



(DIMOUT)

END OF SCENE TEN

SCENE ELEVEN

(TIME: Noon, the following Saturday.)

AT RISE: Center of town, exterior. ZANEETA is crossing followed by TOMMY wearing his invention)

START

TOMMY

(Calling)

... Zaneeta... Hey, Zaneeta –

(ZANEETA stops and turns)

ZANEETA

Tommy, Papa and Mama are sitting right there in the bank. Ye Gods!

TOMMY

All right, then meet me after supper.

ZANEETA

I can't. It's Epworth League night. Meet you where?

TOMMY

The footbridge.

ZANEETA

You see? Isn't that just what I said? Last time the lumber yard and now the foot-bridge. And where will you meet me after that? In the Black Hole of Calcutta? Ye Gods.

TOMMY

I only want to show you my invention.

ZANEETA

What invention?

TOMMY

My music holder for a marching Piccolo player. It still has a couple of minor flaws; see, when you keep it tight enough to hold the music steady you cut off the circulation and you can't wiggle your fingers. Meanwhile –

(Demonstrates how close it would be in playing position)

**(TOMMY)**

You could go blind.

ZANEETA*(Gestures in alarm at OLIVER HIX'S office)*

Tommy! It's Papa!

*(TOMMY leaves in a hurry as SHINN and EULALIE ENTER)***STOP****SHINN**

Is that the first thing I said, or not?

EULALIE

Yes, George.

SHINN

Yes! The very first thing I said or I'll eat hay with the horse! Get that Spellbinder's credentials, I said, morning of Jew-ly Fourth, Nineteen and Twelve. And now look! My wife is off dancing at any and all hours instead of in the home –

EULALIE

But George –

SHINN

– the School Board is singin' up street and down alley instead of tending to city matters, my oldest girl is boodling around with some wild kid and my business has fallen off so far I can't find the balance sheet.

MARIAN*(ENTERING with brown book)*

Mayor Shinn, I've found something very interesting in this book about Professor Hill's Alma Mater.

SHINN

His who?

MARIAN

His university.

SHINN

I know all about that. In fact, that's the only thing I can ever get out of him – Gary Conservatory, class of aught-five.