

"WHITE CHRISTMAS"

by

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FULL SHOT - REAR AREA - (DAY) - (GLASS)

This is December 24, 1944, in the first safe area directly behind the battle line, in the Italian theatre.

In the distance occasional artillery light flashes are seen and artillery rumbles are heard. The battered terrain shows the effects of battle.

In the foreground is a recreation area, covered with camouflage; entertainment is in progress on a raised stage. Men of the division are seated about on benches, boxes, and the ground. A camouflaged motor pool of jeeps and tanks is nearby.

MED. SHOT - NEAR RECREATION AREA

We can HEAR LAUGHTER and APPLAUSE from the men as a jeep with two stars on the front indicating it is the General's car jounces along a road toward the side of the recreation area. A YOUNG SERGEANT is at the wheel, an ADJUTANT beside him, and in the rear are GENERAL WAVERLY and GENERAL CARLTON.

JEEP - MED. CLOSE

As it jounces along. General Waverly is weather-beaten and weary; his uniform, while neat, shows the effects of long wear. General Carlton, on the other hand, is stiff, clean and fresh from the Pentagon.

He is staring off at the recreation area.

GENERAL CARLTON

(To Adjutant)

What's this all about, Colonel?

ADJUTANT

(Turning)

A little entertainment for the men, sir. Tonight's Christmas Eve.

GENERAL CARLTON

These men are moving up tonight. They should be lined up for full inspection!

The jeep has come to a halt.

GENERAL WAVERLY

(Eyeing him)

You're absolutely right.

(To Adjutant)

(MORE)

GENERAL WAVERLY (CONT'D)

There's no Christmas in the Army,
Colonel.

ADJUTANT

Yes, sir.

Waverly and the Adjutant alight from the jeep.

GENERAL WAVERLY

(To Carlton)

There's always a slip-up or two
during a change in command. The
men get a little loose. But I know
I'm leaving them in good hands.

GENERAL CARLTON

(Stiffly)

Thank you.

(To Driver)

Sergeant, take me to headquarters
immediately! We'll have those men
turned out on the double!

The Sergeant looks at General Waverly.

GENERAL WAVERLY

Goodbye, Sergeant. Take the short
cut.

SERGEANT

Yes, sir!

The jeep pulls off and makes a half circle. The Adjutant
makes a gesture, as if to stop it. The General stops him.

TWO SHOT - GENERAL WAVERLY AND ADJUTANT

The Adjutant turns to him.

ADJUTANT

That's not the way to headquarters!

GENERAL WAVERLY

Joe, you know that, and I know
that, but the new General doesn't
know it. Or he won't for about an
hour and a half.

ADJUTANT

That Sergeant'll be a private
tomorrow!

GENERAL WAVERLY
Yes... isn't he lucky?

He takes the Adjutant by the arm and leads him toward the recreation area.

RAISED PLATFORM - MED. SHOT

CAPTAIN BOB WALLACE (BING CROSBY) is wearing a makeshift beard and Santa Claus hat and PRIVATE PHILIP DAVIS (DONALD O'CONNOR) is in combat clothes. They are doing a number to entertain the soldiers, WHAT DOES A SOLDIER WANT FOR CHRISTMAS? During introduction, we

CUT TO:

TWO SHOT - GENERAL AND ADJUTANT

just starting to take seats, off to one side where they are not noticed by the performers.

GROUP SHOT - ABOUT 6 SOLDIERS

seated in audience. They look off, see General, start to rise.

TWO SHOT - GENERAL AND ADJUTANT

The General notices them - motions for them to sit down again, indicating he doesn't want attention called to himself.

PLATFORM - FULL SHOT

The number concludes to applause. Bob holds up his hand for silence. He removes his beard.

BOB
Thanks, fellows. I guess by now you know the Old Man's being replaced by a new Commanding General fresh out of the Pentagon... this divisions's been awfully lucky so far, but tonight they're running a special on St. Christophers at the PX... The Old Man's heading back to the rear - he's never moved in that direction in his life.

(MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)

All I can say is, we owe so much to
General Waverly and the way --

WAVERLY'S VOICE

(A bellow)

ATTENTION!

Automatically, Bob stiffens. Phil does the same.

AUDIENCE - FULL SHOT

Every man is at attention and every head has turned to where
General Waverly has taken up a position near the front of the
platform.

GENERAL WAVERLY

Captain Wallace, button your shirt.
You're out of uniform!

(Bob, grinning, hastily
buttons his shirt)

This division is now under the
command of General Harold G.
Carlton, and I don't want anyone to
forget it -- not that he'll let
you. He's tough -- just what this
sloppy outfit needs. You'll be
standing inspection night and day --
you may even learn how to march.
And if you don't give him
everything you got, I may come back
and fight for the enemy. Merry
Christmas!

The boys respond with "Merry Christmas".

GENERAL WAVERLY (CONT'D)

(Embarrassed)

Well -- I guess that's about it -
uh - uh --

Bob, covering his embarrassment:

BOB

Perhaps I can help you out, sir.

He turns to the musicians, gives the downbeat. They play THE
OLD MAN, which is sung by the entire outfit.

The General stands at attention through the first chorus,
visibly moved.

During the second chorus he starts up the aisle, revealing for the first time that his left leg is bandaged to the knee. The Adjutant puts out his arm to help. Waverly refuses. Toward the finish of the song, he turns, faces the men and salutes them. The men return the salute. (This is not a military mistake, the General salutes the enlisted men as a deliberate gesture.) There is a Red Cross ambulance standing by.

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE SHOT - (NIGHT) - TINY CANDLE

THE CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal a hand lighting a candle on a tiny makeshift Christmas tree. We reveal a number of enlisted men huddled around the tree in a trench, including Bob and Phil. One of the men looks at his wristwatch. Now another does.

CLOSE SHOT - WRISTWATCH

The hand is approaching midnight.

CLOSE SHOT - SOLDIER

He is looking at his wristwatch.

CLOSE SHOT - WRISTWATCH

The second hand is pointing to the hour.

FULL SHOT OF SCENE

This is the prearranged signal for Bob to begin singing WHITE CHRISTMAS. Phil accompanies him on a harmonica. Toward the end of the song, an enemy barrage DROWNS out the music. A shell BURSTS in the vicinity.

CLOSE SHOT - BOB AND PHIL

Phil pulls Bob down in time to save him from the shrapnel burst. This has also pushed Bob's face into the mud, which he thinks is unnecessary. Phil, ignoring Bob's hostile look, brightly continues with WHITE CHRISTMAS from where the song left off. Bob finishes with him, but eyeing him.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SKY - (NIGHT)

CAMERA SHOOTING UP to the sky as brilliant fireworks explosion lights up the screen. Over scene SUPERIMPOSE:

INSERT - NEWSPAPER

Headline reads: "V-E DAY!"

As CAMERA MOVES FAST INTO headline, we LOSE the fireworks display and the headline covers the whole screen.

DISSOLVE TO:

INSERT - CHURCH TOWERS - (DAY)

Bells are ringing for celebration of V-E Day. CAMERA MOVES INTO mouth of one bell, blacking out the screen.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BILL POSTER OF FLORIDA SHOW - (NIGHT)

featuring names and pictures of Bob and Phil. CAMERA MOVES to a CLOSE SHOT of the picture, HOLDS for a second, then suddenly the picture comes to life and we are on the stage of the theatre where Bob and Phil are doing the production number "BELLS".

MED. SHOT - INT. THEATRE - AUDIENCE

Perhaps twenty people, photographed at a slant. They're warm. One woman has a fan, some use programs. They are enjoying the show, however. There are some vacant seats apparent. This theatre is a modern traveling tent show, such as have been playing in Florida in recent years, and beyond the sides we see palm trees, characteristic of Florida.

FULL SHOT - AUDIENCE

APPLAUDING the conclusion of the number.

MED. FULL SHOT - BACKSTAGE

The curtain is down, the boys come off, the curtain goes up on the next number, which is dancing. Phil and Bob are met by COOKE, the Company Manager.

RITA, a luscious Latin type, and some of the remaining chorus girls and other players ad lib, "Couldn't be cuter!"
"Great." "Very funny!"

COOKE
(To Bob and Phil)
New York's on the telephone.

Bob and Phil, with Cooke, go to the backstage telephone.

PHIL
(Into phone)
Hello.
(He listens. To Bob and
Cooke)
Oscar.

MED. CLOSE SHOT - INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE

This is the business office of Bob and Phil. OSCAR is their representative and manager, not their employer.

He is sixty and looks competent. He refers to a telegram in his hand. Pictures of the boys adorn the desk, and Wallace and Davis sheets of previous shows are on the wall. It must be evident from their billing that the boys are important stars in New York.

OSCAR
Listen, I just heard what you're doing -- giving the cast a week off with pay for Christmas. You don't know how touched I am. I'm all choked up. Between sobs, I managed to book you on the Ed Harrison show this week to take up the slack. It'll be stealing money.

CLOSE SHOT - GROUP

Phil is holding the receiver up to Bob. Oscar's VOICE can be plainly heard.

PHIL
(Into phone)
We'll have to go to New York -- four days and four nights of rehearsals -- that's stealing money?

CLOSE SHOT - OSCAR

As he speaks into the telephone

OSCAR

It is for me -- I get ten percent.

(He listens for a moment)

Next time you guys make a charitable gesture, find out if you got with what to make it. See you Wednesday.

He hangs up.

GROUP SHOT - PHIL, BOB AND COOKE

Bob hangs up the phone.

BOB

Well... while the cast takes it easy we'll be slaving over a hot kinnie.

COOKE

What train do you want? There's a one-thirty this morning but you have to sit up all night.

PHIL

Let's get out tonight.

BOB

Okay.

The boys walk to their dressing room. A group of the chorines come flying by, toward the dressing rooms, with squealing. They make quite a picture from the rear, bouncing and all.

PHIL

What are we going to do until one-thirty?

BOB

We'll eat dinner.

PHIL

(Looking at the retreating bouncing)

Eat, eat All you think of is your stomach!

Rita shows up in front of Phil.

RITA
 (Eagerly)
 You said you had something to
 rehearse with me after the show.
 What is it?

Phil evidently was trying to hide this from Bob and is self-conscious at being caught.

PHIL
 It's a kind of new dance number.

RITA
 (Eagerly)
 I'm ready.

BOB
 (Taking Phil by the arm)
 He isn't. Some business has come
 up. See you in a week.
 (He pulls Phil away)
 Come on, Romeo, dinner!
 (Tempting him)
 Lamb chops, lamb chops!

PHIL
 (Pretending that he is
 letting himself be pulled
 while he is still anxious
 to go in the other
 direction)
 I'm looking at them! We're going
 in the wrong direction.

DISSOLVE TO:

MED. SHOT - WATERFRONT INN - BOB AND PHIL - (NIGHT)

The boys are now finishing their dinner. Bob is facing the orchestra, Phil would have to turn to see it. The MUSIC plays, the boys eat. The table is close to the bar. On two stools sit JUDY and BETTY. Betty is wearing her glasses and examining some railroad tickets that have just been handed her by the bartender. Phil is not paying attention to his eating, he is entranced with Judy's pretty legs draped over the bar stool. Bob cannot see the girls and is not even interested enough to turn around.

MED. CLOSE SHOT - BETTY AND JUDY

On her part, Judy is not absorbed in the tickets, but is unobtrusively sizing up Phil.

BETTY
 (Checking the tickets)
 We'll have to rush to get the 1:30
 train.

CLOSE SHOT - PHIL AND BOB

Bob notices Phil's absorption.

BOB
 Have you ever considered laying off
 the female sex for awhile?

PHIL
 What other kind is there?
 (He picks up the card
 which announces the
 performers names and
 reads)
 'The Stewart Sisters.' Sister act!
 (He smacks his lips. He
 doesn't realize that
 these two girls are the
 Stewart Sisters)

BOB
 Down, Rover, down. Remember, we
 have an agreement--you chase no new
 tidbits during the season. You
 were man enough to give me your
 hand on it.

