

“Rock Island” from *The Music Man*, By Meredith Willson (excerpt)

Book, music and lyrics by Meredith Willson /Story by Meredith Willson and Franklin Lacey

¹Cash for the merchandise, ²cash for the button hooks

³Cash for the cotton goods, ⁴cash for the hard goods

⁵Cash for the fancy goods, ⁶cash for the soft goods

⁷cash for the noggins ⁸and the piggins and the frikins

⁹Cash for the hogshead, ¹⁰cask and demijohn.

¹¹Cash for the crackers ¹²and the pickels and the flypaper

¹³Look whatayataalk. whatayataalk, whatayataalk, whatayataalk, whatayataalk?

¹⁴Weredayagitit?

¹⁵Whatayataalk?

¹⁶Ya can talk, ya can talk, ¹⁷ya can bicker ya can talk,

¹⁸ya can bicker, bicker bicker ¹⁹ya can talk all ya want

²⁰but is different than it was.

²¹No it ain't, no it ain't, ²²but ya gotta know the territory.

²³Shh ²⁴shh ²⁵shh ²⁶shh ²⁷shh ²⁸shh ²⁹shh

³⁰Why it's the Model T Ford made the trouble,

³¹made the people wanna go, ³²wanna get, ³³wanna get up and go

³⁴seven, ³⁵eight, ³⁶nine, ³⁷ten, ³⁸twelve, ³⁹fourteen, ⁴⁰twenty-two, ⁴¹twenty-three
miles to the county seat

^{ALL}Yes sir, yes sir

³⁵Who's gonna patronize a little bitty two by four kinda store anymore?

³⁶Whaddaya talk, whaddaya talk.

³⁷Where do you get it?

³⁸Gone, ³⁹gone

⁴⁰Gone with the hogshead cask and demijohn, ⁴¹gone with the sugar barrel,

⁴²pickel barrel, ⁴³milk pan, ⁴⁴gone with the tub ⁴⁵and the pail and the fierce

⁴⁶Ever meet a fellow by the name of Hill?

⁴⁷Hill?

⁵⁴Hill?

⁴⁷Hill?

^{ALL}NO!

⁴⁹Hill?

⁵⁰Hill?

⁵¹Hill?

⁵²Hill?

⁵³Hill?