

# FEUDIN', FIGHTIN' & FUSSIN'

A HILLBILLY FARCE IN THREE ACTS

By **Le Roma Greth**

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**FEUDIN', FIGHTIN' & FUSSIN'**

**By Le Roma Greth**

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(EIGHT WOMEN, FOUR MEN, NON-SPEAKING EXTRAS)*

**ZEKE KENDALL**

An eighteen year-old hillbilly boy. Zeke is neither too bright nor too handsome. He wears ragged pants, suspenders and a faded plaid shirt throughout the play. No shoes. (89 lines)

**BETTY SU FERNHEISER**

This lively eighteen year-old hillbilly girl is in love with Zeke, but she's been unable to get him to "pop the question" in all the years they've gone steady. For Act One, Scenes 1 and 2, she wears what would be considered her "good" dress. It is obviously a hand-me-down, with a few sad ruffles hanging here and there. She changes to a cotton dress which has seen better days for Act Two, Scene 1. For Act Two, Scene 2 and Act Three, she may wear the first dress again. No shoes. Betty Sue's wardrobe is not extensive. (125 lines)

**MRS. SNODGRASS**

A haughty, wealthy, middle-aged woman, Mrs. Lucius Q. Snodgrass is the Coughdrop Queen of America. Her company manufactures more cough drops than any other. For Act One, Scene 1, she wears an elaborate outfit complete with hat, enormous purse and gloves. In Act Two, Scene 2, she wears a different elaborate outfit. Act Three may find her in the same outfit as she wore in Act One, Scene 1. She is inclined to overdress. (63 lines)

**WILLIAM BISHOP III**

Mrs. Snodgrass' good-looking twenty-five year-old assistant. He is inclined

at times to assume an overly dignified attitude, but he can be influenced and when he meets Lizzie Fernheiser, he becomes confused and a little boyish. For Act One, Scene 1, he wears a dark dignified business suit with tie, etc. In Act One, Scene 2, his outfit is more casual—sport coat and pants, sport shirt without tie and rather colorful socks and shoes. Act Two, Scene 1, finds him in the same or similar outfit. However, in Act Two, Scene 2, he appears in a far-out hillbilly costume. He is shoeless with Bermuda shorts, a loud shirt, and a red handkerchief dangling from his pocket. During this scene, he changes to a shirt that is torn to shreds but has a large cardboard or paper daisy pinned to the front of it. His hair is parted in the center and slicked down for this entrance. He wears a business suit again in Act Three. (222 lines)

**PAW FERNHEISER**

A very slow-moving middle-aged hillbilly paw. He's got a sense of humor and, although he likes to take things easy, will work if he finds a project which HE feels merits his efforts. He wears dark, worn pants, cut off unevenly, heavy work shoes without socks, a faded shirt patched with different colors at the elbows and an old straw hat which he doesn't even remove when indoors. He too has a handkerchief dangling from his pocket. He may wear the same outfit throughout the play. (95 lines)

**MAW FERNHEISER**

Paw's wife still has quite a few sparks LEFT in her despite the hard work she's done in her lifetime. She wears a baggy cotton dress which has seen cleaner better days, black cotton stockings and run-over old oxfords.

For Act One, Scene 1, she has prettied herself up by adding an old man's sweater with holes in the elbows, a purse, and an out-of-shape hat with a large flower which sticks straight up in the air and bounces breezily along. If desired, she may wear a different cotton dress in some of the scenes. (93 lines)

**HONEYSUCKLE FERNHEISER** About fifteen, Honeysuckle must take a backseat until her older sisters are "married off," hence she is considered more of a child than her age would indicate. Her dress is more shapeless and shorter than Betty Sue's outfits. She is barefoot, dirty and doesn't care. For Act One, Scene 1, however, she wears a fancy hat. This may be any old hat, madly decorated with shabby flowers. During Act One, Scene 2, she changes into a "gym" suit she has rigged up. This could be an old-fashioned bathing suit or old blouse with knee-length bloomers. It could even be a set of men's long underwear with a short skating skirt over the top. In short, any ridiculous outfit which might be worn in a gym class will work. This outfit is worn again in Act Three. (16 lines)

**MAGNOLIA FERNHEISER** About fourteen, her description is exactly the same as Honeysuckle's. She too needs a hat and matching "gym" outfit. (15 lines)

**HYACINTH FERNHEISER** About thirteen, her description is exactly the same as Honeysuckle's. She needs the same clothing. (16 lines)

**WIDOW KENDALL** An aggressive lady with a mind of her own, she is middle-aged but can keep her sons in line. She is slightly better dressed than Maw Fernheiser. Her

cotton dress is newer and her shoes not so run-over at the heels. She wears a man's hat, jammed sideways on her head and a man's coat. No flowers for the Widow. She feels undressed without her gun. (33 lines)

**HIRAM KENDALL**

This seventeen year-old boy is his mother's shadow. He's always following her around, also carrying a gun. He's a lad spoiling for a good fight or even a fight that's not so good. He glares at the world and, if desired, can be made up to look pretty much like a monster. He wears an old shirt and pants. (11 lines)

**LIZZIE FERNHEISER**

A pretty girl, Lizzie is even brighter than Betty Su, her sister. Lizzie, in fact, is full of ideas, but they aren't always good ones. One feels Lizzie could be at home anywhere and, although she is a hillbilly, her actions are quick and even suave. She is nineteen or twenty. For Act One, Scene 2, she wears a new dress that she has made for herself. This is cotton but can be quite attractive. For Act Two, Scene 1, she changes into an older dress. For Act Two, Scene 2, she may wear the Act One dress again, keeping it on for Act Three. She wears no shoes. (188 lines)

**EXTRAS**

There are two extras in regular clothing seated in the first row of the auditorium when the play begins. In Act Two, Scene 1 any number of extras in hillbilly clothing may be used.