PHIL
 You were sneaky enough to take it.

MED. CLOSE SHOT - BETTY AND JUDY

Betty looks from the tickets and sees that Judy is covertly
 eyeing Phil. She leans forward.

BETTY
 (Quietly)
 Ahem.
 (Judy's eyes are toward
 Phil. A little louder)
 Ahem! All right dear, relax.

JUDY
 He's awful cute.

BETTY

So was the one in Kansas City, and
the one in Canton, Ohio, and the
one in Waco, Texas.

JUDY

(Mock seriousness)
Canton, Ohio wasn't so much.

BETTY

One of these days you're going to
meet somebody extra cute and the
next performance I'll be doing a
single.

JUDY

(Sincerely)
Nobody'll ever be cute enough to
break up this sister act.

MED. SHOT - BOOTH - BOB AND PHIL

Phil is still fingering the card.

PHIL

I haven't much luck with sister
acts. They're all alike. Shall I
tell you what these two are like?

BOB

Shoot.

PHIL

Four feet two inches tall. Pudgy.
Round faces. Have big bows in
their hair. Always smiling.
(He parodies a smile)
Lots of teeth. Sister acts have
more teeth than anybody else. Two,
three hundred teeth at a time. The
American Dental Association is
investigating it.

There is a drum roll from the orchestra. Betty takes off her
glasses and puts them in their case, on the bar. The
bandleader's voice announces:

BANDLEADER

Ladies and gentleman, the Stewart
Sisters!

The audience applauds politely while the girls start toward the platform, Phil reacts in surprise to the new development.

PLATFORM - FULL SHOT

Betty and Judy do their number: "SISTERS". As they take their bows --

MED. SHOT - BOB AND PHIL

Phil pretends to recognize Judy.

PHIL

Say, Dolores! That's Dolores!

BOB

Who?

PHIL

Remember that girl I told you about who got sick in St. Paul? That's her! The girl in the oxygen tent! I told you about her! The road company of "Student Prince." The whole company went to church and prayed for her! It was the most touching thing I've ever seen in show business.

(HE GETS UP.)

I'll bring her over.

He goes, Bob watching, disgusted. NOVELLO, the owner of the Waterfront Inn, comes up.

MED. SHOT - BOB AND NOVELLO

Novello evidently knows Bob.

NOVELLO

Didn't you get your dessert yet, Mr. Wallace?

BOB

I'm not having any, but I think my partner's lining up some pastries now.

NOVELLO
 Sure wish I could afford to book
 you boys here.

BOB
 Call our agent - we've got half an
 hour between trains.

Phil enters the shot with Judy and Betty.

PHIL
 Hello, Mister Novello.

NOVELLO
 Good evening, Mister Davis.

MED. SHOT - GROUP

Novello pulls out the table to permit the girls to be seated.

PHIL
 (Burlesque formality)
 Miss Stewart, Mister Wallace. Miss
 Stewart, Mister Wallace.

JUDY AND BETTY
 How do you do.

BOB
 (Rising)
 How do you do.

Phil gets Betty next to Bob, he sits next to Judy.

NOVELLO
 See you later, folks.

PHIL
 'Bye.
 (He leaves)

JUDY
 We saw your show at the matinee,
 and we liked it very much.

BOB
 Thank you, ma'am.

The orchestra has gone into WHITE CHRISTMAS.

PHIL
 Where are you going to be for
 Christmas?

JUDY
We're booked in Vermont.

PHIL
Vermont? What's there?

BETTY
Snow. We spent last Christmas in South Carolina, the year before in Hawaii. They didn't seem like Christmases. There ought to be snow. This one's going to be real white.

BOB
Well, it's the way you've been raised. If you saw a lot of snow when you were a kid you miss it more around Christmas. There's a lot of snow around St. Paul.

JUDY
Is that where you come from - St. Paul?

It dawns on him, slowly. He shows no emotion.

BOB
No. You come from St. Paul.

JUDY
I come from Canton, Ohio.

BOB
(Just for the record he knows)
I'd like to ask you something.
Were you ever in an oxygen tent?

JUDY
Oxygen tent? Oh no!

BOB
Were you ever in a road company of "Student Prince?"

BETTY
No. Why?

Bob looks at Phil. The rules are clear between them.

Bob puts his hand out. Phil takes it. They shake.

BOB
Very good.

PHIL
Thank you.

BOB
What I admire are the details, the invention, the little lies all around the big one. It takes talent.

PHIL
Oh, it's nothing.

BOB
Don't say that. Don't belittle yourself. Credit where credit is due. You did it fine.

BETTY
Private conversation?

BOB
Little game we play.

PHIL
(To Judy)
May I have this dance?

JUDY
I'd love to.

PHIL
(Helping her up)
I'm not going to keep calling you Miss Stewart.

JUDY
The name is Judy.

PHIL
(To Bob)
What a pretty name!

BOB
(They're off)
Nicer than Dolores!

BETTY
I'm Betty.

BOB
 I'm low man. Bob.
 (He takes her arm,
 indicating Phil and Judy)
 Follow that couple.

BETTY
 Why?

They move toward the dance floor.

BOB
 Want to make sure they keep
 dancing.

BETTY
 Stop worrying. He won't get any
 place with her.

BOB
 You sure?

BETTY
 I'm positive. I trained her
 myself.

BOB
 She's in the ring with the champ,
 though. You've heard of Alcoholics
 Anonymous?
 (She nods; he indicates
 Phil)
 Women Anonymous. Their biggest
 case.

Keeps falling off the wagon.

BETTY
 Well, you keep an eye on him, and
 I'll keep an eye on her.

BOB
 Fine. We can make out the probation
 report together.

The orchestra blends into a vocal chorus of the song. (To be decided upon.) The vocal is shared by Bob, Betty, Judy and Phil, individually. Toward the end of the vocal Phil dances Judy out to the terrace overlooking the water. This blends into their dance. The staging of the number should reunite the four principals by the end of the number. The audience applauds and they all go back to their booth.

MED. CLOSE SHOT - BETTY AND JUDY

They are a half dozen steps ahead of the boys.

JUDY
They're both very cute, aren't
they?

BETTY
(Hiding her real
interest)
Both?

JUDY
Uh huh.

BETTY
Which one do you like best?

JUDY
I like them both.

BETTY
You can't have both. There's a
law.

JUDY
Oh, we'll never meet them again,
what does it matter?

The men are now up to them and help them into the booth.

MED. SHOT - BOOTH - GROUP

Bob does not sit.

BOB
Judy, you made even him look good.

JUDY
(Pleased)
You're very flattering, but he was
doing all the leading.

BETTY
(Fair)
You dance very well together. If I
say it.

PHIL
(Sitting)
Lightest girl I ever saw. Floats
like a bubble. One big bubble.

BOB
All right, bubble lover, stand up!

PHIL
What for? I just sat down.

BOB
La train. At one-thirty, and we
have to pack.

PHIL
Train?

BOB
You know, choo choo. Goes on
tracks.
(Train whistle noise)
Wo woo.

PHIL
Oh no!

BOB
Oh yes!

PHIL
Can't we go tomorrow?

BOB
The train goes tonight.
(Phil looks
disconsolately at Judy)
Say goodbye to the lady bubble,
because we're going to have to run
for it now.

PHIL
Lady bubble, I have an idea we're
going to meet up again sometime.

JUDY
We might, we're on the same train.

PHIL
No.

JUDY
Yes.

BOB
(Pulling Phil away)
No.

As they start off, Novello enters to the girls, agitated.

NOVELLO

The sheriff is here! He's in my office!

JUDY

The sheriff!

NOVELLO

He's got a warrant to arrest you!

Bob has stopped. He looks at Phil, suspiciously.

BOB

I thought we watched you every minute.

Phil holds up his hand in "Scout's honor."

PHIL

Never stopped dancing.

Bob turns back to the table.

BOB

(To the girls)
Can we help?

JUDY

(Fearful)
I've never been arrested!

PHIL

There's nothing to it!

BOB

Don't get panicky!

NOVELLO

Yes, don't get excited, you still have to give your show!
(Apologetically)
He's not going to arrest them until after the show!

BOB

That's considerate! How'd you arrange that?

NOVELLO

I'm a taxpayer here! You better go in and change, girls! You haven't much time!

The girls start off, confused. Novello, Bob and Phil follow.

BOB

May I enquire what you are being arrested for?

BETTY

The owner of the hotel we were at says we dropped a cigarette on his rug and burned it.

JUDY

We couldn't have dropped a cigarette because we don't smoke.

BETTY

He wants two hundred dollars, but it's just plain stealing.

JUDY

We left the money for our bill in an envelope on the bed.

BETTY

Then we dropped the bags out the window and checked them at the depot.

JUDY

What are we going to do now?

NOVELLO

You have to give another show.

He leaves them, as Bob and Phil look unpleasantly after him. They have reached the wings.

INT. WINGS - MED. SHOT

STAGEHAND is setting up a record on a record-playing mechanism backstage, as the group passes by heading for the dressing rooms.

PHIL

The old burned rug routine.

BOB

Kind of old fashioned, isn't it? I thought that went out with the Cherry Sisters. We'll have to do something.

PHIL

(Hopefully)
Got a flash?

BOB

A glimmer. Have to stir it around
a little.

The girls have opened the door to their dressing room.

JUDY

We wouldn't want you boys to get
into any trouble.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - MED. SHOT

As they all enter.

PHIL

Why not? Maybe we'll all wind up
in the same cell.

As they close the door,

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NOVELLO'S OFFICE - MED. SHOT

Novello is with the SHERIFF and the LANDLORD. The Sheriff is a husky fellow. At the moment he's eating an eclair and coffee, from Novello's desk. The Landlord glares at him.

LANDLORD

That's the second dessert you've
had, Sheriff!

SHERIFF

Real good, too.

LANDLORD

I haven't got all night to wait
here while you eat free food!
You've got your warrant, arrest
those girls!

SHERIFF

(Displeased)

Now, we agreed to let them finish
their show first.

LANDLORD

I didn't agree!

(To Novello)

That was his idea!

NOVELLO

I've got some rights, too. You
don't get those girls until after
they've done their number!

LANDLORD

Well, how long is it going to take?

Novello puts his hand up, listening.

NOVELLO

Wait a minute! That's their music!

He gets up, opens the office door, and we HEAR their entrance
music, as before, and the Orchestra Leader's voice, "The
Stewart Sisters."

MED. SHOT - CAFE FLOOR

Bob and Phil stand with their backs to the audience.

They turn, face front, and we realize they are mouthing to a
record.

CLOSE SHOT - WINGS - RECORD PLAYER

We identify that the music is coming from this spinning
record player we have previously established.

MED. SHOT - CAFE FLOOR

Bob and Phil do the number.

MED. SHOT - AUDIENCE

They APPLAUD at end of number.

MED. SHOT - INT. NOVELLO'S OFFICE

We faintly HEAR the applause.

LANDLORD

They're clapping! It's over!
Arrest them!

The Sheriff gets up.

CUT TO:

MED. SHOT - CAFE FLOOR

The boys bow themselves off, and run toward their dressing room.

MED. SHOT - CORRIDOR

They hurry down the corridor, passing the office door.

BOB

Get out of these clothes! Toot
sweet!

PHIL

Ma, unhook my bra!

The office door opens behind them, which they do not see. The Sheriff steps out, followed by the Landlord and Novello.

SHERIFF

(Calm)

Just a second, folks! I'll handle
this!

(He walks to the dressing
room door)

MED. CLOSE SHOT - DRESSING ROOM DOOR

There is a plaque attached to the key in the lock. The Sheriff smilingly turns the key in the lock. He puts the key in his pocket.

