

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

Hurricane Canal Musical
100th Anniversary Gala
COME SEE OUR VALLEY

Scene 1 Walking to School

Carson, Larsen, Caleb, & Nick enter with a lizard in a jar

LARSON: We caught it yesterday up at three falls. It was running *really* fast but we were able to catch it. My dad says it's a Chuckawalla.

CALEB: It looks like a plain old lizard to me.

LARSON: It IS a lizard. A Chuckawalla is a *type* of lizard.

CARSON: I think you should let it out so we can see how fast it can go.

LARSON: I sort of want to keep it for a while.

NICK: Hey here come all the girls. Let's scare them with it!

REBECCA: Hey what are you guys looking at?

NICK: ummm A flower. A really cool flower. You'd like it, *elbowing Carson*, huh Carson!

CARSON: Yeah, it's a flower. *Big nod and big eyes.*

CALEB: Want to see it?

EDEN: I bet it's not a flower. I don't trust you guys.

SHANIA: Me either. *Shania & Eden hold back while Naomi, Rebecca, & Shawnee get closer Larson runs at them, brandishing the jar and trying to scare them. A few of them squeal.*

NAOMI: Oh, I think it's so cute. Be nice to it. Did you give it a name?

LARSON *still trying to be scary*: Yeah, Godzilla. *Music starts*

SHAWNEE: Hey, we better keep moving or we're going to be late for school.

BOYS: "Ah, who cares." "We got plenty of time."

SONG: **Do We Have To Go To School** *Boys start and then girls join in Older students enter in small groups & start singing.*

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

REBECCA: *Yelling* Last one to the monkey bars is a gorilla! *All the younger kids run off, except Larson, Eden, & Naomi who sit and admire the lizard.*

ETHAN: Four more days until school is out! I can't wait.

ROBERT: I can't wait until we can grab our tubes and float down the canal again. It feels like it's been forever!

ANDREA: Yeah, remember last year when we picked the blackberries on the bank?

ETHAN: Or the time when we started throwing that dark, sticky mud at each other?

NICOLE: It's the tunnels I always think about. You know . . . where you start floating through them and it gets so black that you can't see behind you or even what is coming in front of you?

ROBERT: Oh man, my little sister always screams through that whole part.

EMILY: I bet it's because of the spiders. Its so dark that you can't even see your hand and then suddenly you feel a sticky spider web on your cheek . . .

NICOLE: Or a furry spider body on your face

Both (shiver): Eeeeeew! *Others think its funny.*

ANDREA: The trickiest part about going down the canal is figuring out how to lie on your tube just right when you go under the ledges. . . .

ETHAN: Yeah, if you sit too high, you hit your head on the rocks. Sit too low in your tube, your rear end drags on the bottom.

EMILY: It depends on the time of year you go. Sometimes the canal is so full that I feel like I'm going down rapids. (*others agree*).

Younger students have been listening and start chiming in:

NAOMI: Emily, will you take me this summer?

EDEN: And me? Robert, I won't scream this year—well, not as much anyway.

Others add their comments. School Bell Rings, Light goes on Stage left where classroom is set up. Older siblings tell the younger ones to get to class and the youngest kids run off stage. The older kids head to the classroom area on the stage, where the teacher is writing on the board (the date, 1985, etc.) while the kids continue talking.

ROBERT: Hey, why don't we plan an end of school canal run!

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

JACOB *entering with Brandon*: Hey who's talking about a canal run? Count me in!

BRANDON: Me too! But, we'll need a bunch of tubes. I think my family has two.

EMILY: I can get a hold of three.

ETHAN: Jerry down at the shop might have some old ones we can take.

ANDREA: I bet my mom would drive a bunch of us down to the drop off point and Lebarons always let us use their phone to call someone to pick us up.

KATIE *just entering*: Hey what's everybody talking about? Floating down the canal? *Nods and words of agreement*. Are you sure there is even a part of the canal still open? You know more of it gets closed down every year.

ROBERT *with a groan*: I know! What is the big idea with that?

KATIE: It's the city or the county or , or well someone who wants to ruin all of our fun.

NICOLE: My mom says that the canal is waaaay too dangerous to go down anyway.