*NOTE: All characters and situations herein depicted are purely imaginary. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.*

**PROPS**

**ACT ONE, SCENE 1**

- TABLET PAGES CONTAINING WRITING (ZEKE)
- LARGE HANDBAG (MRS. SNODGRASS)
- BOOK-SIZED WAD OF TYPING PAPER (MRS. SNODGRASS)
- GUN (PAW)
- BOX OF COUGH DROPS (MRS. SNODGRASS)
- GUN (HIRAM KENDALL)
- GUN (WIDOW KENDALL)
- OLD, BATTERED PURSE WITH HANDLE (MAW)
- MAGNOLIA'S HAT (MAGNOLIA)

**ACT ONE, SCENE 2**

- BOWL OF FLOWERS (ON TABLE)
- GUN (PAW)
- BOWL CONTAINING FOOD (ON SHELVES)
- POCKET KNIFE (ZEKE)

**ACT TWO, SCENE 1**

- LARGE SHEET OF DRAWING PAPER WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT CONTAIN THE CRUDE SKETCH OF A BUILDING WHICH RESEMBLES A PIG PEN\* (ZEKE)
- LARGE SHEET OF DRAWING PAPER WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT CONTAIN THE CRUDE SKETCH OF A BUILDING WHICH RESEMBLES A GREEK TEMPLE\* (LIZZIE)
- PENCILS (ZEKE/BETTY SUE)
- LARGE CARDBOARD CARTON OR BOX (MAGNOLIA)
- SHOVEL (MAW)
- NUMBER OF SMALL BOARDS FOR USE IN CONSTRUCTION WORK (HONEYSUCKLE/HYACINTH/MAGNOLIA/EXTRAS)
- LARGE CARTON SUPPOSEDLY CONTAINING BOXES OF COUGH DROPS (HONEYSUCKLE)
- CARDBOARD BOX FULL OF BOOKS (HYACINTH)
- GUN (WIDOW KENDALL)
- GUN (HIRAM KENDALL)
- COOKPOT (ON SHELVES)

**ACT TWO, SCENE 2**

- MANY BOOKS (ON STAGE)

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- GAG AND ROPES (ON WIDOW KENDALL)
- FANCY OLD DRESS (BETTY SU)
- SLING AND VARIOUS BANDAGES AS DESIRED (ON CAST)
- BEAT-UP SNEAKERS (BETTY SU)
- LARGE POCKET WATCH ON WIDE RED RIBBON (ON SHELVES)
- PIPE (ON SHELVES)
- BOUQUET OF FLOWERS (BILL BISHOP)
- GUN ( BILL)
- GAG AND ROPES (HIRAM KENDALL)

**ACT THREE**

- COOKPOT/SPOON (ON SHELVES)
- CARTON OF COUGH DROPS (ON STAGE UP RIGHT)
- SMALL BOXES OF COUGH DROPS WITH BRAND NAME SMUDGED (INSIDE CARTON)
- CHECKERBOARD (ON SHELVES)
- TWO STRINGS OF COUGH DROP BOXES TO TIE BACK CURTAINS (BETTY SU)
- CARDBOARD SIGN, POSSIBLE FRAMED IN COUGH DROP BOXES, WHICH SAYS “COUGH DROPS ARE MAN’S BEST FRIEND” (ZEKE)
- NECKLACE OF COUGH DROP BOXES (BETTY SU)
- RED AND BLACK COUGH DROPS OR SMALL CANDIES OF THOSE COLORS (LIZZIE)
- OLD CANDY DISH (ON SHELVES)
- PITCHER OF RED LIQUID (ON SHELVES)
- BUTTON BOX (ON SHELVES)
- JELLY JAR (ON SHELVES)
- SOUP TUREEN (MAW)
- CAKE (WIDOW KENDALL)
- “SNODGRASS COUGH DROPS” SIGNS (HONEY SUCKLE/ HYACINTH/ MAGNOLIA)
- GUN (HIRAM KENDALL)
- COUGH DROPS (INSIDE GUN)

**THE PLACE:**

THE LIVING ROOM OF THE FERNHEISER CABIN IN THE HILLS

**SYNOPSIS OF SCENES:**

ACT ONE: A PRESENT AFTERNOON IN THE SPRING.

ACT ONE, SCENE 2: TWO HOURS LATER.

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ACT TWO, SCENE 1: A FEW DAYS LATER.

ACT TWO, SCENE 2: A FEW DAYS LATER.

ACT THREE: THE NEXT DAY.

**SOUND EFFECTS:**

POUNDING AND HAMMERING (OFF RIGHT)

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**ACT ONE, SCENE 1**

*The curtain is closed and the auditorium lights remain on during the entire first scene. Two people without special clothing or special makeup are seated near center in the first row of seats. As the time for the play approaches, Zeke Kendall and Betty Su Fernheiser may be seen nervously peeping from behind the stage curtain. Betty Su seems to be looking for someone – as indeed she is, for her own family hasn't appeared. She is also very uneasy about speaking before people, since she is just a simple hillbilly girl. As the play begins, she enters upon the apron of the stage from the RIGHT, freezes at the sight of the audience, and just stands there, staring straight ahead, her mouth hanging open. Zeke enters behind her, carrying tablet pages containing her speech, and shoves her toward center stage.*

**ZEKE:** Go ahead, Betty Su! It's time to give yer speech! (*Betty Su timidly creeps to center, where she stands staring at the people. Zeke motions her onward. Betty Su looks back at him, gulps loudly.*)

**BETTY SU:** Howdy thar, citizens of Polecat County! (*Her voice comes out high and squeaky because of her stage fright. She clears her throat and continues in a more normal tone.*) Citizens of Polecat County, hit's mighty nice to see ya all hyar today in the Pigs Knuckle Junction school buildin'. You'll have to excuse me. I ain't used to seein' so many of ya wearin' shoes. Howdy, Mr.— (*Any name will do; it could be the name of a locally known person in the audience.*) I see ya got yer mule out of the mud and got hyar after all! (*Looking around*) It's a right fine lookin' buildin' Pigs Knuckle Junction got, ain't it? Mebbe someday we kin have such a grand one back in Polecat County. In the meanwhile, y'all know why we met hyar. (*Forgetting her fright and becoming grandly dramatic*) Citizens of Polecat County! We have the greaaaaaaaat privilege today of meeting with one of the greaaaaaaaat ladies of our time. She's famous. She's even been writ up in magazines! A bountiful, generous lady sech as we pore folks don't often git the chance to meet. Y'all know who I mean. I'm speakin' of course of Mrs.—Ah—Ah—

**ZEKE:** (*Poking his head out from RIGHT, holding papers in his hand; following her speech*) Snodgrass! Mrs. Snodgrass! And yer gittin' hit all mixed up! There wasn't nothin' about Mr. \_\_\_\_\_'s mule in the speech we writ.