SHERIFF

(Winking)

You stay here. Let them try to go
through the window.

The landlord is delighted.

LANDLORD

If they make a break for it, shoot
'em!

WIPE TO:

MED SHOT - EXT. CAFE - (NIGHT) - SHERIFF

The Sheriff walks around the corner of the cafe, and a police car awaits, with cop at the wheel.

SHERIFF
Just a minute, Hank, couple of
customers coming up.

HANK
Okay, boss.

The Sheriff continues to the window of our dressing room.

MED CLOSE SHOT - DRESSING ROOM WINDOW

It opens. The Sheriff watches it. Out comes Phil's legs,
meaning to get out backwards. The Sheriff applies both hands
and pushes back.

SHERIFF
Back you go, boys!

He pushes Phil in. Nimbly, he raises himself in.

MED. SHOT - INT. DRESSING ROOM

The Sheriff is in the room. He looks coolly at the boys, who
are now in their own clothes. He stares at them. They stare
at him. Recognition comes all at once.

PHIL
Pete!

SHERIFF
Phil! Bob!

BOB
Pete!

They all throw their arms around each other, pounding
violently. 'No! Wow! You dirty skunk! You grave robber!'

PHIL
(Unbelieving)
Are you the Sheriff here?

SHERIFF
You bet I am!

BOB
How'd you get in this line of work?

SHERIFF
After I got out of the army I sat
down and figured it out! Who never
got in trouble in the army?
(MORE)

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

The M.P.'s! They were the ones who arrested you! So I came back here and ran for Sheriff!

BOB

A civilian M.P.! If the fellows ever saw you now! They'd skin you alive!

PHIL

You ever see any of them?

SHERIFF

Whitey Harris and Jack Ross have a filling station near here!

BOB

Jack Ross! Will you ever forget the party he threw in Naples?

PHIL

In a captured brewery. Very sensible, giving a party in a brewery. Cuts out the middleman.

BOB

Do you remember when Danny Beasley climbed up -
(As he says 'Danny Beasley' he recalls Danny is dead)
- the tower of the City Hall and rang the bell by swinging on the clapper? He couldn't hear anything for two days.

SHERIFF

Danny Beasley! Too bad he didn't make it.

BOB

Not everybody was lucky.

PHIL

We were lucky in one thing - the old man.

SHERIFF

You can say that again. Say I'm supposed to arrest a couple of dames! A fellow swore out a warrant!

PHIL
He's a crook! Burned a hole in a rug and is trying to hold up two kids.

SHERIFF
You don't say!

BOB
(At his watch)
We got to get our bags and be at the station in ten minutes! We'll never make it!

SHERIFF
Just a moment!
(He goes to the window)
Hank !

REVERSE ANGLE - POLICE CAR - SHOOTING BY SHERIFF

Hank looks up enquiringly.

HANK
Yes, sir.

SHERIFF
Take my friends where they want to go!

HANK
Yes, sir.

SHERIFF
Hurry up!

BOB
(Going out the window)
Thanks, Pete.

EXT. WINDOW - POLICE CAR

Hank has thrown the door open.

PHIL
Do you think we can make it?

HANK
This thing goes over a hundred an hour! Hold on!

He starts with his red lights going, his siren screaming, and tires grinding.

MED. SHOT - INT. DRESSING ROOM

The Sheriff watches them go, pleased. A pounding on the door recalls the Landlord, and he frowns. He strides to the door, takes out his key and opens it.

MED. SHOT - CORRIDOR

The Landlord and Novello are looking out the window at the departing police car, the noise having distracted them from the door pounding. The siren is still heard, retreating. The Sheriff snaps his cigarette at their feet. They turn to him, faces alight.

SHERIFF

They escaped! We're pursuing 'em!

LANDLORD

Escaped!

SHERIFF

(Pointing)

What do you mean smoking on theatrical premises!

LANDLORD

That's not mine! I wasn't smoking!

SHERIFF

What's that burning? A lollypop?

(He grabs him by the
shoulder, not too gently,
and starts him out)

Come on!

He protests, 'What - !' 'But!' Novello is openmouthed.

WIPE TO:

EXT. STATION - (NIGHT)

The train is already moving as the police car arrives.

The girls are on the observation platform. The police car screams to a stop. The boys fly out, with bags, and just make the train, the girls pulling them aboard.

JUDY
 (Seriously)
 You didn't steal the police car?

PHIL
 No, no. Friend of ours.

They go toward the lounge car.

MED. SHOT - INT. LOUNGE CAR - GROUP

They all take seats in the lounge car, happy to have accomplished their escape.

BOB
 Well, we'll be together as far as
 New York.

BETTY
 Maybe it'll snow in New York for
 Christmas. If it doesn't, we'll
 mail you a snowball from Vermont.

JUDY
 I haven't been on ice skates in
 years.

PHIL
 Ice? You mean the stuff in a
 Scotch and soda?
 (Suddenly)
 Bob, how about snow for Christmas?

BOB
 You'll only thaw it out.

PHIL
 Come on, Bob, we could have a great
 week up in Vermont.

Bob looks from him to Judy, whose expression is almost pleading.

BOB
 I see what you mean. But Wednesday
 we've got to be back in New York.

PHIL
 All right -- so it's just for a
 couple of days. Don't you want me
 to enjoy the winter sports?

BOB
 You enjoy them all year round.
 (He looks to Betty)
 We won't get in your way, will we?

BETTY
 As long as your friend doesn't try
 to take my sister for a sleigh
 ride.

BOB
 If he tries it, I'll smash his
 flexible flyer.
 (To Phil)
 It's all set.

PHIL
 (Really pleased)
 The thing I like about you, Bob, is
 you're not only kind and generous,
 you're handsome.

BOB
 We're going to have to sit up all
 night. Let's get some shut eye.

DISSOLVE TO:

FULL SHOT - EXT. TRAIN - (NIGHT)

The rhythm of the wheels and the engine funnel, underscored musically.

MED. SHOT - INT. TRAIN

All but Phil are half dozing. One or two other people are seen in the background, asleep. There is an air of peace and quiet in the car, as the music underscoring continues. Their faces are occasionally streaked with light flashes emanating from the surrounding countryside. Phil turns to the side of the car and sees a bill poster showing a copy of a winter scene from the Grandma Moses collection, advertising Vermont. CAMERA PULLS UP TO scene, the music swells and we DISSOLVE to a similar landscape in stylized concept. This is the WINTER FANTASY production number. At the end of the fantasy we hear the Conductor's voice, "Pine Tree. Pine Tree, Vermont."

MED. SHOT - OUR GROUP - (DAY)

They are bundling themselves up, coat collars tight, expecting to enter the snow country.

REVERSE ANGLE - SCENE THROUGH PLATFORM DOOR

Pine Tree Station, all green, no snow. Four hotel busses await, one marked 'Columbia Inn Bus.'

FULL SHOT - PINE TREE STATION - (GLASS SHOT)

Our foursome is just getting off the train. They are the only ones. They are looking about, puzzled.

PHIL

Are you sure this is the right Vermont?

BOB

This isn't a southern Vermont?

JUDY

I don't understand it.

BETTY

There has to be snow! This place is advertised as America's Snow Playground!

BOB

Well, if you say so.
(Gesturing to the waiting
Columbia Inn bus driver)
Driver, your sleigh and reindeer.

The other three bus drivers are disappointed.

DISSOLVE TO:

FULL SHOT - BUS EN ROUTE

The bus goes by an incongruous skating rink, with water instead of ice. Signs indicate the direction of the sun scorched toboggan slide.

WIPE TO:

MED. SHOT - BUS EN ROUTE

The bus winds around another turn in the beautiful green surroundings and we pass a ski lift and a ski jumping platform.

WIPE TO:

MED. SHOT - BUS EN ROUTE

Still another turn of the bus, and in the distance we see a LONG SHOT of the Columbia Inn.

MED. SHOT - INT. COLUMBIA INN

MARTHA, a sixty year old spinsterish woman, good of heart, forbidding exterior, is occupied at the desk.

The door opens and a pretty fifteen year old, SUSAN, carrying the mail, walks toward her.

SUSAN
Mail, Martha.

She puts the mail on the desk.

MARTHA
(As she shuffles through
it)
What's the weather forecast down at
the Post Office?

SUSAN
Awful. Fair and warmer.

MARTHA
If we don't get snow soon we can
turn this hotel into a haunted
house. We haven't had a guest for
three weeks.

SUSAN
(As Martha keeps
searching through the
mail)
What are you looking for?

MARTHA
(Not finding it)
Your grandfather's written
Washington asking if he can get
back in active service. I think he
wants to fly jets.

SUSAN
I think he could do it.

MARTHA
He says older men have been called,
and besides, he misses the food.

(MORE)

MARTHA (CONT'D)

I tell you, Susan, he tried to make it a casual letter, with little jokes, but it came out just begging.

Through the huge window behind Susan and Martha we see the figure of a man in overalls, bending over an incinerator, shoveling the ashes into a wheelbarrow.

His back is to CAMERA.

SUSAN

(Moved)

Oh, Martha! What are we going to do?

MARTHA

(Blowing her nose)

I don't know. Don't let on we know he's written. He'll start in I'm only his housekeeper and that I found out through some chicanery or something.

SUSAN

(Soothing her)

How did you find out?

MARTHA

Like any housekeeper -- I read the carbon paper.

(She hands the mail to Susan)

Bring him the mail.

Susan starts out as CAMERA MOVES UP to window. After a moment, Susan appears and crosses to the man in overalls. He straightens up, dusts off his hands, and as he turns to take the letters, we see for the first time that he is General Waverly. He looks through them, eagerly, then, downcast, shoves them in his overalls and goes back to his work.

DISSOLVE TO:

OMITTED

FULL SHOT - EXT. INN - (DAY)

The bus comes to a stop and our principals get out, Phil staying with the driver for the luggage. The others enter the inn.

MED. SHOT - INT. INN

Martha at the desk, and her eyes widen in surprise.

MARTHA

(Happily)

Welcome to Columbia Inn. How do you do?

ALL

How do you do?

MARTHA

(Offering pen)

What kind of accommodations would you like? We can give you a fairly wide choice--any room in the Inn, including mine.

BETTY

We're not here as guests. We're the Stewart sisters.

MARTHA

(Disappointed)

Oh.

BOB

My friend and I are guests. We've come down for the snow. Where are you keeping it?

MARTHA

We take it in during the day!

BOB

(Looking around)

What are your rates here?

MARTHA

Make us an offer.

(To the girls)

I'm afraid we won't be able to use you. We'll pay you the half salary for canceling.

JUDY

Oh, no! Are things that bad?

MARTHA

We're using the ski-tow to hang the wash on.

(To Bob)

(MORE)

MARTHA (CONT'D)

You're not going to stay either,
are you?

BOB

(Shaking his head)

I'm afraid not, ma'am.

Through the door comes Waverly, carrying a load of wood in one arm, and a bucket of coke in the other hand. Susan follows carrying an armful of kindling.

Bob turns away.

BOB (CONT'D)

I'll tell Phil to leave the luggage

-

(It hits him, he comes to
a stop, and then to
attention)

General Waverly! Sir!

WAVERLY

(Easy, simple)

At ease! How are you, Captain.

BOB

I'm fine, sir.

(But he looks around
questioningly,
bewildered)

WAVERLY

(Smiling)

We just try to keep the General
part quiet.

BOB

Why?

(Reminding himself)

Begging your pardon, sir.

WAVERLY

Well, to put it in one sentence,
people don't expect major generals
to carry firewood.

Through the door comes Phil, fast, talking:

PHIL

Bob, I was thinking we ought to -

Phil has his arm out indicating the direction of the door, when he sees Waverly. He freezes. He brings his hand up to a salute, from that position.

WAVERLY

At ease!

PHIL

Oh, sir!

(Horrorified)

A janitor!

