

ABNER

Howdy, Daisy.

DAISY

I bring you some worms, Abner.
(Hands the can of worms to MAMMY)

MAMMY

Worms! A person'd think it was Valentine's Day!
(Hands the can of worms to
ABNER and nudges HIM again)

ABNER

Thanks, Daisy.

DAISY

Hopes you likes 'em. They's fresh, firm and wriggly!

MAMMY

Just like yo' adorable self!

DAISY

(Shyly)

Oh, Mammy--
(Takes one step L)

ABNER

Thanks--I better use these worms now. the boys is waitin' fo'
me.

(Starts off R)

MAMMY

(Pulls ABNER L below HER
to side of DAISY)
Boys can wait. Ain't you and Daisy got some talkin' to do!
(Xing U to cabin)

ABNER

(To DAISY)

Is it about Sadie Hawkins Day!

DAISY

Nachelly.

ABNER

Sorry, Daisy, that's a subject ah cain't discuss.
(Starts off R, stops)

'Cept fo' one thing.

(DAISY steps toward HIM)

You keep waitin' around fo' me you liable to throw yo' whole
life away - and ah couldn't stand that.

(Pats DAISY on shoulder)

ABNER (Continued)

This year you just better catch yo'self somebody else.
(Grabs fishing pole from
R porch post and exits R1)

DAISY

Sometimes ah thinks ah just hates Li'l Abner.

MAMMY

(Xing D to DAISY)

Now, you don't, chile - and this year you gonna catch him come
Sadie Hawkins Day, even if you has to do business with the
detestable but ever available Available Jones!

DAISY

(Shocked)

Mammy!

(EARTHQUAKE McGOON and
MARRYIN' SAM enter R1
and stop DR)

EARTHQUAKE

That's pretty good for the average man...But, tell me, Sam,
since ah is prepared to extend myself financially, what have
you in a Two Dollah Weddin'?

SAM

Mah Two Dollah Weddin'? My boy, it is spectacular. Fust, ah
strips to the waist and rassels the four biggest guests, male
or female.

(Tips hat, Xing L
of EARTHQUAKE)

Mornin', ladies.

MAMMY and DAISY

Mornin', Marryin' Sam.

EARTHQUAKE

Go on, my good man.

SAM

(Xing L, below MAMMY and DAISY,
followed by EARTHQUAKE)

Next ah tells four off-color jokes guaranteed to embarrass man
or beast, then as the applause dies down, ah dances a jig with
a pig, ties mah arms and laigs to four infuriated mules, and
as they run off in all directions trying to tear me apart, I
recites five of the more dynamic speeches of Alf Landon,
backwards!!

EARTHQUAKE

That sounds all right for the lower classes --

(MAMMY and DAISY XD)

but the lady ah has in mind is entitled to somethin' a little mo' hoi polloi.

(To MAMMY and DAISY)

Mornin', ladies.

MAMMY

Hmpf.

EARTHQUAKE

My, Daisy Mae, you is lookin' especially pretty today.

DAISY

(Cool)

Thank you, Mr. McGoon.

(Turning away)

MAMMY

And jest what does a rat-varmint like you want with information about a two dollah weddin'?

EARTHQUAKE

(Xing R, passing below

MAMMY and DAISY)

Could be ah'm fixin' to git married, since ah just returned home with mah newly acquired title, namely, "World's Dirtiest Wrestler!" and being so well-heeled, nachelly ah aims to wed me a certain Dogpatch gal.

SAM

You crazy or somethin'?

DAISY

You know a man can't claim a gal lessen she catches him herself on Sadie Hawkins Day!

EARTHQUAKE

(Xing L past SAM)

If you wants the answers I suggest you perambulates over to the Phogbound Meetin' that's about to be held at

(With meaning)

Cornpone Square!

ALL

(Shocked)

CORNPONE SQUARE!!

MAMMY

You mean this is goin' to be a Cornpone Meetin'?

EARTHQUAKE

By direct request of mah good friend, Senator Jack S. Phogbound.

DAISY

This could be serious.

SAM

We only has Cornpone Meetin's so' events of national importance --

MAMMY

Or a hideous change in the Dogpatch way of life.