**BETTY SU:** (*Glaring at him as he ducks out of sight again*) Mrs. Snodgrass. As (*She's very careful with this long word*) a representative of the Snodgrass Memorial Fund she's always goin' round helpin' out depressed areas. I didn't know we wuz one of em', but I reckon we are or she wouldn't be hyar. Anyhow, she's going to give Polecat County a real, honest-to-goodness, two-story, brick liberry building! Mrs. Snodgrass!

*Betty Sue moves LEFT, clapping her hands and indicating the audience should do likewise. Led by the two "plants" in the first row, we hope they will. Zeke appears at RIGHT, holding back the curtain with a bare foot and trying to clap for Mrs. Snodgrass while he holds the many pages of the notes for Betty Su's speech. The papers go flying all over the place. Mrs. Snodgrass sails into view, beaming at the audience. Zeke bends over without bending his knees to pick up the papers and Mrs. Snodgrass bumps into him, sending him sprawling. Betty Su almost dies of mortification.*

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** (*Nose in air, moving around Zeke and ignoring him.*) Thank you! Thank you, all! I'm touched that you had this gathering in my honor. But actually I want no thanks. My late husband, Lucius Q. Snodgrass, always felt the call to do good. The Snodgrass Memorial Library of Polecat County will be erected in his honor. Now I want you to meet my most valuable assistant, William Bishop III!

*To more applause, William Bishop III enters at RIGHT. Zeke has finally gotten to his feet and has once more bent over to pick up the paper. Bill bumps into him and once more sends Zeke sprawling.*

**BETTY SU:** Oh, Zeke! Why don't you git off stage?!

**BILL:** Oops! Pardon me.

*This time Zeke angrily shoves the papers beneath the curtain and crawls out under it himself, his big dirty feet being the last thing to disappear.*

**MRS MRS. SNODGRASS:** (*Glaring at the disappearing feet*) As I was saying, the Snodgrass Memorial Fund was created to assist depressed areas, such as yours, to help themselves. I have just a very few words to say on the subject. (*She gets out of her enormous handbag a book-sized wad of typing paper; even Bill looks nonplussed. She begins to speak from her quantity of*

*notes*) Depressed areas are usually not only economically depressed, but culturally depressed. There is nothing in the world that Polecat County needs more than a good brick library. Mystery stories, westerns, science fiction . . . Why, all kinds of culture may be obtained from a good library! (*There is a commotion at the rear of the auditorium as Paw Fernheiser, Maw, Hyacinth, Magnolia, and Honeysuckle enter there. Betty Su is still at the LEFT of the stage apron, self-conscious, not knowing what to do with her hands. Sometimes she uses them to scratch herself, at which times Mrs. Snodgrass glares at her. Betty Su waves to her family when she sees them.*)

**HONEYSUCKLE:** (*Loudly*) Whar we gonna set, Paw?

**PAW:** Hesh up!

**BETTY SU:** (*Yelling from the stage*) Ya missed my speech, Paw!

**PAW:** (*Yelling*) Yer sister Magnolia fell in the pig slop when she was feedin' the hogs and we had to clean her up afore we come!

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** (*Raising her voice in great dignity*) I shall try to rise above these unfortunate interruptions!

*Paw Fernheiser, toting his gun, with Maw and the girls following him single-file, comes down the center aisle to the front, searching for a seat.*

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** (*Trying to ignore them*) May I say in passing that these contributions by the Snodgrass Memorial Fund are made possible by that balm of mankind, that soother of suffering souls, Snodgrass' Cough Drops, the only cough drops that will cure your cough even if you don't have a cold! No other cough drop can make that statement! My dear late husband started the Snodgrass Cough Crop Company over thirty years ago and—

**MAW:** Thar ain't no seats down hyar, Paw!

**PAW:** Shore thar be!

**MAW:** Whar?

**PAW:** (*Waving his gun*) Why, all around hyar.

**MAW:** Yep. But them seats got people in um.

**PAW:** Thet's easy fixed!

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** You'll be really taken by the Snodgrass Memorial Fund. I mean, taken with the Snodgrass—

**PAW:** (*Poking his gun at the two plants in the first row*) Git! Git out of thet seat, ya ornery skunk! Out of hyar! (*The two frightened plants gather up their things and run with Paw chasing them just a little way, then coming back to sit down.*)

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**PAW:** (*Looking up at Mrs. Snodgrass*) Go on with whut ya wuz sayin'. Me and Maw was jest gittin' settled hyar.

**MAW:** (*Sitting beside him*) That wasn't perlite.

**PAW:** Why? I didn't shoot 'em!

**MAW:** Nope. But ya might at least have thanked them nice folks fer so kindly givin' us their seats.

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** (*Weakly*) I'm sure all you refined people her in Polecat County will appreciate this library. You can have lectures and—

**MAGNOLIA:** Maw, whar air we gonna set?

**HYACINTH:** We cain't jest stand hyar! It ain't perlite when thet funny lookin' lady is jawin' away up thar!

**HONEYSUCKLE:** Cain't ya shoot a couple of folks so's we kin git some seats?

**MAW:** Honeysuckle Fernheiser! If I told ya once, I toll ya ten times — yer Paw don't shoot folks fer no cause! They got to be stealin' hogs or somethin' and thar ain't nobody hyar stealin' hogs.

**MAGNOLIA:** (*Pointing to a man in the audience*) He looks like he might.

**MAW:** Hesh up and set down! Up thar! (*Pointing to the stage*) Thet lady won't mind.

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** (*At the limit of her patience*) Would you — uh, people — mind — (*Magnolia, Hyacinth, and Honeysuckle scramble onto the LEFT side of the stage apron and sit with their legs dangling over the side of it. Betty Su joins them. If footlights make this impossible, let them sit "Indian" style on the apron.*)

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** Girls, what are you doing? Really, I — Oh, dear! (*Very much upset*) Mr. Bishop, will you take over and explain the contest? (*Trying to smile to audience*) My assistant, William Bishop III!