WAVERLY

Never thought I'd make it, he?
...Matter of fact, it's worse than
that. I own this hotel.

MARTHA

He got it in a shrewd business
move.

BETTY

(To Bob)

Was everybody in your outfit? We
seem to run into them all over the
country.

BOB

The Draft Board didn't know when to
stop.

WAVERLY

If I start the introductions, can I
get to meet these young ladies?

(Indicating them)

My housekeeper, Miss Martha Allen,
my granddaughter, Susan Waverly.

BOB

I'm Bob Wallace -- this is Phil
Davis --

BETTY

We're the Stewart sisters.

JUDY

Your floor show.

MARTHA

(To Waverly)

Don't worry -- I've already told
them we'd have to cancel.

WAVERLY

Why? We have a floor, haven't we?

MARTHA

Last time I looked. But who are they going to sing to?

WAVERLY

Even if it's only to you and me, it will be well worth it. Besides, there will be six inches of snow tonight and we'll be full up tomorrow.

BETTY

(Happily)

Is that the weather forecast?

WAVERLY

No. But if there was one thing I learned in the army it was to be positive -- especially when you don't know what you're talking about. You'll excuse me, gentlemen, I'm on K.P.

Phil and Bob stiffen automatically.

PHIL AND BOB

Yes, sir!

WAVERLY

(To Betty and Judy)

And you two charming ladies, I want you to know I'm looking forward to your show this evening. Whatever your audience lacks in numbers, it will make up for in enthusiasm --

(He glares at Martha)

or I'll know the reason why!

He smiles at the girls, and exits, dignified.

JUDY

(Utterly charmed)

Gee... no wonder we won the war!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DINING ROOM INN - (NIGHT) - MED. CLOSE SHOT -

BETTY AND JUDY

They are doing the number, SISTERS, on the floor. THE CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal the scene.

There is a scant audience distributed at several tables, totaling not more than fourteen in number. Not far from the kitchen entrance Bob and Phil are sitting at one table.

Martha is seen doing general overseeing, principally acting as hostess. Susan doubles between the cashier's desk and helping out at table.

MED. CLOSE SHOT - BOB AND PHIL

They are admiring the performance. Phil indicates for Bob to look in this direction. Bob does.

REVERSE ANGLE - MED. SHOT

The General is seating a table.

MED. SHOT - BOB AND PHIL

Bob shakes his head, unhappy at this condition. They look at each other.

BOB

I think well stay a little longer
than we planned.

MED. FULL SHOT - BETTY AND JUDY

They finish the number and are applauded enthusiastically, but the few people in the audience don't make for much clatter. One set of hands seems to be applauding loudest and clearest.

MED. SHOT - GENERAL WAVERLY

He is the one doing the enthusiastic applauding. He walks toward the boys, still applauding. They applaud too. The girls enter the scene, to sit with the boys.

Martha is only applauding politely, until Waverly glares at her. Then her enthusiasm is boundless.

WAVERLY

Excellent. I enjoyed it very much.

JUDY

Thank you.

MARTHA

It was nice, if you like music.

A waitress brings food, which Martha helps distribute.

BETTY

(After a look that the
waitress is not in a
position to hear)

Mister Waverly, we'd like to make
you a proposition.

WAVERLY

(Smiling)

Well, for heaven's sake!

BETTY

You've been very nice not
canceling, we'd like to make a
gesture. Until it snows, and you
have guests, we'll take half
salary.

MARTHA

(Appreciative)

That's really nice of you.

(She takes out pencil and
her order book)

Now let's get that in writing.

WAVERLY

(Pushing it aside)

Never heard of anything so
ridiculous.

(Gets up)

Your next performance is tomorrow
night, after dinner. Be here, or
I'll sue!

He dignifiedly walks in the direction of some departing
guests, and proceeds to show them to the door.

MARTHA

(Annoyed)

Light-Horse Harry. Advance,
advance, never retreat! He's
advancing right into bankruptcy.

PHIL

That's just the way he was in the
army. Always thinking of the other
fellow.

BOB

We ate and then he ate. We slept,
and then he slept.

PHIL

Then he woke up, and nobody slept
for the next forty-eight hours.

MARTHA

I happen to know he's sunk his
life's savings into this place. I
read the carbon paper.

JUDY

Gee, I wish there were something we
could do to help.

BOB

Maybe there is.

PHIL

You got a flash?

BOB

A glimmer. Have to stir it around
a bit.

PHIL

(To the girls)

Shhh!

(Indicating Bob, tapping
his forehead)

Ticking away madly. Wheels within
wheels. This is the brain that, in
darkest Italy, devised a formula to
make food out of K-Ration!
Shhhhhh!

As he regards Bob with something akin to awe, we

DISSOLVE TO:

MED. SHOT - INT. LOBBY - (NIGHT)

The last of the supper audience is leaving. We see into a
room which adjoins the reservation desk and Bob is on the
phone.

CLOSE SHOT - INT. INN OFFICE

Phil is sitting on the desk while Bob talks.

BOB

(Into phone)

Relax... I didn't ask you how much it'll cost us...

(We hear an excited high voice on the phone)

Easy, easy, remember your blood pressure... I don't care how much it'll cost us... That's better... Have everybody on the train first thing in the morning. The whole Troupe, and the scenery, and the costumes... You'll have to cancel us off the Ed Harrison Show... Oscar, remember your blood pressure. Incidentally, how much will this cost?

(He hears some figure. - It obviously is a very large number)

Good night, Oscar.

(He hangs up)

There you are.

PHIL

Incidentally, how much will this cost?

BOB

(Clears his throat)

We are coming out - even.

PHIL

You mean flat?

BOB

That's the same as even.

PHIL

Wheels within wheels. It's nice how you take care of the money for both of us because you're older and so level headed. I wonder where I'd be now if hadn't saved your life?

BOB

Do you want me to cancel the troupe coming?

PHIL

(Getting off the desk)

No, no. Let's go through the gesture.

(MORE)

PHIL (CONT'D)

If you had been on the Titanic when it went down, you wouldn't've been satisfied just to sink into the ocean.

(Gesturing)

You'd have done a swan dive into it. With me on your back!

DISSOLVE TO:

FULL SHOT - COLUMBIA INN FLOOR - (DAY)

The scene is a melee of the excitement accompanying preparations for the show. The little stage has been enlarged - the draperies pulled back right and left and a side wall pushed back a little farther. There is hammering and painting going on in various parts of the room. Trunks have been unpacked and wardrobe hung up in odd places, as more trunks arrive. Girls in abbreviated rehearsal clothes walk around, do cartwheels; two people sing at the piano; six girls kick in unison; altogether, it is quite a contrast to the bareness of the previous scene.

THE CAMERA TRUCKS through all the activity, taking in our group at the doorway, which features Bob and Phil, the girls standing nearby. Martha and Susan are amazed at the activity.

MARTHA

I can't believe it! You mean you brought the whole show up here?

BOB

When you hired the Stewart sisters you also hired a New York show. It was in the small print.

PHIL

And you can't get out of it. We've got lawyers.

SUSAN

I can't thank you enough, but I wonder if Gramp'll let you do it?

PHIL

Why not?

MARTHA

His pride. When he decides he's going into bankruptcy he likes to go.

BOB

Now just a second. We're not doing this for him!

PHIL

Oh no! We're bringing the show down here to rehearse!

BOB

The company's been getting a little ragged. We'd appreciate the use of the hall.

PHIL

Of course we don't expect it free!

BOB

We'll pay a little, but not much. - You see, the audience will be guinea-pigs -- and for us, that's quite an improvement.

This has not fooled Susan. She throws her arms around Bob and then Phil.

SUSAN

I don't know what to say!

She cannot refrain from tears of gratitude and turns and runs out. There is a moment of silence.

BOB

I hope this is not an indication of advancing age, getting kissed out of gratitude.

PHIL

You didn't expect a girl that pretty to kiss you because she wanted to?

BOB

A body keeps hoping.

Betty steps up to him and gives him the biggest smack.

Bob is quite surprised.

BETTY

(Sincerely)

That was the nicest thing I ever saw anybody do.

BOB
It was still gratitude.

PHIL
(To Judy)
I'm his partner. I'm entitled to
half the credit.
(Judy steps up to him and
just pecks him on the
cheek, then joins her
sister in rehearsal)
She's not as grateful as her
sister.

They look off through the exit and see a moving van unloading
scenery, as the General arrives in his buggy.

He steps down and looks with amazement at the scenery passing
by.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. INN - (DAY) - MED. CLOSE SHOT - WAVERLY, BOB AND PHIL

Waverly is looking interestedly at the goings on, but is
puzzled. The boys exchange a glance.

WAVERLY
(Finally)
I'm not clear about some of it.
Explain it again.

PHIL
(Not too good a job)
Well, sir. We have this show, and
we laid off for the holidays. You
see, business was bad.

WAVERLY
I know about business being bad. Go
on.

PHIL
Yes sir. Well, so we figured as
long as we had the opportunity we'd
do a little rehearsing. Right
here.

WAVERLY
Why here?
(There is a hint here of
the General)
(MORE)

WAVERLY (CONT'D)

Phil looks to Bob for help as they move toward the lobby.

The troupe is busy transporting the costumes, etc., from the moving van to the dining room auditorium as the above scene is played.

BOB

Well, sir, this nice empty room. The minute we looked at it we said it was ideal. Didn't we?

PHIL

That's what we said. Ideal.

BOB

And then we'll have an audience to play to. You see, sir, you need an audience on which to try out your new material.

WAVERLY

Where are you going to get the audience?

PHIL

Oh, what guests there are in the other hotels. They're pretty bored here without snow, and a New York show's kind of a novelty in Vermont.

WAVERLY

I would think so.
(He thinks)
How will they know you're here?

BOB

Oh, word gets around.

PHIL

Yes sir, and we also took the girls twice around the town for a little run. They were stiff from the train. In their practice clothes.

BOB

Makes the blood circulate,

WAVERLY

(Hers no dope)
Hmm. Whose blood?

BOB AND PHIL

Yes sir.

WAVERLY

Apparently there must be a lot about show business I don't understand.

PHIL

It'll come to you, sir.

BOB

It just takes time.

PHIL

We wouldn't be any good as generals.

WAVERLY

You weren't any good as privates!

PHIL

(Pointing to Bob)
He was an officer, sir.

WAVERLY

Only to confuse the enemy.

He turns away and goes to his quarters.

DISSOLVE TO:

MED. SHOT - INT. INN FLOOR - (DAY)

The company is rehearsing as Bob and Phil enter.

BOB

That's all for today, kids.

People break off what they were doing and begin to drift out. Bob and Phil have gone toward Betty and Judy.

BOB (CONT'D)

Get a little rest before tonight's performance.

PHIL

(To Judy)
I'll walk you over.

BOB

Phil!

(He takes a sheet of
music out of his inside
pocket)

Look this over, I want to try
something.

PHIL

(To Judy)

See you later.

The girls go. Phil goes toward the piano, Bob goes toward Martha, who is on the phone, accepting reservations.

FULL SHOT - ROOM

Bob takes Martha by the arm and seats her in the middle of the room as an audience of one. Phil looks up from the piano, puzzled. The sunset is visible through the window and there is a mood of quiet.

MARTHA

Guinea pig?

BOB

(Nodding)

That's the idea. Want you to hear a
song I just wrote.

MARTHA

If it's a love song, don't get too
close.

BOB

It isn't. Just tell me how you
think the Old Man would feel about
this one.

He leaves her and goes to the piano and they do WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A GENERAL, solely for Martha.

Toward the end of the song --

MED. CLOSE SHOT - GENERAL WAVERLY

Unseen by the others he is standing by the door listening to the song.

MED. SHOT - INT. ROOM

The boys finish the number. Martha applauds and Bob bows.

