'm certainly no expert on these things, but you can't think that your feelings for Margaret mean that you love Lillian less.

HERBERT

I suppose. After losing Lillian, I didn't think I could ever feel that way about anyone again. I'm sure it's been an uphill battle for Margaret. We've always gotten along so great, but I've been too skitterish to let things get serious. But she's always been there for me.

SONG #13: "SHE'S GOLDEN"

SHE'S GOLDEN IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.
IT SHOWS AS HER GAZE WARMS LIKE THE SUN
THAT GLOWS IN THE MORNING SKY LATE IN THE SPRING.

SHE'S GOLDEN BEYOND THE SHADOW OF DOUBT.
I KNOW THAT HER KISS I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT.
HER EMBRACE IS WORTH MORE TO ME THAN THE RANSOM OF
KINGS.

IT'S SO MUCH MORE THAN HER SMILE THAT I WILL CHERISH,
OR HER GRACEFUL FACE SO SOFT AND FAIR.
IT'S IN THAT PRECIOUS INSTANT WHEN SHE SHARES
WITH JUST A SMILE THAT SAYS SHE CARES.

SHE'S GOLDEN! IT'S THRILLING, YOU SEE,
TO BE HOLDING A TREASURE LOVELY AS SHE.
SO I COUNT ALL MY BLESSINGS EACH TIME
THAT I AM TOUCHING THIS JEWEL SO REFINED
AND THINK A LADY SO GOLDEN
MIGHT TAKE A SHINE TO ME.

Scene 5

Yreka Odd Fellows Hall, December 6. A crowd of marchers burst in the door and surround a small, makeshift stage area. Among the parade participants are citizens holding signs saying “The Promised Land – Our Roads are Paved with Promises”, “Our Roads are not Passable, Hardly Jackassable”, and “If Our Roads You Would Travel, Bring Your Own Gravel” . Cameramen and media personnel are moving toward the stage. The Judge, Herbert, and Senator Randolph Collier are standing on the stage. Lucy and Stanton stand on the outskirts of the crowd.

LUCY

Look at all of those big cameras! There must be a half dozen of them. I’ve never seen anything like it.

STANTON

I can’t believe it! They all made it up here! Look, there’s Paramount, Fox Movietone, News of the Week, and Pathe. All of the big newsreel companies. There must be more than 3,000 people here tonight.

LUCY

At least. We are completely out of kerosene at the store. Isn’t that Senator Collier?

STANTON

It sure is. His office said that he would be on hand today.

LUCY

The judge looks like he’s having a good time.

STANTON

Maybe too much of a good time! He may not respect himself in the morning.

(A cameraman approaches the stage)

CAMERAMAN

Hey, Governor! I just got a great shot of you and Itchy.

JUDGE

He is a handsome cuss, isn’t he?

CAMERAMAN

I suppose. But I gotta tell you, you’re a brave man, Governor, sticking your hand in his mouth like that!

JUDGE

You've got to be brave when you live in these parts, son.

CAMERAMAN

It's too bad the sheriff wouldn't let you bring him into the hall.

JUDGE

Nope, and it's a shame! They tell me it's in violation of some silly local ordinance. Well, that may be one of the first things we'll need to fix when the legislature convenes. Why, Itchy's more civilized than many of our citizens. He'd add some class to the local establishments. Besides, he cuts a fine figure on stage.

CAMERAMAN

Yes indeed, Governor!

JUDGE

That's enough chit chat.

(He turns to the Senator)

Let's get this show on the road!

(Senator Collier steps to the podium)

SENATOR

Citizens of Northern California! Tonight is the culmination of weeks of preparation and years of desperation. Years of chafing under the neglect of Sacramento and Salem. It is an epic moment in the history of the United States of America; the official Independence Day of the 49th state, the State of Jefferson. I would like to welcome to the podium, the Provisional Governor of the new 49th State, Governor John L. Childs.

(Applause. Judge lurches to the podium)

JUDGE

It gives me great pleasure, such great pleasure to accept this appointment as Governor of the new State of Jefferson. It is unfortunate that the true leader of our rebellion, Mayor Gilbert Gable, may he rest in peace, is not here to take the reigns of leadership for our noble state. It is his vision and his inspiration that has brought us here today. As he said many times, "This is the Promised Land; our roads are paved with promises." But today, I promise you that soon we will pave our roads with asphalt so we can drive across the breadth of our counties. I promise that our ports will be expanded and our bridges

maintained. And I promise to do my utmost best, my utmost best to keep us on the path to a free and independent state, recognized by all of the politicians in Sacramento, in Salem, and all the way to Washington D.C. The future is promising, and the State of Jefferson will enjoy the freedoms we have fought so hard to attain.