*Mrs. Snodgrass moves to the RIGHT, takes a box of cough drops from her bag, and pops one in her mouth.*

**BILL:** (*Doubtfully looking at the Ferheisers as he moves to center*) Thank you. It's a pleasure [there is a question in his voice] to be here and meet all of you charming — uh, meet all you people. What Mrs. Snodgrass didn't explain to you is this—the Snodgrass Memorial Fund will construct a library for you in Polecat County, hiring local labor, which will be paid the prevailing union wage rate. To stimulate interest in the library there will first be a contest to determine the design of the building—that is, what it will look like. All the young people—and you older people too if you're artistically

inclined—will submit sketches showing what they think the Polecat County Library should look like! Mrs. Snodgrass will be leaving us— (*Paw begins to applaud loudly; Bill clears his throat*) Please, sir, you may applaud this fine lady later. As I said, Mrs. Snodgrass will be returning to the Snodgrass Cough Drop Company but I will stay here and supervise the contest and the construction of the library. Now then, are there any questions?

*The Widow Kendall, accompanied by Hiram, enters the rear of the auditorium during Bill's speech but stands there quietly. Both Hiram and the Widow have their guns.*

**PAW:** (*Rising*) Yep.

**BILL:** (*Brightly*) Yes, sir?

**PAW:** Why air ya buildin' the liberry?

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** Of all the depressed areas we have assisted, this is the most depressing.

**BILL:** (*Trying to be patient*) I think we've explained all that, sir. Our dear and generous Mrs. Snodgrass' late husband wanted to be a philanthropist all his life. But since he was too busy making cough drops, he had to wait until he was dead to—I mean, after his death, Mrs. Snodgrass decided to —

**PAW:** Never mind all them fancy words. (*Paw scrambles onto the stage and approaches Bill with his gun*) I ax ya a simple question. Why air ya buildin' a liberry?

*Bill backs toward the RIGHT; Mrs. Snodgrass crouches behind him.*

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** P—Put that gun away!

**BILL:** We're only trying to do you people a favor—

**PAW:** Wal, ya ain't doin' us no favor by buildin' a liberry. Whut do we want a liberry fer?

**HYACINTH:** You tell 'em, Paw!

**BILL:** Why—Why—Er, to read—

**PAW:** But most of us cain't read! (*Addressing the audience*) Listen hyar, you varmints! Effen these folks is gonna spend thar money, ain't no sense them wastin' it on books. I don't reckon thar kin be more then ten books has been printed in this county and if anybody wants to read I'm shore he kin find one of them ten effen he looks hard enough. Whut we need ain't a liberry, it's a recreation hall! Then we'd really have something!

**BILL:** A r—recreation hall?

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** A what?

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**PAW:** A recreation hall! A place whar the young folks kin play the game whar ya have a big ball and throw it in some kind of basket. Some of us old codgers cud play checkers er thet new-fangled game called chess. How bout thet? We cud even have dances for the young folks and parties come Holler'een!

**BILL:** But you don't understand, sir. The Snodgrass Memorial Fund was created to spread culture. There's nothing cultural about basketball or dances.

**PAW:** Wal, ya better find somethin'—cul-tur-ell—about 'em!

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** (*Coming around Bill to face Paw*) My good man, are you trying to tell me how to spend my money?

**PAW:** (*Shoving the gun into her face*) Yep!

*Mrs. Snodgrass looks down the barrel of the gun and faints dead away.*

**BILL:** Mrs. Snodgrass!

**WIDOW KENDALL:** (*Coming down the center aisle to the front; Hiram follows her*) Hold on thar!

**PAW:** Widder Kendall!

**BETTY SU:** (*Rising to yell behind curtain*) Zeke! Yer Maw's hyar!

**BILL:** (*Stooping beside Mrs. Snodgrass and fanning her with his hands*) Mrs. Snodgrass, are you all right? Have a cough drop!

**PAW:** Whut air you doin' hyar?

**WIDOW:** Same as you. I aim to speak my peace!

**PAW:** All right, go ahead. The lady in charge ain't talkin' right now anyhow.

**WIDOW:** (*Facing the audience*) I don't know whut Paw Fernheiser's been jawin' about, but I'll tell you this much . . . Polecat County ain't never gonna be nothin' without a liberry! We need a liberry! Do you want to be ignorant, stupid, feudin' hillbillies forever?

**HYACINTH/MAGNOLIA/HONEYSUCKLE:** Yep!

**PAW:** (*Jumping down from the stage in surprise and approaching the Widow*) Whut wuz thet you said?

**WIDOW:** (*Defiantly*) I said we need a liberry.

**HIRAM:** (*Pointing his gun toward Paw*) She says we need a liberry.

*Zeke comes on stage from behind the curtain. Bill holds a cough drop box under Mrs. Snodgrass' nose.*

**ZEKE:** Howdy Maw! Did ya git hyar in time to hear Paw Fernheiser tell about how we need a recreation hall?

**WIDOW:** Zeke, git down hyar with yer brother.

**BETTY SU:** Oh, Zeke! All of you . . . stop it!

**PAW:** We ain't havin' no liberry!

**MAW:** *(Rising to stand behind him)* You tell 'em, Paw!

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** *(Slowly coming to)* Ohhhhhh!

**BILL:** Wake up, Mrs. Snodgrass. Here, have another whiff of cough drops!

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** *(Breathing deeply at the cough drop box)* Ahh, I smell something wonderful—

**MAGNOLIA:** Wal, it shore ain't me, cuz I fell in the pig pen!

**WIDOW:** Zeke!

**BETTY SU:** *(Holding onto Zeke)* Paw—Widder Kendall! Please don't make such a fuss! We don't want another feud around hyar! Effen the Kendalls and the Fernheisers have a feud thar won't be nobody LEFT to go to the liberry!

**PAW:** You mean recreation hall!

**WIDOW:** Liberry!

**BETTY SU:** Mrs. Snodgrass! Please do something!

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** *(Dreamily sitting up)* I think I'll go whip up another batch of cough drops—

*Zeke moves to join his mother. Honeysuckle trips him and he falls sprawling once more.*

**WIDOW:** *(Raising her gun)* Thet does it! I always did say thar wuz too many Fernheisers in Polecat County!

**MAW:** *(Hitting her over the head with her purse)* Ya mean too many Kendalls!

**WIDOW:** Ouch!

*Magnolia, Honeysuckle, and Hyacinth jump to their feet. Magnolia takes off her hat and jams it on Zeke's head.*

**MAGNOLIA:** *(Laughing)* Don't he look purty! Now he's all ready to go to the liberry!

**BETTY SU:** Magnolia!

**ZEKE:** *(Getting to his feet)* Why you little polecats!

*Zeke chases the three girls. They jump off the stage and screaming, run toward the rear of the auditorium where they exit. Zeke chases after them and also exits at the rear of the auditorium.*

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** *(Coming to her senses and rising)*  
What's the meaning of all this?