BRANDON: Oh, its not that dangerous, scaredy cat; but it does leak a lot. My Grandma's land got flooded last year and it took my dad and a bunch of other men days to fix it.

ANDREA: But what will summer be like without the canal? (*Second bell rings; kids take seats.*)

BRANDON: Boring and Stupid. That's what. Its just plain STUPID!

MRS. HEATON: What is SO stupid, Brandon?

BRANDON: Oh, sorry Mrs. Heaton. It's just that the city keeps closing off parts of the old canal. And going down the canal is the best part of our summer.

ETHAN: Heck it's the best part of Hurricane.

JACOB: The canal IS Hurricane.

HEATON: Jacob, you have a very good point. Do you realize how true your statement is?

JACOB (*still complaining*): Of course I do. I'm a Jepson. I've been raised on all those stories about "the men of steel" who built the canal. And if you ask me, my great, great, great grandfather would be on our side.

MRS. HEATON(*smiling*): Oh is that so?

JACOB: Yeah! I bet if he were still alive he'd say something like: (*in exaggerate voice*) Mr.

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

Mayor, I spent years of my life building a canal so my great grandson could float down it and now you are ruining his fun!

MRS HEATON: Oh is *that* what he would say? I guess we'll never know. . . .Okay, let's get ready for your math test. (*She gets ready to pass out papers*).

MELISSA: Mrs. Heaton, what is he talking about? My family hasn't lived here long, but I thought the canal was just part of the canyon. Is Jacob saying somebody had to actually build it? *Turning to Jacob*: Is that what you're saying?

JACOB: Well, sure.

MELISSA: So how long ago did your great grandfather build this cool water slide?

JACOB: Oh, I don't know. About 100 years ago, Mrs. Heaton?

MRS HEATON: Well, lets see. This is 1985 and the canal was finished 1904, so more like eighty years ago . . . and I wouldn't call it a "water slide." It was a little more important than that. . . . Okay, this is a timed test, so get ready to turn your papers over.

EMILY (*waving her hand*): Mrs Heaton, so why did they build the canal if it's not for us to ride tubes down?

ROBERT: Are you serious? You don't know why we have a canal? You grew up here!

ANDREA: Yeah, don't your grandparents tell you all the stories? What do you do, walk around with cotton in your ears?

MRS HEATON: Whoa, class. Hey! You're supposed to be taking a math quiz. And Emily, do you *really* not know why they built the Hurricane canal? *Emily shakes her head*.

JACOB (*In mock seriousness*): Mrs. Heaton, I think a history lesson on the Hurricane Canal is much more important to our education that this math test. Don't you?

MRS HEATON: Jacob, just because you forgot to study for the test

ETHAN: And Mrs. Heaton, I think you are the perfect one to tell us the story.

ROBERT: We'll even help you tell it. Please?

MRS HEATON *dryly*: Boys, I'm so impressed with your sudden interest in local history . . . however, I'm sure the rest of the class would like to get going on their math test. *Class responds with comments like, "I want to hear about it."*

NICOLE: Oh let's just get the test over with. Be quiet you guys.

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

KATIE (*waving her hand*): I know, I know. How about a vote? *Mrs Heaton now laughing gives her consent with a wave of her hand.*

KATIE: All in favor of Mrs. Heaton telling us about the Hurricane Canal? (*Most raise their hands.*) All in favor of taking the math test. *Nicole's hand resolutely goes up and then lowers.* It's Anonymous!

MRS HEATON *laughing*: The word is "Unanimous." And, welllllll, all right. I've never been one to turn down a captive audience. Turn back those math papers. Although Jacob, there WILL be a test tomorrow. *Jacob grins.* Now where should we start?

SONG: Dreamers Alone See Water Flow By: Teacher and children

PAPERS AND DESKS ARE PUT AWAY DURING SONG. ** Would slides be possible?

Teacher:

Let's turn back history's time,
To our land as it once was,
Chaparral is all that grows here.
No water flows; the scene is drear

Teacher & Class:

No water flows; the scene is drear

Jacob *dramatically*::

Anguished men look out with longing
On this expanse of fertile soil

Teacher *practically*:

As families grow; they face starvation
Unless new land is brought to plow

Teacher & Class:

Unless new land is brought to plow

Jacob *grabbing a friend*:

Erastus Snow who leads the party
Tells MacFarlane: Make a plan
Bring water from the nearby Virgin
Irrigate this thirsty land.

