

LADIES

CHEEP, CHEEP, CHEEP, CHEEP, CHEEP, CHEEP, CHEEP, CHEEP,
CHEEP, CHEEP, CHEEP, CHEEP, CHEEP, CHEEP, CHEEP, CHEEP!
PICK A LITTLE, TALK A LITTLE,

(Whispered)

CHEEP!

(BLACKOUT)

END OF SCENE ONE

SCENE TWO

(TIME: The following Wednesday evening. After supper.

AT RISE: The Hotel Porch. JACEY, OLIN, OLIVER, EWART, all wearing silver stars, are on the alert as HAROLD is trying to escape them)

EWART

Sorry, Professor, but we got our orders.

OLIVER

We all been deputized.

HAROLD

Yes — congratulations. Let's see now — you know all week I've tried to give you fellows my references and credentials but every time you seem to get off the subject somehow. Now I have just what you want up in my hotel room — take me a second.

EWART

Sorry. 'Fraid I'll have to go along with you.

HAROLD

Yes — well, let's see if I have my key —

(Finds paper in pocket)

What's this? — Oh — a testimonial from Madame Rini, the only female Bassoon player ever to appear on the Redpath Circuit. Her stage name, of course. Actually she was from Moline. Lida Rose Quackenbush.

EWART

(Reaching)

Could I see that for a minute?

HAROLD

(Hastily pocketing it)

Oh, you'll never forget the name. Lida Rose. Same as the old song.

35 - *Lida Rose & Will I Ever Tell You* (Harold, Quartet, Marian)

(Gets out pitch pipe and blows it)

LIDA ROSE,
I'M HOME AGAIN, ROSE,

EWART

TO GET THE

QUARTET

(Instantly jumping in)

SUN BACK IN THE SKY.
LIDA ROSE, I'M HOME AGAIN, ROSE,
ABOUT A THOUSAND KISSES SHY.

DING, DONG, DING,
I CAN HEAR THE CHAPEL BELL CHIME.
DING, DONG, DING,
AT THE LEAST SUGGESTION,
I'LL POP THE QUESTION.

*(As the QUARTET starts,
HAROLD dusts off his hands,
leaves the porch and joins
MARCELLUS who has
ENTERED LEFT and is
beckoning to HAROLD.
THEY EXIT LEFT hastily)*

(QUARTET)

LIDA ROSE, I'M HOME AGAIN, ROSE
WITHOUT A SWEETHEART TO MY NAME.
LIDA ROSE, NOW EV'RYONE KNOWS
THAT I AM HOPING YOU'RE THE SAME.

SO HERE IS MY LOVE SONG;
NOT FANCY OR FINE.
LIDA ROSE, OH, WON'T YOU BE MINE?

JACEY, EWART, OLIVER

LIDA ROSE,
OH, LIDA ROSE,
OH, LIDA ROSE.

(LIGHTS FADE OUT on QUARTET as PAROO porch swings into view
STAGE LEFT.

MARIAN is sitting on the porch steps, MRS. PAROO in rocker on porch)

MARIAN

DREAM OF NOW.
DREAM OF THEN.
DREAM OF A LOVE SONG
THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

DO I LOVE YOU?
OH YES, I LOVE YOU,
AND I'LL BRAVELY TELL YOU,
BUT ONLY WHEN
WE DREAM AGAIN.

SWEET AND LOW,
SWEET AND LOW,
HOW SWEET THAT MEM'RY;
HOW LONG AGO.
FOREVER, OH YES, FOREVER.
WILL I EVER TELL YOU?
AH, NO.

(LIGHTS come up on QUARTET)

QUARTET

LIDA ROSE,
OH, LIDA ROSE,
OH...

MARIAN

DREAM OF NOW.

DREAM OF THEN.
DREAM OF A LOVE SONG

THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.
DO I LOVE YOU?
OH YES, I LOVE YOU,

QUARTET

...LIDA ROSE,
I'M HOME AGAIN, ROSE,
TO GET THE SUN BACK IN MY SKY.
LIDA ROSE,
I'M HOME AGAIN, ROSE,
ABOUT A THOUSAND KISSES SHY.
DING, DONG, DING,
I CAN HEAR THE CHAPEL BELL CHIME.

(MARIAN)

AND I'LL BRAVELY TELL YOU,
BUT ONLY WHEN
WE DREAM AGAIN.
SWEET AND LOW,

SWEET AND LOW,
HOW SWEET THAT MEM'RY;

HOW LONG AGO.
FOREVER,
OH YES, FOREVER.

WILL I EVER TELL YOU?

AH, NO.

(QUARTET)

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AT THE LEAST SUGGESTION,
I'LL POP THE QUESTION.
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WITHOUT A SWEETHEART TO MY NAME.
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SO HERE IS MY LOVE SONG;
NOT FANCY OR FINE.

LIDA ROSE,
OH, WON'T YOU BE MINE?

JACEY, EWART, OLIVER

LIDA ROSE,
OH, LIDA ROSE,
OH, LIDA ROSE.

(LIGHTS FADE OUT on QUARTET)

END OF SCENE TWO

SCENE THREE

(TIME: Immediately following.)

The PAROO'S Porch. MARIAN is sitting on the steps in the moonlight.
MRS. PAROO rocks and sews)

MRS. PAROO

(Testily)

Will you ever stop arguin' with yourself? Will you ever tell him -- won't you ever tell him -- ah yes -- ah no -- ah fiddlesticks. Just open your mouth and let it come out.

MARIAN

Now Mama --