(applause)

And now, it is time to continue with the festivities. I'm sure many of you marchers have worked up a powerful thirst, as have I. The Rex Club will be open until 5 AM, as is allowed by Jefferson state law. So I would like to invite the free citizens of the State of Jefferson and our visiting guest to join the members of the Provisional Legislature and myself for some late night libations at the Rex. God bless you all, and God bless the State of Jefferson!

(The crowd roars)

SONG #14: "CURFEW"

GUS

WHEN THE GREEN LIGHT'S ON, YOU GOTTA GET UP AND GO.

LOWELL

WHEN THE GREEN LIGHT'S ON, YOU'D BETTER NOT BE SLOW.

BEN

WHEN THE RED LIGHT'S ON, YOU GO AGAINST THE TRAFFIC.

GUS

WHEN THE RED LIGHT'S ON, YOU RAISE A LITTLE HAVOC,

TRIO (Gus, Ben, Lowell)

'CAUSE THE BARS WILL BE SWINGIN' 'TIL DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT,
NOW THAT CURFEW IS GONE ON THE CALIFORNIA BORDER
TONIGHT.

THE CURFEW IS GONE ON THE CALIFORNIA BORDER.
THE CURFEW IS GONE BY TERRITORY ORDER.
A NEW DAY HAS DAWNED, AND WE'LL LAY THE BRICK AND
MORTAR
FOR A HOME WHERE BRAVE MEN ARE FREE.

LOWELL

WHEN THE GREEN LIGHT'S ON, YOU PROCEED WITH PERMISSION.

BEN

WHEN THE GREEN LIGHT'S ON, YOU DODGE THE NEXT COLLISION.

GUS

WHEN THE RED LIGHT'S ON, BREAK OUT THE FIREWATER.

LOWELL

WHEN THE RED LIGHT'S ON, LOCK UP YOUR SON AND DAUGHTER,

ALL

'CAUSE THE DOORS WILL BE OPEN WITH NEON DELIGHT,
NOW THAT CURFEW IS GONE ON THE CALIFORNIA BORDER
TONIGHT.

(spoken)

STANTON

This will be a day that will be remembered for a long time.

LUCY

Do you think that these newsreels will really be shown in theaters?

STANTON

No doubt! It will take a couple of days, but by next week, Itchy the bear will be in every cinema across the forty-eight, excuse me, across the forty-nine states. We are on a roll, and there is no stopping the juggernaut of publicity this will generate.

LUCY

It seems so unbelievable that only a month ago, we were just an obscure little town in a forgotten part of a big state. Now we are at the center of all of this: cameramen, movie people. It's all too good to be true!

STANTON

That's what the press is thinking. It has all of the elements of a great story: inebriated judges, talking bears, and oppressed miners with guns who are taking the law into their own hands. What else could they ask for?

(Judge, Caesar, and Candy approach Stanton and Lucy)

JUDGE

Well, hello you two! Are you going to wet your whistle with the rest of us over at the Rex Club?

CAESAR

Yes. You must come! The first round will be on the house. And for you, Miss Lucy, we'll keep the wine flowing until the sun peeks over the mountains in the east!

LUCY

Thanks, Caesar, but I'll have to pass. Six o'clock comes mighty early in the morning.

STANTON

I'll have to decline the offer, as well. But I think you and the Governor will have plenty of company.

JUDGE

I think you're right, Stan. Look at all of these people! What an incredible evening! Happy Independence Day, kids!

STANTON

....and God Bless Jefferson!

JUDGE

Amen!

Scene 6

Freeman's kitchen; December 7, early afternoon. Lucy is polishing silverware on the table. Herbert is reading the paper.

HERBERT

The *Daily News* has outdone itself this time. Look at that great photo of Judge Childs and Itchy. Isn't that a sight?

LUCY

Over three thousand folks turned out for the torchlight parade. Both *Time* and *Life* were there. Stan wasn't kidding. Those news guys really turned out in droves.

HERBERT

Just the kind of jumpstart we needed. Our rebellion will be on the front page of every newspaper in the country by tomorrow.

LUCY

Or at least on page two.

(doorbell)

Are you expecting anyone, Dad?

HERBERT

I'm not.