Teacher & Class:

Irrigate this thirsty land.

Teacher :

MacFarlane's survey sees the problem
Canyon walls their will impose **make this easier to understand*
No canal can breach the fastness

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

Dreamers alone see water flow

Teacher & Class:

Dreamers alone see water flow

Teacher:

Dreamers dream, who else can follow?

A vision of joy none else can see

Dreamers dream a vast new future

Teacher & Class:

Flowing water and a thriving scene

Flowing water and a thriving scene

Flowing water and a thriving scene!

MRS HEATON: If we could go back in time, one hundred and fifteen years ago, you'd find families trying to settle here in Southern Utah on the request of Brigham Young. They called this area "the Cotton Mission." It was made up of St. George, Virgin, Rockville, Toquervilleall the land between Springdale to Santa Clara. Those early settlers had it tough. First of all, they were trying to live on a desert. And on top of that, the Virgin River, the water that made such an idea even a possibility, was also one of their biggest problems.

LIGHTS GO DOWN ON CLASSROOM & UP ON STAGE WITH ACTORS FROZEN

Scene 2 1870 Town Folk Gatherin'

HANNAH: My land, it was hot last night. I hardly slept a wink!

EMMA: I used to think the Salt Lake Valley was a desert. It tropical compared to here!

HANNAH: I wonder if the prophet's promise about the desert blossoming like a rose applies to the Cotton Mission too?

TOM: Well one promise I know applies here in the Cotton Mission: "Opposition in ALL things!

ED: Well, the heat is nothin'. If you want to talk about opposition, let's talk about the river. I can't sleep at night for worryin' when it's going to flood next. Last month after all that rain, it over flowed, washed out my corn and hay AND took some of my cattle along with it. I had to spend most of the day lookin' fer my animals. Found three and lost one.

SVEN Yah! Yah! Dat Virgin river's always floodink. How can I get food for my fam'ly if my c'rop keeps get'ink ru'ind ever' time da ri'ver floods? Uffda!

AGNA It's true. We follow da prophet and ga'der to Zion. We follow da prophet and

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

move South to grow cotton. We follow the prophet and raise big families. But where is the water? And how can we feed our children with so little land?

TOM: And my oldest son needs land of his own now that he's getting ready to start a family. But where can he get a piece of land around here?

SVEN: Vell, I hear James Jepson talk. He tinks we can get water to dat land on dat bench up der.

EMMA: That land Erastus Snow named the Hurricane Bench?

SVEN: Yah, dat land vere the vind never tops blowink!

ED Well, I wouldn't take that too seriously Sven. Jepson's a dreamer. I mean sure there's lots of land, but . . .

AGNA: Yah, over four thousand acres he said.

ED: But there's a difference between dreaming about land and finding a way to get water to it so that you can actually use it.

EMMA: Brigham Young's own son John tried to come up with a way to get water to all those acres. But he decided the project was impossible.

HANNAH: Not only that, he said that without all those acres of flat soil . . . this area isn't worth the time or energy. My biggest fear is that he's right.

TOM: It's not just John Young that thinks that. There's that surveyor, Isaac MacFarlane. Smart man . . .and honest. You've gotta believe him when he says that even if we *could* start digging a canal like that one they dug over in LaVerkin, there's a good chance those unstable rock walls simply tumble down and bury us alive.

AGNA: Oh Sven, I think we'd be better up North or maybe back in Sweden!

ED: And you've got to think about the money it would cost to get equipment and giant powder and water rights. It's a crazy dream Sven. (*women go to the side to talk*)

TOM Speak of the devil Ed, there comes your crazy dreamer now. Hey, Jepson we were just talkin' about you.

SVEN: Broder Jepson, I was just telling deese men how you still tink we can get water to all dat land on da Hurricane Bench. Yah?

JAMES: Ah Sven, I KNOW we can.

