

## AUDITION PIECE 4 - MARCELLUS & HAROLD

**MARCELLUS**

Hey, Gregory!

**HAROLD**

Marcellus!

**MARCELLUS**

You old son of a gun! What in –

**HAROLD**

*(Hastily pushing aside proffered hand)*

Sh – sh – shhh.

**MARCELLUS**

But Greg –

**HAROLD**

Professor Hill's the name – Harold Hill.

**MARCELLUS**

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

**HAROLD**

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

**MARCELLUS**

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

**HAROLD**

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

**MARCELLUS**

What's the new pitch?

*(HAROLD pantomimes conducting.)*

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

**HAROLD**

I was.

**MARCELLUS**

What happened?

**HAROLD**

Somebody actually invented one.

**MARCELLUS**

No!

**HAROLD**

Now give me the lowdown here, Marce.

**MARCELLUS**

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

**HAROLD**

Male or female?

**MARCELLUS**

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

**HAROLD**

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

**MARCELLUS**

I will. How you gonna start the pitch?

**HAROLD**

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

**MARCELLUS**

River City isn't in any trouble.

**HAROLD**

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

**MARCELLUS**

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

**HAROLD**

They never had a pool table here before?

**MARCELLUS**

No – only billiards.

**HAROLD**

That'll do.

*(Puts down his suitcase.)*

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

*(Pantomimes piano playing.)*

**MARCELLUS**

*Pantomiming as HE EXITS)*

Music teacher.

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

**HAROLD**

Ah – you're Mr. Dunlop.

**EWART**

Yep.

**HAROLD**

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