MARTHA
 (Very moved)
 I think it's just wonderful --

CLOSE SHOT - SUSAN - AT KITCHEN DOOR

She is standing there, drying her eyes with her apron.

SUSAN
 I think so, too.

CLOSE SHOT - WAVERLY - AT THE DOOR

WAVERLY
 I'm afraid I disagree. The song is
 funny, but there is one thing wrong
 with it.

PHIL'S VOICE
 What's that, sir?

WAVERLY
 It's true. I'd rather you didn't.

FULL SHOT - INT. INN FLOOR

Bob and Phil exchange a quick glance.

BOB AND PHIL
 Yes, sir.

The General turns and exits toward the lobby, THE CAMERA PANS
 with him, a lonely figure walking through the lobby, the
 CAMERA STOPPING on a poster advertising tonight's
 performance.

DISSOLVE TO:

FULL SHOT - INT. INN FLOOR - (NIGHT)

It is fairly-well filled. Bob, Phil, Betty, Judy and the
 ensemble are performing a NUMBER which is a MINSTREL SHOW
 routine done to lyrics and music. Bob and Phil are end men,
 Betty is interlocutor, and Judy is later introduced as Mandy.
 This takes Judy and Phil into a dance to the song MANDY.

This entire number is done in white-face with stylized costumes and set. During the applause and bows, we CUT TO:

MED. SHOT - WAVERLY TABLE

Waverly, flanked by Susan and Martha, is at a large table. The other occupants are local hotel owners and their wives.

FIRST OWNER

Great show, Waverly.

WAVERLY

Thank you.

SECOND OWNER

We needed something like this. I had six checkouts, and when they heard about this they decided to stay.

FIRST OWNER

Same here.

(Big smile)

Much obliged.

WAVERLY

Glad to help.

Martha and Susan beam; all is well.

DISSOLVE TO:

FULL SHOT - INT. INN FLOOR - (NIGHT)

It is empty and most of the lights are out. At a considerable distance from CAMERA Martha extinguishes the last light, except for a small work light which is servicing Bob, who is fingering the piano keys and writing music notes, hard at work.

FULL SHOT - GIRLS' BUNGALOW

In the background we see the boys' bungalow.

MED. SHOT - INT. GIRLS' BUNGALOW

Betty and Judy are in twin beds, the light is coming in from the moon. The girls are seen in profile.

JUDY

(Talkative)

The moon! I can't get over the moon up here. The size of it!

BETTY

(In a quiet mood)

Same one they have all over.

JUDY

They'll never prove it to me. And everything smells so beautiful.

(She breathes)

What is it - pine or fir?

BETTY

(Small sniff)

We're near the bakery.

JUDY

(Friendly, not realizing the stab)

You know your trouble, Betty? You're not romantic.

Betty turns and looks toward her. Since Judy does not see her, Betty's expression is a true reflection of how she feels.

JUDY (CONT'D)

Everything's so wonderful here, so pretty, so exciting, I can't understand how you stay frozen up. Let yourself go, go, like me!

BETTY

(Afraid to ask)

Which one is it?

JUDY

What do you mean?

BETTY

Bob or Phil?

JUDY

Neither.

BETTY

You mean both.

JUDY

(Smiling)

It's the same. No one is going to break up our act.

BETTY

Isn't there one you prefer over the other?

JUDY

The way Phil dances, and he's funny. It's easy to see yourself married to him.

BETTY

(An effort)

And Bob?

JUDY

He's different, deeper, and he's funny, too. It'd be nice to be married to both of them.

BETTY

Good thing they're not a quartette.

JUDY

(Oblivious)

If I was Catherine the Great, that's what I'd do. Phil in the daytime, Bob at night. Or should it be the other way around?

CLOSE SHOT - JUDY AND BETTY

SHOOTING PAST Betty. Is it possible our Betty has a suspicion of a tear?

JUDY

Phil'd be more fun in a night club, but eventually a girl wants a pipe and slipper fellow. That's Bob, smoking a pipe and petting a cocker spaniel. Still, Phil could learn to smoke a pipe. Breaking a fellow in to suit you is something every girl should go through. I hear it's half the fun. Which one do you like better? Betty?

(No answer.)

Betty?

(Softer)

Are you asleep?

(MORE)

JUDY (CONT'D)

(No answer. Judy turns
over and closes her eyes)

Music has underscored this scene. Betty is wide awake. She is looking toward the window. As the curtains billow outward we see a diffused figure of Bob, sitting on a fence, putting out his pipe. This is followed by an equally diffused figure of Betty, leaving her bed, crossing the furniture, and joining Bob. Bob takes her in his arms. At this point we are brought back to reality by the wind slamming a shutter. This causes the diffusion to vanish, and Betty gets out of bed and puts on her robe.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. INN KITCHEN - MED. SHOT - (NIGHT)

We PAN Betty to the refrigerator door, which she opens.

BOB'S VOICE

Tuna fish, on the lower shelf.

Betty whirls around.

MED. SHOT - BETTY AND BOB

We see Bob is having a snack of his own.

BETTY

Oh!

BOB

What are you doing? Sleep-walking?

BETTY

I couldn't sleep.

BOB

Little young for that, aren't you?

He gets up and goes to the refrigerator. His preoccupation with the food will permit Betty's expression to be more obvious than her lines, which are spoken to tell the audience of her regard for Bob, since their significance must escape him.

BOB (CONT'D)

What shall I make you?

BETTY

Anything'll do.

BOB

If you tell me what you want to dream about I'll know what to make you.

BETTY

(Amused)

How's that?

BOB

Different foods make for different dreams. I've got a whole theory about it. It's called "The Wallace Way of Wishful Wooing." You'll find it in the American Medical Journal under 'W'. Ham and Swiss cheese, for instance, you get a cool, thin, blonde girl. Turkey sandwich, you get a dark sort of stumpy girl, sexy though. Now a liverwurst sandwich -

(He shakes his head)

you get both girls at once. Bad night.

BETTY

What do you dream on tuna?

BOB

Darndest thing, I dream about me.

BETTY

(Evenly)

Then I'll have a tuna sandwich.

Bob doesn't get the significance of what she has said.

BOB

Now that's very flattering. Tuna coming up.

(He is occupied at the frigidaire while she watches him yearningly)

Let me make you some warm milk. That'll help the insomnia.

BETTY
(Meaningly)
No it won't.
(Looking straight at his
back)
Warm milk won't do it.

BOB
Whatever you've got on your mind
isn't worth staying awake for.

BETTY
I think it is.

He smiles at her, oblivious to the meaning behind her lines.

BOB
Would you like to know how I handle
a situation like that...?

BETTY
Tell me, Doctor...

Bob begins to sing COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, as he prepares the warm milk and hands it to her. She drinks it down. As he reaches the second chorus, he starts to dim the lamp on the table, Betty, pretending to be sleepy, leans her head toward Bob.

He takes a pillow from a nearby chair and puts it between her head and her chair. She waits, eyes closed, expectantly. But Bob gets to his feet, and carefully tiptoes to the door and exits, closing it softly behind him. After a moment, Betty snaps on the light, throws the pillow on the floor, and rests her chin in her hand, disappointed and wide awake.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

LONG SHOT - INT. INN FLOOR - (DAY)

Various members of the company are in rehearsal clothes and sitting around the room. The orchestra is playing the introduction to Phil's number, which will employ a line of six girls who are just coming on the floor.

Bob is on stage supervising the rehearsal. Judy is standing across from the piano. Betty is seated on the sidelines with her legs stretched over two chairs.

She is knitting a loud colored argyle sock. Phil, standing close by, has just finished rolling up a ball of yarn. He looks at Betty's knitting, then at his feet.

PHIL

Don't make them too tight. I wear size 12.

BOB

All right kids! Places! Let's get going! Phil, you're on!

Phil reacts.

Bob crosses to his stage manager station, which is a desk and high chair, where Albert is seated, not far from his wife, Sylvia, who is sipping a glass of water. Albert holds a stop watch and evidently helps in the administration.

BOB (CONT'D)

(To Albert)

How long are we so far?

ALBERT

An hour and ten minutes.

BOB

Something has to come out.

From his position, Phil, in a series of leaps and turns, reaches center floor and begins his solo.

CLOSE SHOT - BETTY

She continues knitting while watching Phil dancing.

As Phil comes to a portion where he speeds up his steps she unconsciously speeds up her knitting, Bob has seen her, and he looks from her knitting and her look of admiration, which he mistakes for affection, and then looks from the socks to Phil's feet. At the end of the number, which is applauded by the witnesses, Judy runs to Phil and hugs and kisses him, THE CAMERA STAYING at this distance.

Bob, looking at Betty, mistakenly sees her disappointment.

BOB

All right, places for the next number!

(He turns to Sylvia)

You're next, Sylvia.

(MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)
 (Sylvia and Albert
 exchange peculiar
 glances, Bob senses it)
 What's the trouble?

ALBERT
 Mr. Wallace -
 (He is embarrassed to go
 on)

BOB
 Come on, out with it.

ALBERT
 I don't think Sylvia ought to go
 on, unless you cut out the high
 kicks and let her do some easy
 waltzes. Very easy waltzes.

Bob looks from one to the other and their smiling shyness
 indicates pregnancy.

BOB
 You're kidding!

SYLVIA
 We don't want anyone else to know.

ALBERT
 Please don't mention it.
 (The orchestra starts to
 play ROCKABYE BABY.
 Sylvia and Albert are
 startled)
 For heaven's sake!

SYLVIA
 How did they know?

The girls start crowding around.

GIRLS
 (Ad libbing)
 You wouldn't tell us, would you?
 We had to find out ourselves, etc.
 (Phil and Judy are among
 the group)

MARTHA
 (Formally)
 There will be a celebration of the
 forthcoming event tonight after the
 show!
 (Everyone approves)

MED. SHOT - BOB, PHIL AND ALBERT

Phil puts his arm around Albert.

PHIL

Obviously you're going to call the boy after me!

BOB

After you? I hired Sylvia! The baby'll be named after me!

PHIL

I've been dancing with her! That's more important! The baby'll be named after me!

BOB

The hiring was more important! After me!

PHIL

The dancing was more important! After me!

ALBERT

I'm her husband.

(Small pause)

The baby'll be named after me.

BOB

Well, we're going to need another dancer!

PHIL

How about Judy, she knows all the routines, she could pick it up in no time.

They walk to the table where the coffee is, and the group now includes Betty.

BOB

On the other hand, it's all right if we lose a number, we're running too long now. We have to cut somewhere.

BETTY

Wouldn't it be better if you cut my solo number? I've never felt right in it anyway.

(Indicating Phil)

(MORE)

BETTY (CONT'D)

The show needs every bit of his dancing.

BOB

(Interpreting this as mere selflessness for love)

Well -

BETTY

There you are - painless.

She turns away rather abruptly, since she is becoming emotional. Bob shakes his head, impressed with what he thinks is her devotion.

MED. CLOSE TWO SHOT - BOB AND PHIL

Bob dunks a doughnut into his coffee as he looks after Betty. He looks at Phil and shakes his head.

BOB

Greater love hath no woman than to give up a solo number. Old Chinese saying.

PHIL

(All this is beyond him)
What are you talking about?

BOB

Drink your coffee.

DISSOLVE TO:

FULL SHOT - WAVERLY QUARTERS - (NIGHT)

This is the party later that evening. Some people are dancing. Others are grouped about, and there is a general home party atmosphere. The General, Martha and Susan are seen helping everyone to feel at home.

The CAMERA STARTS ON A LONG SHOT and DOLLIES THROUGH THE GROUP, passing Sylvia, where ad lib comments about the impending baby are sketchily HEARD. The CAMERA CONTINUES toward the piano, where Bob and Betty are examining the music sheet of A MAN CHASES A GIRL.

