

WHICH MEANS WE'RE  
PRACTIC'LLY THERE  
AT THE IOWA FAIR.  
HAVEN'T HAD THIS FEELING ALL YEAR.  
AND NOW IT'S JUST PAST THE BEND,  
YES, THE VERY LAST BEND.  
KEEP THE OLD JALOPY IN GEAR.

WE'RE HERE! WE'RE HERE!  
WE'RE HERE! WE'RE HERE!  
WE'RE HERE!

*(As the last note is held, UNCLE SAM appears on stilts.)*

#### UNCLE SAM

Step right up! Welcome to the heart of the Hawkeye State! Welcome to the 1946 Iowa State Fair! Step right up!

*(The music continues as the scene shifts to reveal:)*

### **Scene 3: The Midway at the Hoop-La Booth – later that morning**

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*(To the cacophony of the BARKERS' overlapping pitches, their booths begin coming into view – the Concession Stand, the Shooting Gallery, the Hoop-La Booth and the Balloon Stand.)*

#### CONCESSION VENDOR

Step right up! Get your cotton candy, candy apples and salt water taffy! Step right up! Cotton candy, candy apples and delicious salt water taffy! Sweets for your sweetie right here! Hand-spun cotton candy, hand-dipped candy apples and mouth-watering salt water taffy made fresh all day long! Don't forget to take a box or two home with ya. Sweets for your sweetie right here! Get your cotton candy, candy apples and salt water taffy!

#### SHOOTING GALLERY BARKER

*(Simultaneous with CONCESSION VENDOR'S second "Step right up!")*

Step right up, folks, and test your marksmanship. One round of ammo for one thin dime. Step right up! One round for a dime, three rounds for two bits. Four ducks wins any prize on the shelf. How about you, girly, if your fella's too shy? Show him how it's done or, better yet, let's have a little shootin' match between the two o' ya. Whaddaya say?

#### HOOP-LA BARKER

*(Simultaneous with SHOOTING GALLERY BARKER'S second "Step right up!")*

Step right up, ladies and gents! Three rings for a dime – the prize you ring is the prize you get! Step right up! We're havin' some fun here – ha-ha!

#### BALLOON VENDOR

*(Simultaneous with HOOP-LA BARKER'S second "Step right up!")*

Step right up, kids! One balloon for a dime, three for a quarter.

ALL

Step right up!

OUR STATE FAIR IS A GREAT STATE FAIR –  
DON'T MISS IT, DON'T EVEN BE LATE.  
IT'S DOLLARS TO DOUGHNUTS THAT OUR STATE FAIR  
IS THE BEST STATE FAIR IN OUR STATE!

*(TWO CLOWNS – one dressed as a calf, the other as a piglet – tap dance,  
delighting the CROWD.)*

OUR STATE FAIR!  
OUR STATE FAIR!

*(Chanting)*

Our state fair is a great state fair!  
Is a great...  
Is a great...  
Is a great state fair!  
Hey!

OUR STATE FAIR IS A GREAT STATE FAIR –  
DON'T MISS IT, DON'T EVEN BE LATE.  
IT'S DOLLARS TO DOUGHNUTS THAT OUR STATE FAIR  
IS THE BEST STATE FAIR IN OUR STATE!

Music 6: UNDERSCORE – MIDWAY CALLIOPE

*(We are on the stretch of midway reserved for the gaming trade. Rides can be  
seen in the distance including a Ferris wheel and a death-defying roller coaster.  
The distinctive voice of the FAIR ANNOUNCER is heard over the public address  
system.)*

FAIR ANNOUNCER (OFFSTAGE)

Just a reminder, folks – those old gas ration cards are still good for one ride on the Tilt-A-Whirl.

*(MARGY and WAYNE enter, MARGY carrying a cone of cotton candy.)*

WAYNE

Hey, there's the Hoop-La. C'mon – I feel lucky.