TOM: James, how can ya say that after that surveyor MacFarlane told us it can't be done?

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

JAMES: Thomas, I say it because John Steele and I have been up on the land plotting it out ourselves and I tell you, as impossible as it looks, it **can** be done. We're sure we can build a canal that would reach over 2,000 acres of the best land in these parts. Just think about that . . .

TOM: But MacFarlane says

JAMES: MacFarlane doesn't NEED that land like we do. Sure he's using his head and I'm probably talkin' more with my heart. But some body, some time, is going to find a way to own that land, I'm tellin' you. And wouldn't it be great if it were us? It's not impossible. Not with faith and hard work.

Song: There's a land (not so) far away

By: James Jepson & cast

Scene 3 Interested Class

MRS HEATON: So this canal, that you all think of as your summer entertainmentwell it started out as a nearly impossible dream for some very desperate people. And it wasn't for entertainment—it was to sustain life.

JACOB: Did you notice who the hero is in the story? Yep, James Jepson my great grandpa. He sounds almost as cool as me. *The class reacts*

MRS HEATON: Seriously though, I think Jacob's right: James Jepson was hero. What everyone else said was IMPOSSIBLE, he saw as an only an obstacle.

BRANDON: Sort of like when our 7th grade team plays the 8th graders in football—everyone plans on us getting creamed!

HEATON: Exactly. James Jepson was convinced if he could, well, put a team together, they could beat the odds. So he called a meeting together in 1893.

THE LIGHTS FADE ON THE CLASSROOM AND THEY RAISE UP ON AN IN-PROGRESS MEETING

Scene 4 1893 Canal Board Meeting

JAMES: Well, men you've looked it over and John Steele and I have told you what we think. Now it's your turn.

IRA: I've got to say that I like your idea about how we'll dig it ourselves and then take our pay in water and land. I think we should go ahead with it.

FRANK: Now you've got to remember that when we file for water rights we'll have four

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

years and ONLY four years to bring water to the land; or else we'll lose our filing fee.

ALF: Plus we've got to keep our farms going in the summers. So we'll only be able to work winters. You think we can do it in four years? I'm afraid this job could take nearly twice that long.

ED: I agree. And if it *does* take that long, nobody will be able to afford to stay with it.

FRANK: I don't want to be an old man and still have nothing to show for it.

ED: I dunno men. I wish you all the luck in the world if you decide to try, but it's too big of a gamble for me. I'm not wasting my time on it. (*leaves*).

TOM: I love this area—the red cliffs . . . even the heat. I'm not ready to give it up and move my family somewhere else and start again. I guess I'm with ya James.

JAMES: Thanks Tom.

SVEN: James, we'll haf to be mountain goats to vork on dose cliffs. I vant to believe it vill vork my friend, but look at me. *Pointing up to the cliffs* Now look at dose skinny cliffs. ME. Skinny cliffs. Me. . . .It looks pretty crazy to me.

JAMES: Ah Sven, we probably *are* crazy to try, but what if we can do it? What if we DO do it? We're talking 20 acres of mighty good soil and a big lot in a new town. Where could we go to match it? I think it's worth the risk. I think we've just got to try.

SVEN: Vell I guess I am now a skinny mountain goat. *poses* But if I break my neck up there. . .

FRANK We'll all give a tear-jerking talks at your funeral. Hey, I'll even sing a song.

SVEN:: Nah, skip the song; I don't vant people leaving early. *Laughter and a pause*

IRA: Well, it looks like most of us are ready to start. I say let's organize a canal company and get going. (*there are words of assent such as "hear hear" and "I'm for it"*)

JAMES: All right then, if a few of you will stay a few minutes, we'll lay out some things we need to do so that by next month we'll be ready to organize a canal company. We can be digging by this winter.

(*TOP EAGERLY RAISES HIS HAND*)

JAMES: Top Stout. What can I do for you, young man?

TOP Will there be an age limit? Can us younger fellows join in working on the canal to earn our own farm? And land in town?

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

BURT (*teasing*) Hey Top! Is this about that little fillie of a gal you've been eyeing - Dora Hall?

ALF: You think Dora would marry somebody like you?

