

LT. BRANNIGAN

GUS & DOLLS

- 62 -

HARRY

P63-67

Nathan—

(NATHAN crosses to Harry)

—if there is no crap game tonight I am sure Big Jule will be considerably displeased; and Big Jule does not like to be displeased, as you can find out from those citizens who at one time or another displeased him. Although I will admit it is very hard to find such citizens in view of the fact that they are no longer around and about.

NATHAN

Why, Harry, you don't think I would be so rude as to displease a gentleman like Big Jule here, do you?

(He puts his hand on Big Jule's arm)

Big Jule, believe me when I tell you that when Nathan Detroit—Nathan Detroit—

(He moves his hand and pats Big Jule on the chest. His words slow down as he feels Jule's gun. He removes his hand as though he touched a hot stove)

—When Nathan Detroit arranges something—you can count on it that—

(He peters out as BRANNIGAN enters from L.1 and crosses to the group. They are practically lined up for him and he looks them over very carefully)

BRANNIGAN

Well!—Well!—an interesting gathering indeed. The cream of society—Angie the Ox—Society Max—Rusty Charlie—Liver Lips Louie.

(He walks up looking them over—goes down the line but nobody says anything)

Hey, Harry the Horse, all the way from Brooklyn, and—

(Steps up—stops in front of Big Jule)

Pardon me, I'm very bad on names, but your face looks familiar. Mind telling me where you're from?

(BIG JULE chews his cigar a moment)

BIG JULE

East Cicero, Illinois.

BRANNIGAN

Oh, what do you do there?

BIG JULE

I'm a Scout Master.

BRANNIGAN

Well, don't ever help my mother across the street.

(Smells flower in one of the mug's lapel)

Mmm—lovely.

(Looks over the line-up of flowered lapels)

This looks like the male chorus—

(Crosses D.L.)

—from "Blossom Time". What's the occasion?

(His eyes travel over the entire group. They finally settle on Benny)

NATHAN

Well, we—er—

BENNY

It's a party.

BRANNIGAN

Indeed! What kind of a party?

(At this moment ADELAIDE backs onto the stage. She is waving at some girls)

ADELAIDE

Goodbye, girls, see you tomorrow.

(BENNY sees her and immediately gets his idea, he grabs ADELAIDE by the waist and leads her over to Brannigan)

It's a bachelor dinner. Nathan's getting married.

ADELAIDE

What!

HARRY

(Grabbing Nathan and leading him forcibly to Adelaide and placing him with his arms around Adelaide. NATHAN is obviously taken by surprise and shows it)

That is correct, Lieutenant! It's a bachelor dinner. Nathan's getting married.

BENNY

Yes, sir!

(Sings)

FOR—

GROUP

— HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW,
FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW
FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW—

BIG JULE

(Step down C.)

Which nobody cannot deny.

(Slaps Nathan on back, almost upsetting HIM. NATHAN lifts ADELAIDE to stage R.)

ADELAIDE

Nathan darling, I'm so thrilled! Why didn't you tell me?

NATHAN

It was a surprise.

ADELAIDE

But when I saw you standing here with all these—fine gentlemen, I never dreamed it was a bachelor dinner. I thought it was a—

NATHAN

(Suddenly dropping in)

Oh, it's a bachelor dinner.

BENNY

(Also to the rescue)

It's a bachelor dinner.

NATHAN

Yes, sir! A bachelor dinner.

ADELAIDE

Just think after fourteen years I'm finally going to become Mrs. Nathan Detroit. Time Certainly does fly.

BRANNIGAN

Tell me, Nathan. When is the happy day?

ADELAIDE

When will it be, Nathan?

NATHAN

Well

BRANNIGAN

Nathan, these good fellows are nice enough to give you a bachelor dinner. You should at least tell them the wedding date.

NATHAN

(Shouts)

Well, we need time for a license and our blood test.

ADELAIDE

(Sighs)

Gee, wouldn't it be wonderful if we could be married tomorrow night. Right after the show at the Hot Box.

NATHAN

Adelaide, we need time for a license—

BRANNIGAN

You could elope.

NATHAN

What?

BRANNIGAN

You can drive down to Maryland—what's the name of that town?

BENNY

(Standing to R. of Brannigan)

Pimlico.

BRANNIGAN

Not Pimlico, no, Nathan, Elkton. They'll marry you right away. They don't ask you for a blood test.

NATHAN

Ain't that unhealthy?

HARRY

Nathan, that's a great idea—elope. I'll lend you my getaway car.

(He takes a quick look at Brannigan)

My Buick—

ADELAIDE

(Throws her arms around his neck)

Oh, Nathan, let's do it.

NATHAN

(Long pause—sighs)

Well—what the hell—

(THEY embrace. ALL congratulate him—ad lib)

BRANNIGAN

My congratulations too, Nathan. And I only hope there is nothing in heredity.

(He exits)

ADELAIDE

Nathan, I got so many things to do before we elope. You'll be at the Hot Box tomorrow night?

NATHAN

I'll have a table reserved and I'll be all dressed up in whatever you elope in.

ADELAIDE

Oh, Nathan, I'm so happy. I ought to wire my mother. Only what'll I wire her?

NATHAN

Send the telegram and date it back.

ADELAIDE

I'd better wait until we have five children. It won't take us long.

(She exits)

HARRY

(Crosses R. to Nathan)

Nathan, you are indeed a lucky fellow. A most beautiful doll indeed. Do you agree, Big Jule?

BIG JULE

Tell me—

(To Nathan)

—how long you know the doll?

NATHAN

Fourteen years.

BIG JULE

Let's shoot crap.

BENNY

(Darts over to Nathan)

Nathan, you'd better find a place!

NATHAN

How can I? The money from Sky ain't come yet.

BENNY

Maybe it won't come! Maybe he took the doll to Havana.