

Music Man Callback Line Reading

<u>Character</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Marcellus and Harold	13-15	2
Marcellus and Harold	45-47	2

(MARCELLUS WASHBURN, roundish, perspiring, ENTERS hurriedly from the wings. At livery stable door HE takes out his key. As lie is about to open the door he looks up and sees HAROLD, rubs his eyes in disbelief)

MARCELLUS

Hey, Gregory!

HAROLD

Marcellus!

MARCELLUS

You old son of a gun! What in -

HAROLD

(Hastily pushing aside proffered hand)

Sh - sh - shhh.

MARCELLUS

But Greg -

HAROLD

Professor Hill's the name - Harold Hill.

MARCELLUS

But Greg, what are you doing here? Whyn't you let me know you was comin'?

HAROLD

I didn't know I was myself. Besides how could I know you'd end up in a little tank town like this? You were a pretty big slicker when you were in business with me.

MARCELLUS

Too many close shaves the way you work. Besides I got me a nice comfortable girl - Ethel Toffelmier - boss's niece.

HAROLD

Gone legitimate, huh? I knew you'd come to no good.

MARCELLUS

What's the new pitch?

(HAROLD pantomimes conducting)

You're not back in the band business! I heard you was in steam automobiles.

HAROLD

I was.

MARCELLUS

What happened?

HAROLD

Somebody actually invented one.

MARCELLUS

No!

HAROLD

Now give me the lowdown here, Marce.

MARCELLUS

You'll never get anywhere in the band business with these stubborn lowans, Greg. Besides we got a stuck-up music teacher here who'll expose you before you get your grip unpacked.

HAROLD

Male or female?

MARCELLUS

The music teacher? She's the librarian - female.

HAROLD

Perfect! That's what I wanted to hear. If she passes by point her out to me.

MARCELLUS

I will. How you gonna start the pitch?

HAROLD

Same old way. Keep that music teacher off balance - and then my next step will be to get your town out of the serious trouble it's in.

MARCELLUS

River City isn't in any trouble.

HAROLD

Then I'll have to create some. I have to create a desperate need for a Boys' Band. You remember - Now what's new around here. What can I use?

MARCELLUS

Nothin' - except the billiard parlor's just put in a new pool table.

HAROLD

They never had a pool table here before?

MARCELLUS

No – only billiards.

HAROLD

That'll do.

(Puts down his suitcase)

See you later, Marce - and don't forget - music teacher.

(Pantomimes piano playing)

MARCELLUS

(Pantomiming, as HE EXITS)

Music teacher.

(HAROLD approaches EWART DUNLOP who has come out of his grocery and is looking up at his sign)

HAROLD

Either you're closing your eyes to a situation you don't wish to acknowledge or you are not aware of the calibre of disaster indicated by the presence of a pool table in your community.

(As HAROLD continues, TOWNSPEOPLE gather around him one by one.

N.B. The word "Slam" in the following merely denotes a rhythmic pulse)

#5 - Ya Got Trouble

(Harold, Townspeople)

HAROLD

(Slam)

WELL, YA GOT TROUBLE, MY FRIEND –

(Slam)

RIGHT HERE.

I SAY, TROUBLE RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY.

WHY SURE, I'M A BILLIARD PLAYER,

CERTAINLY MIGHT-Y PROUD,

I SAY, I'M ALWAYS MIGHTY PROUD TO SAY IT.

(Slam)

MARIAN

Mister Hill

HAROLD

Professor Hill.

MARIAN

Professor of what? At what college do they give a degree for annoying women on the street like a Saturday night rowdy at a public dance hall?

HAROLD

Oh I wouldn't know about that. I'm a Conservatory man myself. Gary, Indiana Gold Medal Class of '05.

MARION

Even should that happen to be true does that give you the right to follow me around wherever I go? Another thing, Mister Hill, I'm not as easily mesmerized or hood-winked as some people in this town and I think it only fair to warn you that I have a shelf full of reference books in there which may very well give me some interesting information about you.

(MARIAN EXITS into the Library. As HAROLD starts after her,
MARCELLUS ENTERS)

HAROLD

Oh hi, Marcellus. And don't call me Greg.

MARCELLUS

How'd you make out with the music teacher?

HAROLD

Scrumptious. Ate out of my hand the minute I tipped my hat.

MARCELLUS

She did! Boy, did you cut a swath tonight. For a minute even I thought you knew somethin' about leadin' a band. Just like when you used to imitate that band-concert fellow back in Joplin.

HAROLD

Yeah!

(Pantomimes conducting)

(HAROLD)

Aw - kid stuff. I'm in rare form these days, son. Just you keep your eyes on me for the next four weeks.

MARCELLUS

Four weeks! It only used to take ten days for the instruments to arrive.

HAROLD

It still does. But it takes four weeks for the uniforms.

MARCELLUS

Oh, no, Greg! You haven't added uniforms!???

HAROLD

Uniforms and instruction books.

MARCELLUS

Instruction books! But you can't pass yourself off as a music professor - I mean not for any four weeks.

HAROLD

(Ruefully)
Marce -

MARCELLUS

But you don't know one note from another.

HAROLD

I have a revolutionary new method called the Think System where you don't bother with notes.

MARCELLUS

But in four weeks the people will want to hear the music! You'll have to lead a band.

HAROLD

But when the uniforms arrive they forget everything else - at least long enough for me to collect and leave. Oh this is a refined operation, son, and I've got it timed right down to the last wave of the brakeman's hand on the last train out'a town. And now, Mr. Washburn, if you'll excuse me -

MARCELLUS

Gonna line yourself up a little canoodlin' huh?

HAROLD

Well -

MARCELLUS

Say, I could fix you up with Ethel's sister - lovely girl - teaches Sunday School -

HAROLD

No wide-eyed, eager wholesome innocent Sunday School teacher for me. That kinda girl spins webs no...