TOP: Well, I figure with all of Brother Jepson's talk about dreaming, I may as well dream a little too!

ALF: You're not just dreaming Top. You're hoping for a **miracle**. *Everyone laughs.*

JAMES: Top, I can promise you, there'll be plenty of land and farms for anyone that helps on the canal. All you'll need is the assessment money for the Canal Company. Just imagine! Land where our families and children can play; where we can raise cattle, crops and fruit, and we can create a beautiful valley there.

Music starts to "Come See Our Valley" by: James Jepson & cast

Scene 5 Top Visits Dora

Top Enters with purpose.

TOP Hello. Excuse me Sister Hall, but could I speak with Dora please?

ALICE: Well Top Stout, my aren't you looking tall & handsome. How are you these days?

TOP *embarrassed* Can't complain, Ma'am.

ALICE Well that's fine. Just fine. You wait here and I'll go and find Dora. *Calls as she exits: Dora? Dora enters wiping her hands on an apron.*

DORA Top, what a nice surprise.

TOP Dora you just won't believe it! I just came from a meetin' over in Toquerville where James Jepson and other folks in the area are talkin' about formin' a company to start building a canal that's going to put water out on the Hurricane Bench.

DORA You really think there's a way to get water up on that land? I've sure heard a lot of talk about it being impossible.

TOP I've heard all that talk too and plenty of people do say it's just a wild idea. But you know, I think it can be done. You should have heard James Jepson talk. It won't be easy I know. But someday, it's going to happen and it's going to be beautiful. . . . And just imagine Dora... you and me . . . we can get married - and raise a family. And we'll have our own farm—peach trees, cherry trees, horses (*Looking out dreamily*) we'll even have our own cattle.

DORA : Whoa . . . Top. . . we were talking about a meeting you went to. And then about building a canal. . . . Now we suddenly own cattle? . . . Did I miss the marriage proposal

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

somewhere in there?

TOP It's just what I've always dreamed of. . . .land of our own. That's why I came to this area with my folks Dora . . . to try to make somethin' of myself. I want to do something that will make you proud of me andandhappy to be with me.

DORA Oh Top, I'm already proud of youand I can't seem to stop smilin' when ever I'm with you, . . .but . . .about that "land of our own. . . ." Don't think maybe you're missin something that usually comes before that part?

TOP Dora, wouldn't you like to be the wife of a man who owns 20 acres of rich farmland on the prettiest acreage in southern Utah?

DORA I don't care about marrying some man just because he owns 20 acres of land. Alfred Fisk Stout Junior, is this your idea of a marriage proposal?

TOP: Dora, *taking her hands* Are you listening to me?

DORA: Of course I am. It's just that you're just not saying what I want to hear.

TOP: Dora . . . I'm not asking you to marry me *She pulls her hands away* . . . I'm not asking you right NOW. I don't own anything. But I will. Us fellas are goin to work hard . . .it shouldn't take us even four years to build that canal and make our claim. And then . . .and then . . .*taking Dora's hand again.*

DORA: And then Top? *Top looks confused.*

DORA: and then . . .you'll come back . . .*(trying to prompt him, but getting no where)* and then *(now frustrate)* And then, you know what Top? By then, you just might find I'm the wife of somebody else. *She flips her head and stomps off.*

TOP: Aaah Dora . . .*he takes off after her.*

Scene 6 Back in the Classroom

EMILY: So it took them about four years to build the canal?

ROBERT: No way. That's just how long they HOPED it would take.

MRS HEATON: That's right, Robert. What they planned in that summer meeting of 1893 and what actually happened was a different story. But at that point, around 100 men with high hopes started the actual canal work in January of 1894. Right in the middle of the winter.

KATIE: That seems like a dumb time to be digging in the ground. It gets pretty cold around here with the wind and wouldn't there be snow in the canyon?

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

MRS. HEATON: Good point Katie. But they really didn't have any choice since they had to use the warm months of the year to farm and support their families. The men camped out in the canyon during those cold months with only the blankets, food, and supplies that they could carry in on their backs.

BRANDON: I wonder if it was like our winter scout camps? They're pretty fun.

JACOB: Yeah pretty fun for about three days. Those men camped in the cold for months at a time. Every winter for years.