(doorbell followed by insistent knocking)

Alright. Hold your horses! I'm coming.

(He crosses, opens the door, and Stanton enters brusquely)

STANTON

Turn on the radio!

LUCY

What's up, Stan?

STANTON

Just turn on the radio! They've attacked the United States!

HERBERT

Who did?

STANTON

The Japanese. It's all over the news. I heard about it in the hotel lobby and came right over. I thought you might want to know. They bombed some place called Pearl Harbor. Hundreds are feared dead.

LUCY

Where's Pearl Harbor?

STANTON

It's a naval base over on Oahu.

LUCY

Hawaii?

STANTON

No one ever thought they would be bold enough to mount an attack on U.S. soil. All this time we've been negotiating peace with the Japanese. The military never suspected they had an offensive planned, and they struck out of the blue. It caught us totally off guard.

LUCY

Lester's over there!

STANTON

Yeah, I heard, and I'm afraid he could easily have been on or near the base where they hit.

LUCY

Oh, my gosh!

HERBERT

Now don't go jumping to conclusions! It's a big island, and he's probably OK.

LUCY

Is there any way for me to get a hold of him? I just want to know that he is alright.

STANTON

You can try to send a telegram. But, since the attack, you can bet that it is complete chaos over there. I'm sure the lines are jammed with people trying to get a hold of their loved ones. It might be a few days before they get everything sorted out.

LUCY

But I can't wait a few days!

HERBERT

Well, there isn't much choice in the matter. So, until we get a hold of him, we all need to say our prayers for Lester and hope for the best.

(Lucy exits upset. Herbert walks with Stanton to the door)

STANTON

I ran into Governor Childs as I was leaving the Claredon. He wants the Provisional Territory Assembly to meet at 7:00 tomorrow evening at the Community Center.

HERBERT

I imagine there is a lot to talk over, with the Japanese attacking us this morning.

STANTON

Yeah. I think it's going to have a far-ranging impact on the whole nation, and especially in this region.

HERBERT

I am interested in what the Governor will have to say tomorrow.

STANTON

Me too. I hope Lucy's going to be OK.

HERBERT

Me too.

(FDR's voice is heard on the radio, "Yesterday, December 7, 1941 – a date which shall live in infamy- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by the naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.... As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense... With confidence in our armed forces- with the unbounded determination of our people – we will gain the inevitable triumph – so help us God. I ask that Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire."

Scene 7

Yreka Odd Fellows Hall. December 8, in the evening. A large crowd is assembled and somewhat subdued. Judge Childs steps to the podium and speaks

JUDGE

Good evening, my friends.

(The crowd quiets)

All day we've been listening to the reports of Japanese attacks all over the Pacific Islands. American casualties are mounting as we speak. The horror of the last twenty-four hours is beyond comprehension. We have battled hard to be a free and independent state, and the world came and listened to our call. But now it is time for us to unite against a common enemy across the ocean, and it will take all of the resources Uncle Sam can muster to defeat Yamamoto and his forces. The U.S. needs us; it needs our copper, our magnesium, our chrome and our timber. Troops are being sent as we speak to secure our roads, bridges, and railways. The improvements we've fought for will come. They must if we are to survive as a nation. It is time for us to pull together, not pull apart.

"In view of the National emergency, the acting officers of the Provisional Territory of Jefferson here and now discontinue any and all activities. The State of Jefferson was originated for the sole purpose of calling the attention of the proper authorities to the fact we have immense deposits of strategic and necessary defense minerals and that we need roads to develop those. We have accomplished that purpose and henceforth all of our efforts will be directed toward assisting our State and Federal Government in the defense of our Country."

(There is a low rumble of approval. The judge sits and Herbert rises to the podium.)

HERBERT

I think everyone here shares the view expressed by Judge Childs. Our young men overseas will need all of the support we can give them. We dedicated our efforts to establishing a new state, and look at what we were able to accomplish. Now is the time for us to turn that same energy to our national defense. Go home tonight proud of what we were able to achieve, and pray for our young men who protect this great country. God bless America.

ALL

(solemnly)

God bless America.

BEN

And God bless Jefferson!

ALL

(with restrained enthusiasm)

God bless Jefferson.

JUDGE

Amen.

Scene 8

Freeman's Feed and Seed; December 9. The store is empty except for Lucy, who is arranging a display. Herbert enters.

HERBERT

Good morning, Lucy.

LUCY

Hi, Dad.