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**PAW:** We aim to have a recreation hall!

**MRS. MRS. SNODGRASS:** You'll have a library or nothing! (*Nose in air*) The Snodgrass Memorial Fund has spoken! Mr. Bishop, take charge! Build them a library! (*Mrs. Snodgrass, with great dignity, exits to the LEFT of the stage.*)

**BILL:** (*Dismayed; looking at the hillbillies in front of him pointing their guns at each other*) Take charge?! What can I . . . ?

**BETTY SU:** (*Hurrying after Mrs. Snodgrass*) Mrs. Snodgrass! Wait up! Paw's bound to make trouble effen you don't change yer mind! (*Betty Su exits after Mrs. Snodgrass.*)

**BILL:** (*Trying to be firm*) All right, put those guns away!

**HIRAM:** Ya want me to wing 'im, Maw?

**BILL:** Oh, my goodness!

**WIDOW:** Nope! Wing Paw Fernheiser instead!

**PAW:** Now hold on thar! Effen we both pull the trigger at the same time, thar ain't nobody gonna win the feud.

**HIRAM:** I'm younger then you. I'll probably pull hit quicker!

**PAW:** That's whut I wuz thinkin'! (*Paw dashes up the center aisle toward the rear exit, with Hiram running after him.*)

**HIRAM:** Hold on thar! I never could hit a runnin' target!

**MAW:** Paw! Ain't you a man? How come yer runnin' from a Kendall? (*To Widow Kendall*) You shouldn't have sent that mean little varmit of yours after poor Paw!

**WIDOW:** Who sez?

**MAW:** I sez!

*Batting at the Widow Kendall with her purse, Maw chases the Widow up the center aisle with much yelling and commotion. They exit after Hiram and Paw. Alone on the apron of the stage, Bill has been watching all this with horror.*

**BILL:** (*Suddenly realizing the audience is still there; he swallows hard*) Oh—Er—Uh, I guess that concludes our meeting for tonight. I – Uh, I must go now and build a library for these people.

*With another look of dismay at the very thought, he exits through the center of the curtain. END OF ACT ONE, SCENE 1.*

**ACT ONE, SCENE 2**

*It's about two hours later. The curtains open to reveal the living room of the Fernheiser cabin, way out in Polecat County. This is a plain, bare hillbilly home. At RIGHT center is a round table and three old chairs. On the table is a bright cotton cover, patched and frayed. At LEFT center is a bench without back or arms. Directly up center, a window looks out on a muddy yard surrounded by pig pens and chicken coops—none of which needs to be visible. Old curtains, or even burlap sacks tied like curtains, are on the window. Two weak-looking chairs sag before the window. In the LEFT wall is a door which leads to the rest of the cabin. In the RIGHT wall is a doorway without a door which leads to the front yard before which an old wagon road passes. Lizzie Fernheiser is at the table, RIGHT center, fussing with a bowl of spring wildflowers. Paw Fernheiser enters at RIGHT, still carrying his gun, but his head is down and a terrible scowl on his face.*

**LIZZIE:** *(Cheerfully)* Paw! How did the meetin' go?

*Ignoring her, Paw stomps across the stage and off LEFT. Lizzie goes to the window up center to look out, rather concerned. Maw enters RIGHT.*

**LIZZIE:** *(Turning)* Howdy Maw. Whut's the matter with Paw?

**MAW:** *(Going LEFT)* Now how'd you know anything wuz wrong with yer Paw?

**LIZZIE:** *(Nodding to window)* He's headed fer the pig pen. He always goes to the hogs when he's got troubles. Says they understand him.

**MAW:** *(Turning to her)* Wal, him an' the hogs has got lots in common.

**LIZZIE:** Ya had a swell day fer the drive over to Pigs Knuckle Junction. I'm glad spring's hyar! Havin' the door off don't matter so much in spring.

**MAW:** We'll have to try to git yer Paw to put it back on afore next winter. *(Shivering)* Made sech a draft in hyar, not havin'a door on.

*Magnolia, Hyacinth, and Honeysuckle enter at RIGHT, very excited. They remain RIGHT center.*

**MAGNOLIA:** Lizzie, did Maw tell ya?

**HYACINTH:** We're feudin' with the Kendalls!

## FEUDIN', FIGHTIN' & FUSSIN'

**LIZZIE:** Feudin!—Maw we ain't!!!

**MAW:** Yep.

**LIZZIE:** Oh, no! (*Looking out window again*) But effen we're feudin', why is Paw so upset? He likes feudin'!

**HYACINTH:** (*Giggling*) Hiram Kendall won first round an' chased Paw all the way to the buckboard!

**HONEYSUCKLE:** And Maw wuz chewin' Paw out all the way home cuz he run!

**MAW:** Hesh, gals! (*Going up center*) Lizzie, yer Paw's upset cuz he got the bright idea as how we ought to have a recreation hall and the Widder Kendall still figures we ought to have a liberry.

**LIZZIE:** And you started a feud over such a silly little thing?

**MAGNOLIA:** (*Running up center*) It ain't silly!

**LIZZIE:** I knew ya'd git into trouble if you went into town without me! I shouldn't have stayed home to finish my new dress.

**MAW:** You cain't say ya wuzn't ax to go.

**LIZZIE:** Oh, who wants to go to a meetin' without a new dress?

**HONEYSUCKLE:** I went and I ain't had a new dress in five years.

**MAW:** Wal, yer sister's different. She gotta catch a feller soon. Lizzie, yer gittin' mighty old.

**LIZZIE:** Oh Maw—we wuz talkin' bout the meetin'. I should have gone. I'm the only one around hyar thet gits idees about gittin' folks out of trouble instead of into it!

**MAW:** Now don't git so steamed up, Lizzie. It's only a little feud so far. (*Going LEFT*) C'mon, kids. Let's git some more of thet garden dug afore supper!