Betty looks up and the CAMERA FOLLOWS her look to Phil, who is dancing with Rita. Rita nestles up close to Phil. This is seen by Bob and Betty. Bob smiles.

CLOSE SHOT - PHIL AND RITA

On closer view, we can see that Rita is the aggressor.

PHIL
(Referring to the grip)
Don't you want me to breathe?

RITA
Not especially.

PHIL
What's gotten into you?

RITA
You were chasing me in Florida.

PHIL
And you were running. What made you stop?

RITA
You're interested in Judy, aren't you?

PHIL
That's it, eh? Unless it belongs to someone else, a girl doesn't - Ouch!
(Evidently Rita has deliberately stepped on his instep)

SCENE FROM BOB'S VIEWPOINT

Betty is walking over to the dancing couple and deliberately cuts in on Rita, who is displeased, but can do nothing but yield. Bob's reaction still implies that this is understandable since Betty loves Phil. He turns back toward the piano, and other couples are between him and Betty and Phil.

Still at the same camera distance, we see Betty turning Phil over to Judy.

CLOSE SHOT - PHIL AND JUDY

Judy is a little cool.

PHIL
What's the matter?

JUDY
Nothing is the matter.

PHIL
This isn't the way you dance.

JUDY
Some people dance closer than
others.

Phil is delighted that she is jealous.

PHIL
Yes, that's true. I'm one of the
close ones. That's my type.

He holds her closely, by force, dancing, smiling and pleased
with himself.

MED. FULL SHOT - ROOM

The dance music stops. The people disperse.

MED. CLOSE SHOT - AT PIANO

Harry, the piano player, is playing the last half of A MAN
CHASES A GIRL. Bob and Betty are leaning over the piano, Bob
humming the melody. Betty pantomimes to the others to quiet
down. Bob starts to sing the lyric. In the second chorus,
he is joined in the singing by Betty. During this chorus we
CUT TO show various reactions of the group, and end on Phil,
sitting close to Judy, holding her hand.

CLOSE TWO SHOT - PHIL AND JUDY

We HEAR Bob and Betty, off scene, continuing to the end of
the second chorus, on which Phil, sotto voce, sings the last
four bars.

PHIL
(Singing; looking at
Judy)
And once you've caught him, don't
ever let him go.

APPLAUSE follows the song. Phil gets up.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Ladies and gentlemen, I would like
to make an announcement.

FULL SHOT - CROWD

Everyone quiets, waiting to hear the announcement.

PHIL

It is my pleasure to identify the man who has been doing the chasing. I am him! - Or he! - Or it! Anyway, Judy has caught me. What I'm trying to say is, we're engaged.

He looks fondly at Judy, taking it for granted she is overwhelmed at this method of announcing to her that he is going to marry her. He hugs her amidst a general reaction of congratulations.

MED. SHOT - BOB

He is flabbergasted.

MED. SHOT - GROUP

Phil and Judy are separated by the congratulators.

Betty, hiding her emotion, grips Phil's arm.

BETTY

I hope you realize that you're getting the most wonderful girl in the world.

Bob sees her emotion through the speech. Betty notices Judy upset, shaking off the people around her and running through the doorway to the kitchen.

Betty makes her way through the crowd to follow her, as the orchestra goes into HER COMES THE BRIDE.

MED. SHOT - INT. KITCHEN

Judy is crying into her hands as Betty enters.

BETTY

Darling, don't cry.

JUDY

(Turning to her)
I didn't know he was going to make that announcement, I swear I didn't.

Betty puts one arm around her.

BETTY
I know you didn't.

JUDY
He had no right to do that.

BETTY
You do love him, don't you?

JUDY
That doesn't matter.

BETTY
Nothing else matters.

JUDY
We're not going to break up our
act.

Phil enters the kitchen.

PHIL
I've been looking for you, Judy.

BETTY
Excuse me.

She goes through the corridor toward the living room.

MED. CLOSE SHOT - CORRIDOR OFF BUTLER'S PANTRY

In the background we see the General in the butler's pantry getting some drinks for the guests. He is not seen by Betty who stops at the mirror in the corridor to wipe away a few tears. Bob comes into view in the mirror, entering the corridor from the living room.

BOB
Don't take this too much to heart.
Phil is a great kid but constancy
isn't his long suit.

BETTY
I'm not the least bit worried.
(Phil and Judy enter from
the kitchen)
Frankly, this couldn't come at a
better time.

(MORE)

BETTY (CONT'D)

They want me to come back to The Carousel again - I used to sing there before Judy and I teamed up - and I had to turn it down because they can only use a single.

(Not too well)

So - this couldn't be more convenient. You stay with the show and I'll go back to The Carousel.

JUDY

When did you get this offer?

BETTY

Just today, as a matter of fact. I got a telegram.

JUDY

Why didn't you mention it before?

BETTY

I didn't want to hurt your feelings.

JUDY

Where is the telegram?

BETTY

I threw it away. What is this, a third degree? You don't think I made it up?

JUDY

Yes, I do.

There is a pause, and Waverly, who has been watching each one, speaks.

WAVERLY

Well now, I wouldn't bet any large sum of money on that, since I took the message over the telephone, and I had to deliver the telegram.

(To take the tension off)

And she didn't tip me, either.

Betty looks at him gratefully.

JUDY

Oh, Betty!

(She throws her arms
around her)

I'm sorry! I misunderstood!

BETTY

Now, baby! It's all right!

PHIL

Well, everything's fine now!

Happy, he beams at Judy.

MED. CLOSE SHOT - BOB AND WAVERLY

Something bothers Bob about this story. He looks searchingly at Betty, puzzled. He does not notice Waverly, who watches him watching Betty.

SLOW DISSOLVE
TO:

LONG SHOT - RAILROAD STATION - DAY

Train about to leave. The General is in the foreground sitting in the buggy. Betty is saying goodbye to him.

Bob and the porter are taking care of her luggage.

GENERAL

(Shouting over noise of
train)

Where are you going to be?

BETTY

The Carousel.

The General looks at her, questioningly.

BETTY (CONT'D)

(Whispering, during a
lull in the noise)

I sent them a telegram this
morning.

The General smiles; Betty waves a farewell to him and crosses to the train, starting up the steps. The notion behind this scene is to be able to hear only intermittent dialogue due to the whistle, bells, and escaping steam. The manner of playing, though, indicates the sentiment. To emphasize it: Bob is fonder of Betty than he realizes, and Betty fully realizes how fond she is of him but that he does not return, consciously, her affection. We hear Betty:

BETTY (CONT'D)

Take care of my little sister.

BOB

She can take care of herself.
Worry about the menfolk. Now don't
forget to write.

BETTY

I'll send you picture postcards.

Not all of this is heard, since the sound effects pick their spots, but the attention is on the General, who is watching the scene with a whimsical look. He, as does the audience, realizes Bob's true feelings. As the train starts to leave, Betty and Bob shake hands. She holds his handshake a little longer than necessary, and Bob is forced to move along with the train. Finally she releases him, and Bob looks after the train, puzzled.

REVERSE ANGLE

THE CAMERA is now on the train platform, Bob out of sight. Betty wipes away a tear. In the background we see the General in the buggy noticing this.

MED. LONG SHOT - TRAIN IN DISTANCE

Bob is in the foreground, the General in the background. Bob joins the General at the buggy. From Waverly's expression we can see that he has decided on a plan of action.

WAVERLY

Must be interesting to be a woman.

BOB

The idea's never occurred to me,
sir.

WAVERLY

Well, think about it.
(Bob is thinking about
it)
Well?

BOB

Not interested!

WAVERLY

A man like you must be an expert on
women.

BOB

It's a little immodest to say so,
but I consider myself an authority
on the fair sex, I've made a study
of the subject. They're simple
creatures.

WAVERLY

They couldn't fool you?

BOB

I'm single.

WAVERLY

'Pride goeth before a fall.'

BOB

'Who knows his own strength is
twice armed.'

WAVERLY

It's always a pleasure to meet an
expert in any field. Tell me, why
do you think Betty went to New
York?

BOB

(Not willing to admit it)
She has a job in The Carousel.

WAVERLY

Expert, you're wrong! She went to
New York because she's so in love
with someone here she just couldn't
stand it.

BOB

Phil.
(A mixture of resentment
and frustration)
I'm darned if I can figure out why.

WAVERLY

I thought you were an expert on
women.

(To the horse)
Come on, Delilah!

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE SHOT - CHRISTMAS TREE ANGEL - DAY

THE CAMERA PANS DOWN from the ceiling and we see that THE INN is being decorated for Christmas Eve.

Everybody is so engaged, except those actively helping Phil and Judy rehearse. The attitude is slightly cool on Judy's part, but it is lover's coolness.

PHIL
 (Fitting the action)
 Good, Judy.
 (During the dancing)
 Now the same as the middle part.

They make a nice couple, with his arm around her waist, dancing as one.

REVERSE ANGLE - BOB

He enters the room, and watches. He looks intently at Phil. Phil and Judy dance closer to Bob. They see him. They continue dancing, talking as they do.

PHIL
 Betty get off all right?

BOB
 (Slightly belligerent)
 Certainly.

JUDY
 Betty left something for you. She said to give it to you after she left. It's on the piano.

Bob hears, nods, but keeps staring at Phil. Phil becomes conscious of the staring.

PHIL
 What's the matter?

BOB
 I don't get it.

PHIL
 Don't get what?

BOB
 I just don't see it. You're skinny, you got a big nose, and you squint.

PHIL
Who? Me?

BOB
Yes, you! Nothing personal though.

PHIL
No, of course not.

BOB
I'm just trying to figure out what
anyone sees in you.

PHIL
Well, stop worrying about it. When
I ask you for a date just turn me
down. Come on, Judy.

They dance away. Bob crosses to the piano and picks up the package Betty left for him. He opens it up and it is a single knitted sock, the one she knitted on previously. He looks through the box for its mate.

There is none. The CAMERA MOVES CLOSER to Bob, puzzled.

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE SHOT - BLACKBOARD - (DAY)

Painted at the top is the legend:

WEATHER FORECAST

At the moment a hand is completing, in chalk:

"No Snow" After a moment, the hand returns and draws two lines through the "S" so that it now reads, "No \$now".
CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal we are on:

EXT. PINE TREE POST OFFICE - FULL SHOT

Bob comes out of the Post Office and mounts a bicycle.

He cycles down the street, whistling A MAN CHASES A GIRL.

DISSOLVE TO:

SECTION OF VILLAGE - HORSESHOE PITCHING GROUNDS - MED. SHOT -
(DAY)

There is a group of elderly men, among them the hotel owners, pitching horseshoes. Waverly is sitting on a bench, ruefully looking at the sign.

FIRST HOTEL OWNER
(Starting a new game)
How about it, Waverly, want to play?

WAVERLY
(Looking at him a moment)
I'm too young for that sort of thing.

First Owner laughs goodnaturedly and continues playing.

Bob rides into the scene and dismounts.

MED. SHOT - BOB AND WAVERLY

Bob sits into the shot.

WAVERLY
Kind of warm for that kind of exercise, isn't it?

BOB
(Trying to help)
It isn't very warm.
(He looks to the sky)
I think the weatherman's wrong about his forecast. Those look like snow clouds to me.

WAVERLY
(Without looking up)
They're cumulus clouds, at an elevation of seven thousand feet.

BOB
Yes, sir.
(Still trying)
Still, weather's a funny thing. It could snow - overnight.

WAVERLY
(He thinks a moment)
I'll tell you something I haven't told my family. I'm going back in the Army.

BOB
Really, sir? That's great news!

WAVERLY
Yes. I miss the Army.

BOB
Where are you going to be sent,
sir?

WAVERLY
Well, I'm not sure yet. I've
always been a combat officer, but I
got an idea they're going to try
and palm off one of the training
commands on me. They'd better not.
They just better not.

(He's worked up now)
I'm not ready for pitching
horseshoes yet.
(He smiles)
Now nothing to the women folk about
this!