HERBERT

(He stops and watches Lucy for a moment)

Isn't that the fourth time you've rearranged that display? We're not going to sell any more work gloves and ear muffs by having you handle them twenty times.

LUCY

I know. I just can't stop worrying about Lester.

HERBERT

Still no word?

LUCY

Nope. I've sent three telegrams and been to the depot a dozen times, but still no response. The radio says a couple thousand are dead and hundreds more are still missing. I just wish someone would let us know that he's O.K.

HERBERT

I'm sure someone from the base will get back to you about Lester. Heck, he'll probably wire you himself. But you have to have faith. Lester's a lucky guy. He's made it this far, and for a man working out in the woods, that's saying something. Every day there are guys that walk into the forest or into a mine to put in a day's work and never come back. It happens all the time. There are a million and one things around here that can kill you, and yet we're still alive; Lester, you, me. We're just plain lucky. Heck, we're lucky just to be here at all, the way that we come into the world. So just because Lester is 3,000 miles away doesn't mean he isn't lucky any more. He'll be one of the lucky pilots. There's nothin' that the Japanese are going to dish out that he can't handle. He's tough, and he's lucky.

LUCY

I hope you're right. I wish we hadn't quarreled before he left. It seems so pointless now.

HERBERT

There are always things we wish we had said, and things we wish we hadn't said that come back to haunt us. Sometimes words fly out of our mouths that we wish we could suck right back in. But we can't. So our only hope is that the people closest to us know how much we care about them, and that they overlook our shortcomings.

SONG #15: "Good Intentions Reprise"

LUCY

I KNOW, I'M SURE THAT HE REALLY LOVES ME.
I FEEL I'M STILL ALWAYS MISSING THE MARK.

THE ROAD TO LOVE IS ALWAYS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS.
BUT IN THE DAYS THAT LIE AHEAD,
I WILL REGRET THE WORDS WE'VE SAID.

I ONLY HOPE AND PRAY,
THERE'S STILL A WAY FOR LOVE'S INTERVENTION.

HERBERT

Lester knows that you care, and I'm sure that's foremost in his mind, even when he's in the middle of the Pacific.

(Margaret enters carrying a piece of paper)

MARGARET

Lucy! I was just walking by the train depot when old Elmer comes running out of the building and hands me this telegram. I've never seen him move so fast. He told me to give it to you. I hope it's good news.

(Lucy snatches the paper)

LUCY

I can't stand it!

(She reads)

"Will be returning stateside in two weeks for reassignment. Should be home before Christmas. Love, Lester". He's alive! He's OK!

(She hugs Herbert)

HERBERT

I told you he'd make it!

MARGARET

I'll swing by the diner. The whole town has been on pins and needles since the attack. This is the first good news we've heard for quite a while.

(She looks at Herbert, squeezes his hand. Herbert embraces Margaret and she exits).

HERBERT

All it took were lots of prayers and a little faith. Speaking of prayers, I'm going to need them if I don't get this place stocked for the Christmas season. We've had way too much worryin' goin' on around here and not enough workin'. Why don't you run down to the depot and answer Lester's telegram. I'll mind the store until you get back.

LUCY

Thanks, Dad.

(She kisses him on the cheek and exits).

Scene 9 *Gus, Ben, and Lowell crossing into the Yreka Odd Fellows Hall.*

SONG: #16: "WRAP ME UP FOR CHRISTMAS"

LOWELL

THERE'S A GIRL WHO WAITS AT HER HOME IN THE STATES
FOR A PRESENT OR LETTER TO VIEW.
IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH, I WOULD ASK THIS ONCE
FOR A FAVOR; SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO!

TRIO

WRAP ME UP FOR CHRISTMAS. I'D BE THE PERFECT GIFT,
PLACED BELOW THE MISTLETOE TO MAKE HER YULETIDE SPIRIT
LIFT.

BEN

I'D COULD HOLD HER CLOSE AT NIGHT WHEN DECEMBER CHILLS
SET IN.
WATCH THE GLOW OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WHILE THE CAROLS
GAILY RING.

TRIO

WRAP ME UP FOR CHRISTMAS, SEND ME ON MY WAY.
TIED WITH A BOW AND READY TO GO FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY.

GUS

WRAP ME UP FOR CHRISTMAS. THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO SPARE.
IN A MAZE OF SHOPPING DAYS, HER HEART COULD FALL INTO
DESPAIR.

BEN

YOU CAN SHIP ME THIRD CLASS, FED EX, OR U P S.