**HYACINTH:** (*Crossing LEFT center*) Cain't Paw do it?

**MAW:** (*Shocked*) Why, thet's work, Hyacinth! Have you lost yer wits? (*Maw, Honeysuckle, Hyacinth, and Magnolia exit LEFT. Betty Su unhappily sags in at RIGHT.*)

**BETTY SU:** Hi.

**LIZZIE:** Wal! Looks as effen you're right happy bout this feud!

**BETTY SU:** (*Crossing to sit on bench LEFT center*) You heerd about thet?

**LIZZIE:** Maw told me.

**BETTY SU:** Whut are we gonna do? If Paw'd shoot Zeke, I'd jest die!

**LIZZIE:** So would Zeke.

**BETTY SU:** Very funny.

**LIZZIE:** (*Coming down center*) Too bad Paw cain't git his recreation hall. If he wuz recreatin', he wouldn't have time for feudin'.

**BETTY SU:** (*Rising*) No use even thinkin' about thet. Mrs.

Snodgrass gave all her orders an' LEFT. (*Going up center to point out through the window toward the RIGHT*) They're gonna build the liberry right across the road in thet field. A feller named William Bishop III is in charge—an' he's meaner then she is!

**LIZZIE:** (*Moving LEFT*) He must be awful.

**BETTY SU:** (*Coming down*) He is. You'll see. Said he wuz comin' out this afternoon yet to look over the ground.

*Zeke appears at the door RIGHT.*

**ZEKE:** Psst!

**BETTY SU:** (*Frantically*) Oh, Zeke! Ya shouldn't have come hyar!

**ZEKE:** (*Entering*) I reckon yer right, Betty Su, but I had to see ya.

**BETTY SU:** Whar's Paw?

**LIZZIE:** (*Thoughtfully pacing at LEFT*) Still out with the hogs.

**ZEKE:** (*Meeting her up RIGHT center*) I cain't jest not see ya no more, Betty Su. Why, I always thought you and me wuz—you know.

**BETTY SU:** (*Coyly*) Whut, Zeke?

**ZEKE:** (*Shuffling his feet*) Aw, you know.

**BETTY SU:** (*Desperately*) How do I know if you don't never say it?

**ZEKE:** (*Moving down center*) Wal, I wuz thinkin' next time the travelin' preacher hits these parts, we—we—

**BETTY SU:** (*Eagerly following him*) Yes?

**ZEKE:** We—we—

**BETTY SU:** Yes, Zeke? Yes?

**ZEKE:** (*Taking a deep breath and looking as if he'll really get it out this time*) We—

**LIZZIE:** (*Crossing to come between them*) Do you know whut I think?

**BETTY SU:** RIGHT now I wuz more interested in whut Zeke wuz sayin'!

**LIZZIE:** Fer once in his life, Paw's right!

**BETTY SU:** (*Sullenly breaking away to down RIGHT*) About whut?

**LIZZIE:** The recreation hall, of course!

**BETTY SU:** Cain't we talk about this some other time? Me and Zeke wuz havin' a private discussion.

**LIZZIE:** Oh, you can sweet-talk any time. Besides all that mush sounded pretty dusgustin' to me.

**BETTY SU:** (*Coming up to them at center*) Nobody ax you to listen!

**LIZZIE:** (*Imitating*) "Yes? Yes, Zeke, yes?"—If I had to coax a feller that way, I wouldn't want him.

FEUDIN', FIGHTIN' & FUSSIN'

**BETTY SU:** Yer jest jealous becuz no feller sweet talks you!

**LIZZIE:** (*Scornfully*) Me—jealous? Of you? Becuz you got Zeke?!

**ZEKE:** Uh, gals—

**BETTY SU:** I bet you wish you had him!

**LIZZIE:** I wouldn't want Zeke Kendall!

**BETTY SU:** Wal, then Hiram!

**LIZZIE:** Thet monster-man?

**BETTY SU:** (*Sing-song*) You can't git a feller! You can't git a feller!

**LIZZIE:** I never seen a feller I wanted, Betty Su Fernheiser! I could git any feller I thought wuz nice!

*Zeke, shaking his head, moves down LEFT.*

**BETTY SU:** Couldn't

**LIZZIE:** Could! I could take Zeke right away from you effen I wanted to!

**BETTY SU:** Ha!

**LIZZIE:** (*Going to Zeke menacingly*) Zeke, look at me—

**ZEKE:** (*Backing away*) Uh, Betty Su—

**LIZZIE:** Look into my big, beautiful, blue eyes—

**ZEKE:** (*Staring at her; getting a silly grin on his face*) I am—

**BETTY SU:** (*Crossing to swat Lizzie*) You let him alone!

*Betty Su chases Lizzie to RIGHT center where they run around the table as Maw Fernheiser enters at LEFT.*

**MAW:** Whut's goin' on in hyar!

**BETTY SU:** (*Pausing, sniffing*) She's after Zeke!

**MAW:** Wal, she's oldest. If Lizzie wants Zeke, ya gotta give him up, Betty Su.

**ZEKE:** (*Down LEFT*) But, Maw Fernheiser—

**LIZZIE:** Oh, don't worry! I don't want Zeke. I wuz only teasin'.

**MAW:** (*Crossing in to center*) Teasin'! Ain't we got enough trouble without you two startin' somethin'? If we don't git things fixed, we might have a big feud on our hands.

**BETTY SU:** (*Sitting at table RIGHT center*) And a liberry.

**LIZZIE:** Maw, Paw's right about thet liberry. Folks hereabouts'll use a recreation hall more then they'll ever use a liberry.