EARTHQUAKE

They's gonna be a hideous change all right!...Come on, Sam --
(Takes HIS arm)
Now tell me 'bout yo' Fo' Dollah Weddin'...

SAM

(Looks at women, then Xes L
passing EARTHQUAKE: unhappy)
Well, I don't crave yo' business - but I cain't discimitate!
...Fust ah clips yo' toenails, gives you a quick shave and a
sponge bath if you needs it -- an' frankly ah'd say you needs
it! Then ah makes a shockin' proposal to the bride's mother,
followed by a...

(SAM and EARTHQUAKE exit L1)

MAMMY

Looks bad, Daisy. You high-tail it up to Polecat Creek and
tell Abner and them no-good skunks to get over to that
meetin'!

DAISY

Right! But, what if they'd druther not?

MAMMY

You tell then I'd druther they'd druther! And when Pansy
Yokum says she'd druther they'd druther --
(Spits on hands)

DAISY

Brother, they'd druther!

START LOG UNIT
ON R1

/3 & 4/ INCIDENTAL (Orchestra)

LIGHTS DIM OUT

(As DAISY exits R2, MAMMY picks box
up, puts it on porch, and looks off L)

CABIN MOVES
UPSTAGE
YOKUMBERRY TREE
STRUCK L1
WILLOW DROP IN
FISHING HOLE DROP IN
AS LOG IS ALMOST
SET, LIGHTS
BUILD UP

ACT ONE
Scene 5

SCENE:

DOGPATCH ROAD

FOURTEEN DOGPATCHERS begin to cross R to L with items they consider necessary: an old horse collar, beat-up tuba, old phonograph, then AVAILABLE with HIS shower contraption a dress dummy, a brass bed, a bell, an easel, a Confederate Flag, a phonograph speaker, wringer, stuffed pig on a tray, toward the end, we find MARRYIN' SAM bringing HIS mule, followed by SPEEDY McRABBIT with HIS peculiar walk, carrying a big daisy. (LIGHT CUE) The last one on is ABNER, carrying a large box. DAISY enters R1, calling after him.

DAISY

(Stopping ABNER)

Abner, Abner--wait a minute.

ABNER

(Uneasily)

Daisy, we got to help find somethin' necessary! (MUSIC FADE)

DAISY

But--But, Abner--Don't you realize what you jest done?

(Sweetly)

You finally asked me to marry you!

ABNER

(Smiling nervously)

Yeah, I know. Look, Daisy, we better find somethin' necessary or our whole town...

(HE tries to move off)

DAISY

(Restraining HIM; coquettishly)

Abner, why did you do it?

ABNER

(Embarrassed)

Oh, I don't know; I just did it, that's all!

DAISY

(Coquettishly; persistently)

But why?

ABNER

(Fumbling)

Well...

(Puts down box HE has
been carrying)

There you were, yo' sweet usual self--and there was Ol'
Earthquake, a-lookin' at you like a hound dog on the first day
of huntin' season--an' I ain't gonna let no one look at you
like a hound dog, specially not a hound dog like McGoon.

(Stoutly)

So I just ups and done it, that's all.

DAISY

(Still coquettish)

Does this mean you aims to let me catch you if we has Sadie
Hawkins Day?

ABNER

(Uncomfortable)

Reckon so.

DAISY

Oh, Abner!

(Takes HIS arm; sighs happily)

What took you so long?

ABNER

(Genuinely perplexed)

Ah don't really know, Daisy. Some years ah's wanted to awful
bad, but I jest couldn't. Ah don't know why ah couldn't but
ah couldn't.

DAISY

They must have been a reason.

ABNER

But what was it?

(Putting HIS foot up on the box)

Take last year's race. There ah was lopin' along with my
usual burst of brilliant speed, when ah looked around and seen
you sweet and pretty, reachin' out your hands to grab me for
life, an all of a sudden a little voice inside of me hollered
"Abner boy, take off!"

(Taking HIS foot off the box)

And ah took.

(LIGHT CUE)

DAISY

(Sweetly)

But that's all behind us now.

ABNER

You really recon?

(Sitting on box)

(MUSIC CUE)