MARGY

We better get over to the roller coaster before the line gets too long.

WAYNE

Roller coaster? Last year you were scared senseless – said you'd never ride it again.

MARGY

Well, that was last year.

WAYNE

I don't wanna go on any stupid rides - kid's stuff.

MARGY

All right, Grampa Moses, you go watch the fertilizer demonstration. I wanna have some fun.

WAYNE

Just be careful. I'm supposed to be keepin' an eye on you.

MARGY

Thank you, big brother. I promise not to have a second cotton candy and run amok.  
*(She exits; music out. WAYNE turns his attention to the Hoop-La Booth where the BARKER is giving his pitch to a few prospective CUSTOMERS.)*

HOOP-LA BARKER

Step right up, ladies and gents! We're havin' some fun here - ha-ha! Three rings for a dime - the prize you ring is the prize you get! Prizes worth up to fifteen dollars! Ain't nobody got the pioneer spirit? Tell ya what I'll do - I'll put three crisp one-dollar bills down right here... and here... and here.

WAYNE

Is that money real?

HOOP-LA BARKER

If ya don't like 'em, I'll give you a buck apiece for 'em.  
*(The CROWD chuckles.)*

VOICE IN THE CROWD

The hoops don't even fit around those things.

WAYNE

I did it last year. I won a pearl-handled revolver.

HOOP-LA BARKER

Well, now there, ya see? Bring down any grizzly "bars" with that shootin' iron, sonny?  
*(Again the CROWD chuckles.)*

Now listen here, young Daniel Boone - just to kick things off, I'll give you three rings on the house.

*(He passes three hoops to WAYNE, who squares off and takes aim as the BARKER continues his pitch.)*

I can't win - I can only lose - but I'm only in it for the sport. I love this game!  
*(WAYNE tosses the first hoop and misses.)*

Oops - looks like ya got a little rusty since last year, but then you're just warming up, isn't that right, sonny?

*(Again the CROWD chuckles; WAYNE'S jaw tightens. He pulls himself to his full height and takes aim.)*

Now, who'll be next?

*(WAYNE tosses the hoop and a bell rings – ding! The surprised BARKER forces a laugh, handing a dollar bill to WAYNE.)*

Yessiree, Bub, another winner! We're havin' some fun now – ha-ha!

*(WAYNE tosses the third hoop and again the bell rings. There's an appreciative murmur from the CROWD, which is growing larger. The BARKER begrudgingly hands a second dollar to WAYNE.)*

Ha-ha! I'm down two greenbacks but I'm only in it for the sport of the game! So now that you've all seen how easy it is, who'll be next?

WAYNE

*(Putting his dime on the counter.)*

I'll try again.

HOOP-LA BARKER

*(To a MAN wearing thick glasses.)*

How about you, sir? You look like ya got a good eye.

MAN WITH GLASSES

Ya got a customer right there.

A VOICE IN THE CROWD

He's trying to dodge the kid.

ANOTHER VOICE IN THE CROWD

Yeah, he's too good for him.

*(The CROWD chuckles.)*

HOOP-LA BARKER

*(Passing three hoops to WAYNE.)*

All right, buddy – here ya go.

*(Stepping to the other end of the counter.)*

Step right up, folks – we're havin' some fun here...!

*(He's interrupted by the "ding" of the bell.)*

Ha-ha!

*(Shoving the third dollar at WAYNE.)*

Oh, I love a winner.

*(Grabbing WAYNE'S arm as he aims.)*

Now hold on there, boy – I want you to have a fair shake and that ring looks warped.

*(He reaches under the counter and brings out another hoop which he offers to WAYNE.)*

Here, try this one.

WAYNE

This one's all right.

*(He takes aim and tosses the hoop; again the bell rings and the CROWD cheers.)*

HOOP-LA BARKER

*(Handing WAYNE a vanity case.)*

Three bucks and a lovely vanity case but I'm still laughing – ha-ha!