Scene 7 **Around the fire at Robber's Roost Camp**

THE LIGHTS FADE MEN ENTER WITH SHOVELS, HOES, WHEELBARROWS AND OTHER TOOLS FROM THEIR HARD DAYS WORK AND THEY CREATE A SMALL CAMP.

FRANK Boy, am I bushed! (HOLDS UP HANDS) I think my hands are permanently callused from holding and pushing wheelbarrows around all day.

SVEN YA! Und not only am I vushed, but dis cold can'yun has almost vor me out and now I've broken da handle on my only shov'el. And Uffda! My achin' bak'.

TOM Here it is our fourth winter and we've barely made any progress at all. Days like this, I just want to sell my shares for and quit! I know there's land other places that don't require this much work and sweat.

ALF I don't mind the sweat and sacrifice so much, but I sure am getting tired of having to sleep under the wagon every night. I can't seem to get warm with that ole north wind blowin no matter what I do. I'm so desperate I even tried cuddling up to Top last night! *Laughter*

TOP: Well, I gotta tell you Alf--you're sure not the bed partner I was hopin fer after 4 years of this. At the rate this project goin, not only will Dora go and marry someone else—she'll be showing off her grandkids before we ever get the canal finished!

FRANK: Aaah, don't give up hope kid. She'll wait for you—she knows it's not your fault.

SVEN: Yah, last year ve all had that bad sickness and no one could vork at all.

TOM: And with so many men giving up, its taking longer than any of us ever imagined.

ALF: Well at least those unemployed miners have been a big help. They haven't stuck around, but they taught us a lot about explosives.

BERT: We just can't afford enough of that Giant Powder though and that black powder that we

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

can afford won't shatter the rocks. We're still stuck using that old method of building a fire on the limestone and hoping the cold water we throw at it will explode the rock. Plain dumb.

SVEN: *starts chuckling* Oh Bert. You still mad I missed yesterday an splashed da cold vater on you!

BERT: You bet I am.

SVEN: He looked and sounded just like an old rooster crowing: "Sven! Sven!"

BERT: *growling* Sven! *Everyone's laughing. Lights fade. *maybe a song here?*

Scene 8 Classroom wondering

NICOLE: Men, men, men. So what were the women doing through all this?

ETHAN: They were home watching Oprah in their warm cozy houses.

ANDREA: What did they watch TV on Ethan, the outhouse door? *Laughter*

MELISSA: I bet life wasn't too easy on the women back then either.

KATIE: My grandma says the canal building was just as hard on the women as the men, but no one ever tells their side of the story.

MRS. HEATON: Katie, I bet you're right. Wouldn't that be interesting to hear their side?

LIGHT SWITCHES OVER TO OTHER SIDE OF STAGE WHERE THE WOMEN ARE

Scene 7 Girl's Night Out

Women gathered quilting, Sarah enters from off stage.

SARAH Johnny . . . Johnny! Where is that boy?

ELLIE stands and crosses to SARAH

ELLIE Sarah, what's wrong?

SARAH I've lost little Johnny, have you seen him anywhere?

AGNA Vut do you mean you've lost lit'tle Johnny? You know dat boy ran away and is hi'dink some vhere. Vut a ras'cal dat boy is!

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

SARAH I know, I know. I can't keep up with him. At home it's just as bad. With all the work to do like feeding the chickens and the hogs, and making the soap, if I turn my back for a minute, he's gone!

ELLIE Don't worry Sarah, we'll find him. In fact, I think he might be closer than you think. . . .*motions with her head to where Johnny is hiding and giggling. Sarah pulls him out and takes him to the side of stage for a talking to.*

AGNA It's so hard to raise up a boy wid out his fa'der.

ALICE It's hard to do a good many things without our men, isn't it Dora?

DORA That wretched canal! I'm an old maid because of it!

Girl: Dora . . .I don't think you're an old maid quite yetbut life sure is difficult without your man around.

GIRL: All the good men have gone down working on the canal.

GIRL: There's just too much to do around here!

GIRL: And no one worth doing it for!

GIRL: Right, when your feller's gone, what ya gonna do!