**MAW:** I reckon.

**BETTY SU:** Zeke, yer fer the recreation hall too, ain't you?

**ZEKE:** (*Sitting at bench LEFT center*) Wal, my maw—

**BETTY SU:** I know whut yer maw wants, but whut about you?

**ZEKE:** Recreation hall!

**HONEYSUCKLE:** (*Poking her head inside the LEFT door*)  
Recreation hall!

**MAGNOLIA:** (*Poking her head inside the LEFT door*) Recreation  
hall!

**HYACINTH:** (*Poking her head inside the LEFT door*) Me too!

**BETTY SU:** We're all agreed!

**MAW:** The Widder Kendall ain't!

**LIZZIE:** We kin handle her.

**HYACINTH:** Yahhhhhh! We'll git ready! Whut we need is gym suits!

**MAGNOLIA:** Thar oughta be somethin' in the shed we kin make gym  
suits out of!

*Honeysuckle, Hyacinth, and Magnolia exit at LEFT.*

**LIZZIE:** (*Thoughtfully; sitting up center*) The main thing we got to do  
is convince the William Bishop III.

**MAW:** (*Moving RIGHT*) How? Ya got to git one of yer bright ideas,  
Lizzie.

**BETTY SU:** We kin git Paw to shoot 'im.

**LIZZIE:** No, Betty Su!

**MAW:** (*Looking out door RIGHT*) Wal, ya better think of somethin'  
quick. Hyar he comes up the road now.

**BETTY SU:** (*Rising and running to door RIGHT*) Whut's he comin'  
hyar fer?

**MAW:** Mebbe to try to talk Paw into the liberry.

**LIZZIE:** (*Rising and going to look out door with them*) I thought you  
said he wuz mean-lookin'.

**BETTY SU:** Wal, ain't he?

**LIZZIE:** I think he's might purty.

**ZEKE:** (*Rising and sniffing scornfully*) City fellers! Why, I bet he  
takes a bath twice a week. Sufferin' skunkcabbage! Don't them  
city folks catch somethin' thet way?

**LIZZIE:** (*Watching Zeke scratch himself*) Mebbe. But not whut you  
caught.

**BETTY SU:** He's lookin' at the field whar the thing's gonna be . . .  
Now he's headin' this way agin. He is comin' hyar!

**LIZZIE:** Quick, everybody! Set! Make believe we didn't see him  
comin'.

*Maw goes up LEFT to the shelves. Zeke remains where he is,  
scratching away.*

**BETTY SU:** (*As Lizzie shoves her toward center*) Why?

FEUDIN', FIGHTIN' & FUSSIN'

**LIZZIE:** Ya want him to think we're a bunch of dumb hillbillies gawkin' out the door like we never seen city folk afore? Now do somethin' natural!

**MAW:** (*Getting a bowl*) I'll act like I'm startin' supper.

**BETTY SU:** Whut air we havin' fer supper?

**MAW:** Fried brains.

**BETTY SU:** (*Going up LEFT to her*) Ummmm!

**LIZZIE:** Okay, Betty Su, you act as if you're helpin' Maw. Zeke, you do somethin' natural too.

**ZEKE:** (*Still scratching*) I am.

**LIZZIE:** Not thet! Jest set thar!

*Zeke sits on bench LEFT center, stiffly and unnaturally, staring straight ahead, hands folded in his lap. Lizzie fusses with her bouquet on the table RIGHT center, one eye on the door, RIGHT. Bill Bishop appears there, rather uncertainly looking for a bell or at least a door upon which to knock.*

**BILL:** Er—Hello?

**LIZZIE:** (*Turning with affected surprise*) Yes?

**BILL:** I was—uh, told this was the Fernheiser's cabin.

**LIZZIE:** Thet it be! Won't you come in?

**BILL:** (*Entering*) Thank you. I hope I didn't startle you. I was looking for a bell or a door so I could knock, but—

**LIZZIE:** At our place you jest got to holler. The door blew off last September.

**BILL:** Oh. How do you do, Mrs. Fernheiser! And Betty Su, Zeke.

**MAW:** Howdy! My! We shore air surprised to see you!

**BETTY SU:** YEAH! We never noticed you comin' up the road, round the bend, and stopping to look at the field across the way.

**BILL:** (*Moving center and frowning at Zeke who hasn't moved a muscle.*) Is something wrong with him?

**LIZZIE:** We always figured thar must be.

**ZEKE:** (*Talking without moving his jaw*) I'm jest actin' natural, Mr. Third.

**BILL:** The name's Bishop. William Bishop III.

**ZEKE:** When kin I stop lookin' natural, Lizzie?

**MAW:** Honest, Zeke, this bowl's got more brains than you.

**BILL:** The bowl has brains?

**BETTY SU:** (*Bringing it down and shoving it under his nose*) Lots more! See? We're having fried brains for supper!

**BILL:** (*Jumping back*) Oh!

**LIZZIE:** Did you ever eat brains? (*Bill violently shakes his head; she's very close to him*) Then why don't you try some? They're good—really good wit salt.

**BILL:** (*Looking at her*) Yes—salty brains.

**LIZZIE:** Please stay.

**BILL:** (*Still looking at her*) Well—all right!

**LIZZIE:** Won't you take off yer coat and set?

**BILL:** I'll sit but I'll keep my coat on, thanks.

**LIZZIE:** (*Thoughtfully*) You look warm.

**BILL:** (*Sitting at LEFT side of the table RIGHT center*) It was quite a hike from the highway. I hated to bring my new car up this road.

**MAW:** (*Coming RIGHT center as Lizzie beckons her*) Come now, take off yer coat! We want ya to be comfortable!

**LIZZIE:** (*Prodding Maw on*) Yep. Take yer coat off.

**BILL:** (*As Maw gets behind him and jerks off his coat despite his protests*) But I really would—Well, thank you.

**MAW:** Hyar, Betty Su, hang this on the nail stickin' through the wall from the goat pen. (*Betty Su takes the coat and exits LEFT. Lizzie crosses LEFT to whisper to Zeke, pointing at Bill's feet.*)

**BILL:** I stopped by because I wanted to speak to Mr. Fernheiser. Uh—is he about?

**MAW:** Shore. Don't be scared of him, young feller. His shotgun is worse than his aim.

**BILL:** I wanted to talk to him about the library. I'm sure I can convince him how much good it will do your community. (*Zeke gets down on the floor on his hands and knees and crawls toward Bill, looking at Bill's feet in serious contemplation.*)

**LIZZIE:** That's whut we wanted to talk to you about, too.

**MAW:** We wuz talkin' about it afore you come, Mr. Third.

**BILL:** Bishop.

**MAW:** I hate feudin'. Always did. But we got nothin' else to do in these hills for entertainment.

**BILL:** Yes, I can see that.

*Betty Su reenters LEFT without the coat. She remains at LEFT.*

**MAW:** I grew up half-orphan because of feudin', Mr. Third. I wuz thinkin' when Mrs. Snodgrass wuz talkin', how much good her money could do if we had a recreation hall to take folks' minds off feudin'.

**BILL:** But don't you think a library would— (*To Zeke, at his feet*) What are you doing?

**ZEKE:** Lookin' at yer shoes.

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**BILL:** Why?

