

**SONG # 14. "YOU WON'T DO ANY BUSINESS IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A BAND."**

words and music by George M. Cohan  
from Chip Deffaa's YANKEE DOODLE DANDY

*(The cast members act out the situations described in the song.)*

**TEENAGED GMC:** *(Sings, to the audience:)*

OUR FAMILY, WE LEFT THE TOWN  
PLANNING TO ROAM AROUND  
TRYING OUT OUR NEW DRAMATIC PLAY-OUT ON THE ROAD.

*(Jerry leads Nellie and Teenaged Josie out onto the stage, Nellie is carrying a suitcase; they are taking in the sights; they are clearly traveling--"out on the road.")*

WE TOOK OUR TROUPE TO HAZELNUT  
WAY DOWN IN CON-NEC-TI-CUT,  
WITH DREAMS OF SOMEDAY PLAYING ON BROADWAY.  
WHEN THE TRAIN ARRIVED WITH ALL,  
THE MANAGER WHO RAN THE HALL  
MET US AT THE DEPOT WITH A FROWN.

*(The manager, wearing a derby, enters, looking none too happy.)*

SAID HE AS HE PUT OUT HIS HAND,

**MANAGER:**

"I HEAR YOU HAVEN'T GOT A BAND.  
THE FOLKS EXPECT A STREET PARADE IN TOWN."

**TEENAGED GMC:**

MY DAD LAUGHED AND BOWED HIS HEAD.  
THE LOCAL MANAGER HE SAID,

**MANAGER:**

"YOU WON'T DO ANY BUSINESS IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A BAND.  
THE FOLKS EXPECT A STREET PARADE, AND UNIFORMS SO GRAND.  
TO THE WHOLE PROFESSION, WELL, IT MAY SOUND FUNNY,  
BUT IT'S JUST THE THING THAT'LL GET THE MONEY,  
WHEN YOU PLAY AN OLD NEW ENGLAND ONE-NIGHT STAND  
IN CON-NEC-TI-CUT.  
SIR HENRY IRVING PLAYED THE TOWN,  
AND STARVED TO DEATH LAST FALL.  
HE CAME BACK HERE WITH A BAND,  
AND HE PACKED THEM TO THE WALL.  
THE TOWN IS SAD, BUT YOUR HOUSE IS SADDER.  
AND IT WOULDN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF YOU'RE LEW DOCKSTADER.  
WELL YOU WON'T DO ANY BUSINESS IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A BAND."

**TEENAGED GMC:**

THE MANAGER, HE SAID,

**MANAGER:**

“YOU GUYS  
SHOULD GET SOME POSTERS, AND GET WISE,  
POSTERS SHOWING CHORUS GIRLS IN TIGHTS,  
OR SHOWING SOMEONE WITH A KNIFE,  
THREAT’NIN’ TO TAKE THE HERO’S LIFE,  
WITH THAT YOU’D PACK ‘EM IN HERE 20 NIGHTS!”

**TEENAGED GMC:**

WHEN TO THE HOTEL MY FOLKS GOT,  
THE CLERK WAS JOHNNY ON THE SPOT.  
SAID HE:

**CLERK:**

“YOU’LL PAY YOUR BILL NOW, UNDERSTAND.  
YOU SEE, WE NEVER TAKE A CHANCE.  
WE CHARGE THE ACTORS IN ADVANCE.  
THAT IS, OF COURSE, UNLESS THEY’VE GOT A BAND.”

**TEENAGED GMC:**

MY DAD LAUGHED AND HELD HIS BREATH.  
THE CLERK SAID:

**CLERK:**

“YOU’LL ALL STARVE TO DEATH.  
YOU WON’T DO ANY BUSINESS IF YOU HAVEN’T GOT A BAND.  
THE FOLKS EXPECT A STREET PARADE, AND UNIFORMS SO GRAND.  
TO THE WHOLE PROFESSION, WELL, IT MAY SOUND FUNNY,  
BUT IT’S JUST THE THING THAT’LL GET THE MONEY  
WHEN YOU PLAY AN OLD NEW ENGLAND ONE-NIGHT STAND  
IN CON-NEC-TI-CUT.”

*(Speaking.)* And everyone in this town knows what I’m talking about. Right, folks?

**EVERYONE:**

SIR HENRY IRVING PLAYED THE TOWN,  
AND STARVED TO DEATH LAST FALL.  
HE CAME BACK HERE WITH A BAND,  
AND HE PACKED THEM TO THE WALL.  
THE TOWN IS SAD, BUT YOUR HOUSE IS SADDER.  
AND IT WOULDN’T MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF YOU’RE LEW DOCKSTADER.  
WELL YOU WON’T DO ANY BUSINESS IF YOU HAVEN’T GOT A BAND.”

**CLERK:**

THE TOWN IS SAD,

**MANAGER:**

BUT YOUR HOUSE IS SADDER.

**CLERK:**

AND IT WOULDN’T MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF YOU’RE LEW DOCKSTADER.

**EVERYONE:**

YOU WON’T DO ANY BUSINESS IF YOU HAVEN’T GOT A BAND.”