BOB
No, sir.

WAVERLY
Let's mosey over to the post
office, I'm expecting a letter any
day.

BOB
(Remembering)
Oh, I beg your pardon, sir.
(He pulls the letter out
of his pocket)
That's what I came over to give
you, it slipped my mind.

The General takes the letter, he looks at it front and back.

WAVERLY
(Solemn)
This is the one.
(He opens it, He
squints. He looks to
Bob)
My glasses are in my room. I'd
like to read it by myself, but I'm
a little anxious.
(He smiles at his own
predicament)
Read it, son. Slowly.

BOB
 (Reading)
 Dear Tom: Why, you dirty, old -
 (He stops)

WAVERLY
 (Pleased)
 Skip that word.

BOB
 Yes, sir.
 (Continuing)
 It certainly was a surprise hearing from you. Your amusing letter was appreciated more than you imagine. Of course you've got plenty of time to be amusing, sitting on that porch, rocking away, while we put in a full day's work. You always were a lucky stiff, and I envy you. A few years more, I was saying to Emmy the other evening, and I'm going to be able to take it easy like old Tom.

WAVERLY
 (Just repeats)
 Old Tom.

BOB
 Oh, well, some people have all the luck. Everyone in the family is fine here. Carol had the mumps, which is no joke at eleven years of age -

WAVERLY
 The rest of the letter is about the family.
 (Bob looks at him, and then glances at the rest to see if it is so)
 He's telling me they have nothing for me, we're not fooling each other.
 (He holds his hand out)
 Thank you.
 (Bob gives him his letter. There is a pause. An attempt at being light)
 Say, it couldn't be hard to learn to pitch horseshoes. Now could it?

BOB
 (Trapped, unhappy for
 him)
 No sir.
 (His nerve up)
 Begging your pardon, sir, there's a
 lot to be said for leisure. You're
 not used to it, you've always been
 active, but in time -

He stops, seeing Waverly's expression. Waverly winks at him.

WAVERLY
 (Quietly)
 Never kid a kidder. Go on back to
 the hotel.

BOB
 Yes sir.

Waverly gets up to join the horseshoe players after all. Bob
 watches this reflectively as we

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

MED. SHOT - (DAY) - INT. HOTEL ROOM - BOB AND PHIL

Bob is packing his valise, Phil helping him.

PHIL
 Judy thinks my eyes are soulful.
 Do you think my eyes are soulful?

BOB
 One of them is.

PHIL
 You have no poetry in you. It's
 about time you went in for girls,
 too. After all, you haven't many
 years left for that sort of thing.

Bob, his back turned to Phil, comes across the sock Betty
 knitted for him; he hastily shoves it into the bottom of his
 bag.

BOB
 (Over above)
 I'm the quiet type. Little do you
 know what's aged me.

PHIL
Wheels within wheels, eh? Well,
live it up, Pops. Eat, drink and
be merry -- is that why you're
leaving for New York?

BOB
I told you what I'm seein' Ed
Harrison about. That's all.

PHIL
Business, business. Glad to be rid
of you. You're not in the girly
mood.

BOB
(Easily annoyed at the
moment)
What do you know about girls? You
wouldn't know what to do with a
girl if she fell on you!

PHIL
Well, I'd know enough not to get
up.

There is a KNOCK at the door and Martha sticks her head in.

MARTHA
Mr. Wallace -- gonna miss your
train!

PHIL
(To Bob)
For her I'd get up.

As Bob slams his suitcase shut,

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAROUSEL CLUB - MED. CLOSE - (DAY)

A poster outside advertises the appearance of Betty Stewart.
MUSIC is heard emanating from the club.

DISSOLVE THROUGH
TO:

INT. CAROUSEL CLUB - MED. SHOT - (DAY)

A rehearsal is in progress in the deserted club. The chairs are up on the tables, musicians in their shirt sleeves, as Betty SINGS a chorus of LOVE, YOU DIDN'T DO RIGHT BY ME. As she finishes, the orchestra LEADER turns to her.

LEADER

Betty - You really live that number.

BETTY

The story of my life.

LEADER

Shall we try it over again?

BETTY

(Meaningly)

I wish I could.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CAROUSEL CLUB - MED. SHOT - (NIGHT)

It is alive with customers; couples are dancing on the floor, as a number ends. Bob enters, and is conducted to a ringside table by a maitre d'.

BOB

I'm expecting Ed Harrison.

MAITRE D'

Very well, Mr. Wallace.

STAGE - MED. CLOSE

Betty is standing at the microphone ready to sing.

She sees Bob. The Leader raises his baton.

BETTY

(Stopping him, sotto)

Let's not do the new number.

LEADER

What?

BETTY

Play "Blue Skies" -- anything.

LEADER

Relax. Just do it the way you sang
it this afternoon -- you'll be
great.

He gives the downbeat, and Betty has no choice but to sing
LOVE, YOU DIDN'T DO RIGHT BY ME. She is assisted in the
second chorus by a vocal group.

CLUB - MED. SHOT

as Bob watches her. When she finishes the number, Betty
steps down from the platform and joins Bob.

BETTY

(As Bob holds the chair)
Well, surprise. What brought you
to the big city? And don't say 'a
train.'

(Forced gaiety, hiding
her tension)

BOB

I never heard you sing that well.
That's a good number for you.

BETTY

(Her own significance)
Some numbers suit you better than
others. What are you doing here?

BOB

Business, business. Meeting a
fellow here.

BETTY

Judy all right?

BOB

She's fine. Couldn't be better.
(Carefully)
Playing footsie with Phil.

BETTY

That's nice.

BOB

I think they like each other.

BETTY

I do, too.

BOB
 (Eyeing her)
 They're kind of suited, in a lot of ways.

BETTY
 Some people are.

BOB
 Thanks for the knitted sock.

BETTY
 Don't mention it.

BOB
 I thought it was for Phil.

BETTY
 (Evenly)
 If the sock fits, wear it.

BOB
 (Unsure of her meaning)
 It started out for Phil.

BETTY
 It just started out as a sock.

Every line of the sock exchange should have the meaning of the love implications.

BOB
 You're a very odd girl.

BETTY
 You're a very odd fellow.

Bob is close to declaring himself, if he was only sure of his ground.

BOB
 Two feet, one sock. I must be.

BETTY
 I'll get around to the other one, eventually.

BOB
 You mean to do any knitting in the near future?

BETTY
 The feeling comes and goes.

BOB
Think if the model hung around for
a while... the feeling might be
more permanent?

BETTY
Maybe.

Bob leans over and takes her hand.

BOB
What's this maybe, shmaybe, comes
and goes? Friends tell me I don't
have many years left for this sort
of thing... I ought to know right
now if --

He is interrupted by ED HARRISON, who has been brought to the
table by the maitre d'.

ED
Bob! How are you?

BOB
Hiya, Ed.

ED
(He knows Betty)
Betty.

She nods, as Ed sits down.

ED (CONT'D)
(To Bob)
Now what's this big deal you wanted
to discuss? I shouldn't even talk
to you after canceling out on my
show.

BOB
(Carefully)
Ed, I saw the old man.

ED
Waverly? Where, in the Pentagon?

BOB
Pentagon, nothing. He owns a
little hotel in a winter resort in
Vermont.

ED
Our old man?

BOB
Nobody even knows who he is.

BETTY
He's too proud to let them know
he's General Waverly.

Ed looks at her, surprised.

ED
(To Bob, indicating
Betty)
Was she in our outfit, too?

BOB
Vermont branch.

ED
What are we going to do about it?
You got a flash?

BOB
A glimmer.

ED
Got to stir it around a little?

BOB
All stirred. Remember how Old
Flintbottom always used to find a
way to keep our morale up...
without telling us? It's about
time we returned the favor. Let's
surprise him with a real big bang-
up reunion.

ED
Now you're talking! How do we
spread the word?

Bob takes a piece of paper out of his inside pocket and hands
it to Ed.

BOB
You're gonna read this little
speech on your television show.
People look at it, don't they?

ED
(Scanning the paper)
Now's as good a time as any to find
out.

As he continues to read the piece of paper, we

DISSOLVE TO:

MED. CLOSE SHOT - INT. COLUMBIA INN LOBBY - PHIL IN PHONE

BOOTH - (NIGHT)

Phil is excited.

PHIL

Bob, just leave it to me! He won't
get near a set if I have to break a
leg... Goodbye, Bob!

He opens the door of the booth and hurries across the lobby toward Susan, who is at the desk, and BANGS on the bell, which is on the counter. Martha comes running from the kitchen.

PHIL (CONT'D)

(Excitedly)

Now everybody pay close attention.

DISSOLVE TO:

MED. CLOSE SHOT - INT. TELEVISION STATION - (NIGHT)

Ed is about to go on the air. Bob is opposite him, out of camera range, The technical crew are watching the hand of the dial approaching 60.

ED

I hope Phil has been able to keep
the old man away from a television
set.

BOB

He has. In anything involving
something crooked he's dependable.

MED. CLOSE SHOT - INT. LOBBY COLUMBIA INN

Seated around the television set are Waverly, Martha and Susan. Martha and Susan look at their watches and each other, nervously. Waverly also looks at his watch.

WAVERLY

Ed Harrison will be on in a half
minute. I like him. I never miss
him.

The women are becoming very nervous. Suddenly we HEAR off
scene the most tremendous clatter down the stairway and
Phil's shouting.

PHIL

Ow! Ow! Ow!

WAVERLY

(Jumping up)
What's that?

He runs toward the stairs. Martha and Susan breathe a sigh
of relief and follow Waverly.

MED. CLOSE SHOT - STAIRS

Waverly runs to the tangled Phil.

PHIL

My leg is broken! Ow, ow!

WAVERLY

Take it easy, boy.
(He starts feeling his
leg)

PHIL

Ow! Ow! It's broken!

WAVERLY

No it isn't! You may have a bad
sprain, but no bones are busted!

PHIL

It's broken, sir. I can feel it.

WAVERLY

Let me help you.

MED. CLOSE SHOT - INT. TELEVISION STATION

The technician indicates for Ed Harrison to start as the
second hand hits straight up.

ED

I would like to address all former officers, enlisted men, Wacs and nurses who were under the command of General Tom Waverly --

MED. SHOT - INT. COLUMBIA INN OUTSIDE WAVERLY'S OFFICE

Waverly and Martha are helping Phil through the door.

PHIL

Ow! Ow! It's broken in two or three places!

WAVERLY

That's just the impression you have! I tell you it's only shock!

THE CAMERA FOLLOWS THEM into the office as they lay him out on the couch.

WAVERLY (CONT'D)

(Laying him out)

Take it easy, boy!

PHIL

Don't leave me! Everything is going round and round!

WAVERLY

Nobody's leaving you! Martha, get me a cold towel!

MED. CLOSE SHOT - INT. TELEVISION STATION

ED

The objective is Pine Tree, Vermont
--- Synchronize watches for
Operation Waverly...

MED. SHOT - INT. OFFICE

Phil has his eyes closed.

WAVERLY

Things still going around?

PHIL

Now they're going sideways!

Waverly takes the wet towel from Martha.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Now they're going in and out!

Waverly slaps the towel on his face.

WAVERLY
This'll bring him out of it.

PHIL
(Sitting up)
Where am I?

WAVERLY
He's all right.

Judy bursts into the room.

JUDY
Phil, what's happened to you?

Phil assumes a pain-stricken face again and Judy throws her arms around him. Phil smiles over her shoulder at Waverly.

DISSOLVE TO:

FULL SHOT - NIGHT - COUNTRY ROAD

Silhouette of busses, Station in background, if desirable.

MED. FULL SHOT - FORK IN ROAD

Two men, with M.P. armbands, slow up the busses. One is revealed to be Phil.

FIRST M.P.
All quiet, folks! Entering the town!