**ZEKE:** I wuz wonderin' how you stood 'em.

**BILL:** Why—easily.

**ZEKE:** Don't yer feet sweat?

**BILL:** Really, I—

**BETTY SU:** Especially on a hot day like this! Wouldn't you rather be barefoot like us?

**BILL:** Oh, I—

**ZEKE:** I bet yer feet are uncomfortable! You walked all the way up hyar from the highway! Why don't you take yer shoes off?

**BILL:** No, I—

**MAW:** Shore! Take yer shoes off an' let yer toes breathe fer awhile, Mr. Third!

**BILL:** (*As Zeke begins to remove his shoes*) No, Really! I don't want to!

**MAW:** Now, don't feel you need to be perlitte around us, Mr. Third. Yer among friends.

**LIZZIE:** Come on, Maw!

**BILL:** (*Struggling*) No!

*Lizzie and Maw help Zeke. Betty Su crosses to help.*

**ZEKE:** (*Pulling off a shoe*) Mighty fancy foot gear!

**BILL:** Help!

**MAW:** (*Holding a leg while they remove shoes and socks*) Now, don't be bashful!

*After the shoes have been removed they stand back beaming at him.*

**BETTY SU:** Now, ain't that better?

**BILL:** Please, people! I just want to talk to you! I don't want to eat brains and run around barefooted and—

**LIZZIE:** Why not?

**BILL:** Why not?! Well, I—I don't know.

**BETTY SU:** (*Throwing his shoes down in front of him.*) Hyar! Put yer shoes back on if yer too good to go barefoot like the rest of us!

**BILL:** I didn't mean it that way!

**LIZZIE:** That's the way it sounded.

**BILL:** All right. I'm comfortable. I like being barefooted. (*Stopping suddenly, holding his feet straight out and wiggling his toes*) Hey, I do like being barefoot!

**MAW:** (*Moving up LEFT*) I knew it! First time I seen you I said to myself, thar's one boy who'd like being barefoot!

**BILL:** Thanks! (*Suddenly clearing his throat and sitting straight in the chair*) We must discuss something—your library. You've got to have one.

*Zeke and Betty Su cross LEFT center to sit.*

**LIZZIE:** Why?

**BILL:** Because—There are a million good reasons!

**LIZZIE:** Name one.

**BILL:** (*He can't think of any*) Well—

**LIZZIE:** Mr. Third, you cain't force folks to take whut they ain't ready to take! We got some books at the school and the older folks cain't read anyways.

**BILL:** Yes, I guess a recreation hall would be better for this locality.

**BETTY SU:** (*Rising*) Wheeeeeee!

**ZEKE:** (*Rising*) Doggone!

**BILL:** (*Rising*) Now, wait a minute! I can see your point, but we've got to build a library! I can't let you build anything else!

**LIZZIE:** Why not?

**BILL:** I wish you'd stop asking those questions! You know well enough why not. Because of Mrs. Snodgrass! She doesn't like sports or dances. She doesn't like recreation halls!

**LIZZIE:** Mrs. Snodgrass LEFT, didn't she?

**BILL:** I know, but—

**LIZZIE:** Whut she don't know, won't hurt her, will it?

**BILL:** But she'd find out!

**LIZZIE:** How?

**BILL:** She always comes to inspect the buildings after they're completed.

**LIZZIE:** Couldn't you put knockout drops in her cough drops thet day?

**BILL:** No!

**LIZZIE:** We ought to be able to think of some good way to keep her out of hyar. Mr. Third—

**BILL:** Call me Bill. Please. Or anything but Mr. Third.

**ZEKE:** I thought you said thet wuz yer name.

**BILL:** No!

**LIZZIE:** Bill, I'll get an idée how to keep her away. I always get ideas.

**BILL:** I can't do it! Why, Mrs. Snodgrass would eat me alive.

FEUDIN', FIGHTIN' & FUSSIN'

**LIZZIE:** (*Going close to him*) Air you going to let Mrs. Snodgrass stand in the way of whut a whole county needs? We could have fun buildin' the recreation hall this summer! We could go down to the swimmin' hole after work. An' take walks together. (*She puts a flower from her bouquet in a buttonhole in his shirt*) Don't let that Mrs. Snodgrass order you to do somethin' you know ain't right! Help us, Mr. Third. We're appealin' to ya.

**BILL:** (*To himself*) Yes, you are appealing to me.

**BETTY SU:** (*Getting down on her knees at center while Zeke above her makes motions of playing a violin.*) Help us git a place fer dances. And games. And fer the older polecats.

**BILL:** (*Laughing*) Okay, okay! You win! It'll be a recreation hall!

**BETTY SU:** (*Jumping up*) Yipppppeeeeeee!

*She and Zeke take hands and prance around the stage.*

**MAW:** This calls for a celebration! I'm gonna make some hog jowls an' black eyed peas to go along with the fried brains!

**LIZZIE:** Oh Bill! Thanks!

**BILL:** But remember—we'll have to keep Mrs. Snodgrass from finding out!

**LIZZIE:** We will. Don't worry.

*Paw enters at LEFT with his gun.*

**PAW:** (*Raising gun to shoot*) Ah-Ha! Thar's the liberry-builder!

**BETTY SU:** Don't, Paw!

**PAW:** (*Advancing towards the petrified Bill*) No danged liberry-builder is comin' in my house. Now git!

**MAW:** Hold on thar, Paw! He ain't a liberry-builder. He's a recreation-hall-builder now! Ain't thet right, Mr. Third?

**BILL:** Oh, yes! (*Wiggling his toes*) Bill Third, recreation-hall-builder!

**PAW:** Ain't thet funny? I thought yer name was Bishop?

**BILL:** (*Defeated*) I answer to either.

**LIZZIE:** We talked him into it, Paw! Ain't you proud of us?

**PAW:** I shore am! (*Putting aside his gun and striding with hand extended*) Put 'er thar, Mr. Bishop-Third!

**BILL:** Just call me Bill.

**MAGNOLIA:** (*Off LEFT*) Hey, Maw!

**MAW:** Whut do you young 'uns want? Supper ain't ready yit.

**HYACINTH:** (*Off LEFT*) We got somethin' to show ya!

**MAW:** Wal, show me in hyar. I ain't leavin' the company.

BY LE ROMA GRETH

*Hyacinth, Magnolia and Honeysuckle dash in at LEFT wearing their 'gym' suits.*

**HONEYSUCKLE:** We're all ready fer the recreation hall, Maw!  
These be our gym suits!

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