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MEREDITH WILLSON'S

**MRS. PAROO**

GARY, INDIANA –

**MARIAN**

GARY, INDIANA –

**ALL THREE**GARY, INDIANA,  
MY HOME SWEET HOME.*(WINTHROP does a quick dance step on the tag)***WINTHROP***(Grabs his worms and runs off into house, reappears)*

I'll be back in a minute. I have to show Amaryllith my live frog.

*(SINGS loudly as he EXITS)*

La de da de da de da de da. La de da. La de da.

*(MRS. PAROO starts into the house)***MARIAN**

Leave the dishes – I'll do them, Mama.

**MRS. PAROO**

Don't you have to change for the Sociable?

**MARIAN**

There's time later.

*(CHARLIE COWELL ENTERS LEFT, passes porch, turns back)***START****CHARLIE COWELL**

Shinns live around here somewhere?

**MARIAN**

The Shinn home is on East Elm. This is West Elm.

**CHARLIE COWELL**

Aw Criminee!

*(Sees "PIANO GIVEN" sign on porch)*

I see you're the piano teacher in town? You must know about this fellow Hill formin' a Boys' Band here.



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THE MUSIC MAN

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**MARIAN**

Yes...

**CHARLIE COWELL**

Well, don't let it worry you no more, I got the goods on him in spades.  
Swindlin' two-bit thimble rigger. That's why I got to see Shinn.

*(Pulls out watch)*

I'm just passin' through. Number eight only makes a fifteen-minute water stop.  
Wish it was 20. Would sure like to concentrate five minutes on you, girly-girl.

**MARIAN**

Who are you?

*(Rises)***CHARLIE COWELL**

Name's Charlie Cowell — anvil salesman. But just now I'm out to protect the good  
name of the travellin' fraternity from this swindler.

**MARIAN**

Mr. Cowell, you're making a big mistake.

**CHARLIE COWELL**

Mistake my old lady's corset-cover! That fella's been the raspberry seed in my  
wisdom tooth just long enough. He spoiled Illinois for me and he's not gonna spoil  
Iowa! Say, what kind of music teacher are you, you didn't see through him? He's no  
more Professor —

**MARIAN**

I know all about that. Band leaders are always called Professor. It's a harmless decep-  
tion. He's a fine director and his scholastic —

**CHARLIE COWELL**

Now wait a minute. Fine director? Have you heard one note a' music from any band?

**MARIAN**

No, but —

**CHARLIE COWELL**

But nothin', girly-girl! He never formed a band in his life! And he never will!

*(Waves papers)***MARIAN**

If you'll just listen to me for a minute —

**STOP**