

REED: Lock and load! Let's go!!!

*(They leap out of the foxhole. The moment they leap the lights flash and the sounds of war—horrible machine guns, explosions, whistling bombs—reverberate through the theater. They freeze the instant they are 'shot.')*

*(The lights fade. The sound segues into a radio broadcast.)*

AUSTIN: (V O) That was Division 13 of Alpha Company singing a song that won't be a hit for another thirty years. We now return you to the plush Starlight Room high atop the Palace Hotel for the scintillating sounds of Harry Dame and his Band of Acclaim. But first, the news. Dateline: 1919. The Treaty of Versailles is signed in Versailles. The Great War is over. Eighteenth Amendment ratified, creating Prohibition. And the Golden Age of Radio unites the country coast to coast transcontinentally from sea to shining sea!

*(Lights up on the performers at an old-fashioned microphone. They all have scripts—perhaps each in a different color [red, white, and blue?])—and they toss the pages on the floor as they finish reading them. Adam has a guitar [or harmonica] and on a music stand a bike horn, a slide whistle, and a train whistle.)*

AUSTIN: On in three, two,...

*(He counts "one" silently then points to ADAM, who plays three notes on his guitar.)*

ADAM: "You're listening to W X Y Z, abridged radio of the twenties, thirties, and forties."

REED/ANNOUNCER: "Good evening, Mister and Mrs America and welcome once again to another thrilling adventure of America's Favorite Cowboy, *Dodge Rambler, Boy Buckaroo*. Brought to you by the makers of *Thunder Bread*—"

*(AUSTIN makes the sound of thunder.)*

REED/ANNOUNCER: "—yes, Thunder Bread, individually sliced for your convenience with eight essential vitamins that'll make your body big where you need it. Thunder Bread."

*(More thunder)*

REED/ANNOUNCER: It'll make your body big where you need it."

*(ADAM plays a loping western tune on guitar.)*

REED/ANNOUNCER: "And now, journey with us back to those rugged days of yore, when men were men and so were the women, when frontier justice held sway, and America's Hero, Dodge Rambler, Boy Buckaroo, ruled the west with his best girl Molly and his faithful horse Gordon. Tonight, the makers of Thunder Bread..."

*(Thunder) "...and W X Y Z—"*

*(AUSTIN gives two quick squeezes to a bike horn hidden in the front of ADAM's trousers.)*

ADAM: What are you doing?

AUSTIN: Nothing. I'm just squeezing that horn you have.

ADAM: No—*here's* my horn.

*(ADAM picks a bike horn off of the music stand.)*

ALL: EEUUWW!!

REED/ANNOUNCER: "We present Episode 34: 'Dry Days in Dusty Gulch'."

*(ADAM crows like a rooster.)*

REED/ANNOUNCER: "A new day dawns in Dusty Gulch, as Dodge helps Molly plan the new schoolhouse."

ADAM/MOLLY: "It sure is good of you to help with the plans for the schoolhouse, Dodge."

AUSTIN/DODGE: "Shucks, Molly, t'ain't nothin' any other red-blooded American hero wouldn't do."