PHIL
The Old Man's asleep! Let's keep him that way!

The busses move on.

DISSOLVE TO:

MED. SHOT - NIGHT - INT. LOBBY

Bob and Betty tiptoe through the entrance to the inn. In the semidarkness of the lobby we hear a "sst - ", and Susan and Martha are revealed having been waiting for them.

MARTHA
We've been waiting for you.

BOB
How is everything going?

SUSAN
Just fine.

BETTY
They are bedded down in all the
hotels.

Martha blows her nose.

MARTHA
His old outfit... If I wasn't such
a mean old biddy, I'd probably
break right down and cry.
(She cries)

BOB
There's nothing to cry about, is
there?

He looks to Susan and she begins to bawl.

SUSAN
(Through the crying)
Thank you so much.

Bob looks to Betty for support.

BOB
Can't you do something?

BETTY
They're just affected by the
gesture.

She can't hold it back either, and now the three women are
crying.

BOB
That's fine.

BETTY
(Through her tears)
Where are Judy and Phil?

BOB
Probably in their rooms, crying.

They start out.

DISSOLVE TO:

MED. SHOT - EXT. BUNGALOW - NIGHT

As Bob and Betty turn around the corner, they see Phil and Judy, locked in an embrace. Bob has been in front, but he steps back quickly, not wanting to embarrass the lovers.

BETTY

Who is it? General Waverly?

BOB

The lovers.

BETTY

(To Bob)

We can't just stand here. We have to get some sleep.

She walks into sight, Bob following. Phil and Judy break, embarrassed.

JUDY

We were rehearsing for the show tomorrow night.

BETTY

Is it going to be that kind of a show? We'll be raided!

JUDY

What are you doing here? What happened at The Carousel?

BETTY

I'm helping out here tomorrow.

PHIL

Hi, Bob. Everything's under control.

(Fluster)

I mean with the show. We've got a lot of new material. You both are going to have to do a lot of rehearsing.

(Flustered again)

I mean the other kind of rehearsing - I mean - rehearsing Well, good night, Judy.

And he holds his hand out, and they shake hands, still flustered.

JUDY
Good night, Phil. Good night, Bob.

BETTY
(To both)
Good night.

Flustered, the boys open the door to the girls' bungalow, thinking it is their own.

PHIL
Let's get out of here before the gossip starts.

They all laugh. The girls enter their bungalow and put on the light. The boys head toward their bungalow. Phil enters in a gay mood. Bob stops at the door, turns around and looks toward the window of the girls' bungalow.

DISSOLVE TO:

MED. SHOT - INT. GIRLS' BUNGALOW - NIGHT

Judy is getting into bed. Betty, in her dressing gown, is looking out of the window toward the boys' bungalow.

BETTY
Bob is still pacing up and down on the porch... I think I'll go out and see what's bothering him.

JUDY
That's how I started in Canton, Ohio.

BETTY
This is Vermont. Nothing can happen here.

JUDY
Keep your guard up... That ain't Coolidge out on that porch.

Betty throws her a look, and exits.

EXT. BOYS' BUNGALOW - MED SHOT

Bob stands on the porch, in robe and slippers, thoughtfully puffing at his pipe. Betty comes into scene.

BETTY
What are you doing? Sleep walking?

BOB
(Turning)
Couldn't sleep.

Betty comes up on the porch.

BETTY
Whatever you've got on your mind
isn't worth staying awake for.

BOB
Where have I heard that?

BETTY
Tell you how I handle a situation
like this, Doctor.

She starts to sing, COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS. At the conclusion,
she walks away, leaving him standing there.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

CLOSE SHOT - ARCHED SIGN IN FRONT OF INN - (NIGHT)

This sign announces the show opening. People are streaming
into the inn.

MED. SHOT - INT. WAVERLY'S QUARTERS

The General is in his dressing gown, furious. Martha and
Susan are playing a part.

WAVERLY
How could you send all my suits to
the cleaners?

MARTHA
You've only got two.

SUSAN
Why can't you wear your uniform?

WAVERLY
I won't appear in uniform!

SUSAN
Please, Gramp.

WAVERLY

Absolutely not!

MARTHA

Very well. I'll explain to Bob and Phil that you didn't care to come to the show tonight.

WAVERLY

I'll have you court-martialed!

MARTHA

You don't mind being ungrateful, you just don't like being told you are!

SUSAN

(Follows it up)

If you think you don't owe them anything, you're not obliged to go.

MARTHA

They haven't done much for you. Hardly anything. You do what you think is right!

WAVERLY

(Angrily)

Martha, I'll make my own decisions! I got along very well in the army without you!

MARTHA

It took 15,000 men to take my place!

She stalks out.

DISSOLVE TO:

FULL SHOT - INN FLOOR - (NIGHT)

It is slowly filling up. One of the guiding officials turns out to be the Sheriff we have previously seen.

PETE

(Seating a party)

Right this way.

MED. SHOT - INT. MAKESHIFT DRESSING ROOM - BOB AND PHIL

They are getting into their old uniforms, which are slightly misfit.

BOB
(At the trousers)
This thing's shrunk.

PHIL
(Looking at the bulge)
Pants always shrink in closets.

BOB
I can't breathe in this. What am I going to do?

PHIL
I know what I'm going to do.
(Showing him)
I'm going to take one big deep breath, and that's going to be it for the next three hours.

Bob takes a deep breath and gets the top button buttoned.

MED. SHOT - LOBBY STAIRWAY - (NIGHT)

General Waverly comes down the stairs, cutting quite a figure in his uniform and decorations. Martha and Susan, waiting for him at the bottom, look him over, admiringly.

WAVERLY
(Gruffly)
Well, I couldn't come down in my bathrobe.

FULL SHOT - INN FLOOR

The spotlight prepared, pinpoints the General as he enters the room, and the music starts. The audience rises and applauds. He can't believe it. He reaches his table, decorated with flowers, and recognizes he is the guest of honor. From the lobby we hear the outfit SINGING the opening strains of THE OLD MAN.

All eyes turn to the lobby entrance, through which the old outfit marches, and continues to the stage, and then back to their respective tables as the song finishes.

MED. SHOT - WAVERLY

He is profoundly moved and walks to the stage. The audience is seated. Waverly looks at the assembled crowd with great affection. The people begin to shout, "Speech! Speech!" Martha and Susan sit.

The crowd quiets, waiting for the speech.

WAVERLY

(He must have had a blood transfusion from a sergeant at some time)

I am not satisfied with the conduct of this division! Some of you men are under the impression that having been at Anzio entitles you not to wear neckties! You are wrong! Neckties will be worn in this area! I have also noticed a deterioration in the quality of saluting! This is to be improved! I have also had complaints from the commanding officer of the rest area in Naples! He informs me that the non-fraternization rule is constantly being broken by men of this division! In fact, this division is outstanding in its violations of non-fraternization! You all know the rules! The non-fraternization ban expressly declares you are not to talk to women!

(A slightly different tone)

Don't talk to them! That is all!

They howl and cheer. He makes his way toward his own table, greeting old friends on the way.

MED. CLOSE SHOT - BOB AND PHIL

As they step to the front of the stage.

BOB

(To the audience)

Doesn't that bring back memories? Remember those terrible, trying days in Italy... when we had to beat the women off with chocolate bars?

PHIL

And wasn't it awful the way they kept bothering us for American cigarettes? Why, I must have taught fifty girls how to smoke...

BOB

For a month's pay all we got was 950 million lira...

PHIL

Nine hundred and fifty two...

BOB

I was forced to hire a caddy for my loose change.

PHIL

Fore...!

BOB

I'm glad I'm well out of it.

Phil looks at him.

PHIL

Who are we kidding?

This is the cue for the orchestra to start the production number, I WISH I WAS BACK IN THE ARMY. At end of number -

AUDIENCE - FULL SHOT

As they applaud and cheer. The old outfit is happy.

In the exultation, General Waverly places two fingers to his lips and blows a whistle of sheer pleasure and approval. We underscore with MUSIC indicating another number is taking place on stage, although we do not see it.

SECTION OF AUDIENCE - MED. CLOSE

Ed Harrison crosses to General Waverly and whispers to him.

ED HARRISON

Long distance call for you, sir.

Waverly looks surprised, but rises and starts out.

Bob, visible in b.g., has been watching. He and Harrison exchange knowing glances.

AT HOTEL DESK - MED. SHOT

The lobby is empty; in b.g. are the doors to the dining room, where the show is in progress. The telephone lies on the counter. Waverly enters and crosses to it. He is a little annoyed at being forced to leave the entertainment.

WAVERLY

(Into phone, gruffly)

Hurry up, hurry up, I'm busy. Yes, this is General Waverly.

He suddenly snaps to attention, the old soldier.

WAVERLY (CONT'D)

(Quietly)

And a Merry Christmas to you, Mr. President... Yes, practically the whole outfit is here. A little paunchy, but they're here. It certainly was a surprise -- more like a frameup. As usual, my Intelligence was not functioning efficiently... Yes?

(Long pause)

That's very nice of you, Mr. President... any time you want me, just say the word... but may I add this? It isn't always necessary to take a job... sometimes it's enough just to know it's there.

Through the window behind the General we have seen it begin to SNOW. The General notices it for the first time, and his face brightens.

WAVERLY (CONT'D)

If you ever take it into your mind to grab a little rest from all that work I wish you'd drop in on us here -- I can't promise you any golf but --

(As he looks at the falling snow)

-- we can certainly give you plenty of snow, Mr, President... Yes, Mr. President... What?

(Smiles)

Thanks, Ike.

He hangs up the phone, and proudly, head erect, he walks through the lobby, smiling, eyes wet. He lifts the bell on the desk with a loud bang. Martha hurries in, startled.

MARTHA

You frightened me to death! That bell hasn't been used for three months!

GENERAL

Get this area policed up. No telling who might be dropping in.

Martha salutes.

MARTHA

Yes, sir!

She and the General gaze at the snow falling beyond the lobby door which is blown open by the wind.

Underneath all this we have been hearing the introductory music to WHITE CHRISTMAS, which is the number now in progress on the stage. Waverly now turns and walks into the dining room.

INT. DINING ROOM - MOVING CAMERA

CAMERA FOLLOWS Waverly on his entrance. As he passes Susan, we see she is reacting to something on the stage.

CAMERA PASSES Waverly and moves to:

STAGE - FULL SHOT - MOVING CAMERA

Center stage, there is a large cutout of a decorated Christmas tree. Also, there is considerable Christmas holly, mistletoe, etc. Bob and Betty are seen singing. Throughout action of this number Phil and Judy dance. In addition there is staged movement by the ensemble. Bob and Betty are on each side of the cutout Christmas tree, but it is obvious that Betty is preoccupied with some stage business which she is manipulating with one hand behind the cutout tree.

CAMERA FOLLOWS Bob and Betty as their movement takes them behind the tree. It is now that we see very clearly that the rear wall of the stage (two immense barn doors) has opened; in b.g. we see the Vermont countryside being covered by the falling snow. Also, we see pine trees in the snow that are decorated.

Betty steers Bob to a point directly beneath a sprig of mistletoe from which is also hanging the mate to the sock she gave him in scene 110. Bob looks up, sees the mistletoe and the sock, and smiles at Betty.

She lifts one of his trouser legs and we see that he is wearing the other sock. They laugh and embrace.

REVERSE SHOT - FROM DINING ROOM

The cutout tree onstage rises to the flies and now the real trees and falling snow in b.g. are completely visible. One by one, the trees are lighted.

AUDIENCE - MED. CLOSE

Martha and Susan are standing happily beside the General, each holding one of his arms.

EXT. VERMONT TOWN - EXTREME HIGH SHOT - (MINIATURE)

A church bell is framed in the foreground, and, far in the distance, we see the town and the Inn and the snow as we

FADE OUT

THE END