Music from "When My Feller Isn't Here" plays

GIRL: Hey girls, how about we get some food together and go on down to our fellas and give them a big surprise!

SARAH *shielding her eyes:* Speaking of surprises . . . Dora isn't that Top comin up the rise?

DORA: *puzzled* Top?

TOP Howdy girls! Mrs. Slack, Mrs. Hall. *He nods politely as the woman drift off.*

DORA: Is everything alright Top? I mean its only Thursday. What are you doing home in the middle of the week?

TOP No, everything's fineI guess. (*Dora relaxes*) I mean its fine if you don't mind David Herschi's cookingor Thomas Isom for a dance partner . . .or if you can get along with Alf Hall keeping you warm at night.

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

DORA: It sounds perfect for you Top.

TOP Dora, what I'm trying to say is . . .

DORA: Remember Top? You don't want a woman in your life, a *wife*, until you have your twenty acres of land. So let your dreams keep you warm at night and . . .

TOP *laughing*: Dora! Stop! Dora. *He goes down on one knee*. Dora Hall, I love you. Will you marry me?

DORA *astonished*: Marry you? *Suspiciously*: **When**, exactly, are you thinking about getting married?

TOP Today . . . tomorrow . . . as soon as you'll have me.

DORA: Wellllll I'll need to think about it. And I'll need to talk to my mother. I've been holding out for someone who owns his own land . . .at least 20 acres, you know . . .and . . .

TOP *getting up and growling*: Dora! *Dora runs off squealing, as Top chases her*. *or a song

Scene 8 Classroom questions

MRS HEATON: Those first four years came and went with only a fraction of the canal done.

ETHAN: Why didn't they just give up?

JACOB: They loved this land.

KATIE: They still believed in their dreams.

NICOLE: They hated the thought of quitting.

MRS. HEATON: I'm sure it was all that, but its tough to imagine how those people felt when they lost their first water investment, had to come up with even more money and then had to keep digging. Any idea who some of those early Hurricane families were? *Students offer some names such as: The Jepsens, Langstons, Ballards, Isoms, Hintons, Strattons*

MRS HEATON: And so many more names like Reeve, Hall, Hirschi, Slack, Bradshaw, and Ruesch. That they kept hacking away year after year on what appeared to be a failing plan is a wonder.

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

Scene 9

Robert's Roost Camp 1902

Men huddled around camp fire. Some eating, some resting.

FRANK: *singing "Old Dan Tucker"* Come on men, things aren't all that bad. Now sing! *Starts singing "Way Down Upon the Swanny River."*

TOM: Oh great. He don't even know what river this is!

PETE *shudders*: It sure is cold tonight!

JAMES: We'll have to keep a fire going all night tonight. We gotta get more rocks and get them extra hot for our feet.

TOM: Well, I don't think that's a problem. We got plenty of rocks. We got a thousand, think that's enough?

FRANK: The beans are pretty good tonight. Can't say much for the bisquits though, no offense to the cook, but I sure miss my Emma's cooking.

TOM Don't matter much. I'm too tired to eat.

JAMES: Me too! The day HAS been a long one. What we need is some dancing to rest us and cheer us up.

SVEN: Vell, my vife left dis bonnet ven she vas here yestoorday. Come on, Broter Jepson, let's dance. *Sven puts on the bonnet. James and Sven dance crailly and men start clapping and yelling as Bert and Wilson drag in.*

BERT: What's all the commotion about? You fellers down here horsin' around having fun, and we're up there workin. I tell you, I'm quittin. I'm through! There's another hole in the Ditch. It rained and rained up where we were. Washed a hole in the ditch you could drive a wagon through.

Men all laugh at Burt and shake their heads at each other and say "Probably just sprinkled." And "Just a gopher hole!"

FRANK: Just calm down Bert, calm down. Quit your belly achin' and tell us what the real problem is.

BERT: Do you really want to know? Let me tell ya. We're out of powder to finish blasting that tunnel and my family is hungry. I've got to find some work that will pay money. You know money . . .the stuff you can hold in your hand.

WILSON: I'm with you. My family has used the last of our flour and Mary has patched the

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

only britches I've got. I've got patches upon patches! *He turns around for every one to see.*

TOP: Holy Cow!