TRIO

JUST GUARANTEE BY CHRISTMAS EVE I'LL BE WAITING AT HER
ADDRESS.

WRAP ME UP FOR CHRISTMAS, SEND ME ON MY WAY.
TIED WITH A BOW AND READY TO GO FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY.
JUST SET BY THE FIRE.
NO ASSEMBLY REQUIRED,
FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY.

Scene 10

Yreka Odd Fellows Hall; December 20 in the evening. Christmas decorations adorn the hall. A small crowd mingles. Herbert, Margaret, Lucy and Lester stand together, Stanton enters.

HERBERT

I'm glad you braved the trip up from San Francisco to join us here, Stan.

STANTON

After such a gracious invitation, how could I refuse? Welcome back, Lieutenant Todd.

(He extends his hand).

LESTER

Thank you, Stanton.

(They shake hands)

It's good to be back.

STANTON

Where are you going to be stationed next?

LESTER

Back to Pensacola for some more advanced flight training. To take on the Japanese, we're gonna need to know every trick in the book.

LUCY

And Pensacola sounds a little safer than Hawaii right now.

STANTON

Let's hope so.

LESTER

They tell me that you helped set off a few fireworks around here yourself.

STANTON

The little shots heard around the world. The *Chronicle* loved the series I wrote up here, and some other newspapers picked it up and ran the story. In spite of the bad timing, your little rebellion has gotten a lot of attention in literary circles. The *Chronicle* has given me a promotion, and there's even talk that I might be in the running for a number of awards, maybe even the Pulitzer Prize.

MARGARET

Gee Stan, that's great!

HERBERT

Things have really been poppin' around here, too. The troops started arriving almost immediately after the attack, so business has been booming.

LUCY

It's just like Mayor Gable said, we would win even if the secession movement didn't succeed.

HERBERT

The Corp of Engineers has been surveying and assessing all of the roads in the area, and plans are being drawn up for improving and extending the highway system in the entire region.

STANTON

It looks like they're not the only ones who have been doing some assessing. I see Herbert has finally taken stock and figured out where his real assets lie.

(Stanton takes Margaret's hand and examines her ring)

HERBERT

All of the questions and doubts I had seemed very small and unimportant when I was around Margaret.

(Herbert smiles at Margaret)

MARGARET

And he did ask the one very big question, and of course I said "yes". So you'll have to make another trip up here this April.

STANTON

I'll be here!

MARGARET

(She turns to Lester)

And maybe you'll be back by then, too, Lester. I hope this war doesn't drag on too long.

LESTER

I'm sure it won't. We'll teach those Japanese not to mess with us. It'll be over in no time.

STANTON

I'm not so sure about that. I'm afraid that some of our biggest battles are still ahead of us. The way things look in Europe and in the Pacific, the whole world is coming unglued.

HERBERT

With a whole lot of prayers and a little faith, I'm sure we'll be able to win this war.

LUCY

And besides that, I know that we are all very lucky.

SONG #17: "UNITY FINALE"

CHORUS

UNITY.
TO GET THE JOB DONE, WE GOTTA HAVE UNITY.

LUCY

WE ALL MUST PULL TOGETHER.

LESTER

ALL HANDS MUST GRIP THE LEATHER.

LUCY AND LESTER

(Lucy and Lester hold hands)

THE CRISES WE CAN WEATHER
WITH A SHOW OF UNITY.

CHORUS

UNITY.
TO KEEP OUR FREEDOM, WE GOTTA HAVE UNITY.

MARGARET

IT'S BASIC TO SUCCESS.

HERBERT

MOVE FORWARD OR REGRESS.

MARGARET AND HERBERT

(Herbert takes Margaret's hand)

IT'S CHAOS AND A MESS
WITHOUT A SHOW OF UNITY.

STANTON

FOR EVERYONE, A JOB IS FOUND.
LET EVERYONE BE DUTY-BOUND
AND EVERYONE MUST STAND THEIR GROUND
WHEN OPPOSITION LURKS AROUND MOST EVERY TURN,
AND EVERY INCH WE GAIN'S AN INCH WE'VE EARNED.

CHORUS

WHAT HISTORY CAN TEACH US, WE ALL MUST LEARN.

UNITY.
TO GET THE WAR WON, WE GOTTA HAVE UNITY.
THE CONFLICT WILL BE HEATED.
BUT WE WON'T BE DEFEATED.

NOW WHAT IS REALLY NEEDED IS A SHOW OF UNITY.
UNITY.

Curtain