SVEN: You mean Holy britches!

BERT: You know we started this project with about 100 men and now we're down to about 10 of us. We must be the truly crazy ones.

WILSON: I'm done! I've had it. I'm going home and I'm selling my shares. *Throws down his shovel*

JAMES: Whoa now Fellas! Just hold your horses! *He drags them back to the fire and gives them some beans.* Let's put some beans in your bellies and het you warm. The canal board is meeting Saturday. Will you wait and see what remedies they have before you make a final decision?

Bert and Pete are shoveling beans in and look at each other.

BERT: Well, the beans are delicious.

PETE: Fine; we're still crazy enough to wait that long. What's in these beans?

JAMES: Sow belly. Hey, look who's coming. *Wives enter with a fiddler. Everyone embraces.*

TOP: *grabbing Dora from behind.* Hey here's a pretty one! *She swings around trying to slap him as he ducks.* Well hello, Mrs. Stout. Miss your fine husband and came to find me?

DORA: You men getting tired of each other yet? Is Top a better wagon snuggler these days, Alf? *Alf just snorts and shakes his head.*

EMMA: So we've brought you some surprises! Sorghum candy and a fiddler too! *Fiddler plays "Shave and a Hair Cut—six bits."*

JAMES: You ladies got here just in time!

FRANK: We were just saying how we needed a dance!

BERT: Come on Wilson, maybe that's what we need too. Let's dance! *He grabs Wilson for their own crazy dance.*

The fiddle starts to play and the dance begins. THEN LIGHTS GO OFF.

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

Scene 10 Classroom & 1902 Canal meeting

MRS HEATON: After all that work and all those years, that handful of men almost gave up on their dreams. In 1902 the canal was near bankruptcy and appeared to be a failure after nine hard years of trying. Those men had done about all they could, but it didn't change the fact that they needed \$20,000, a fortune, to complete the canal. On January 18, 1902 the canal board held an emergency meeting.

THE LIGHTS COME UP ON AN IN-PROGRESS CANAL BOARD MEETING. THE CLASS JOINS THE MEETING AS IT IS IN ACTION

BERT Yessireesir, it looks like nine years of our lives were wasted on this here project! Like I've been saying, we shoulda moved on to somewhere better long ago. I even heard there's a canal they just completed over by Tropic. Maybe I'll go on over there and find me a place.

IRA Now Gents we didn't come here today to discuss all of the doom and gloom. I agree we're in real trouble. After nine tough years of work, it looks like we're licked. But, we've got most of this canal built, over six miles of it. And we only need to do about one-and-a-half more miles to finish it!

WILSON: The problem is, that it's the roughest and most difficult areas of the canyon that are left to be completed. And we just don't have the funds to buy the dynamite we need. As you all know, gun powder, and even Giant Powder just won't do the job.

FRANK: Ira, I move that we send someone up to Salt Lake again to see if we can raise the money we need. We can't abandon this project when it's so close to being completed. We've just got to find a way to get the money we need to finish the job.

ALF (*enters the meeting*): I'll tell you a way to get some money to finish the job. Send James Jepson to Salt Lake to talk to the first presidency of the church. Someone's got to show them how important this is.

IRA Well, we tried sending Sam Isom not too long, but . . .

ALF: I'm telling you, send Jepson. There's a bunch of us waiting outside and while we were talking, James, he . . . JAMES COMES ON HERE AND TELL THEM WHAT YOU THINK. He told us that he wished you send him and you know that he's the perfect man to . . .

JAMES: Ira we can't quit! I was just telling the men out there that I'm willing to go to Salt Lake and raise the funds myself. We're not asking for a donation—we're only asking the Church to take stock in our company. The Church will get the money back with interest, while helping us to help ourselves.

IRA You're a good man James. Not only have you served as the canal board president for five years, but you've served faithfully on the board for years as well. If the church leaders

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

will listen to anyone, they'll listen to you Brother Jepson. Thank you for offering to go! And God be with you!!

JAMES JEPSON EXIT THE STAGE.

Scene 11 Spirit of the Canal

JACOB: My grandmother says James Jepson wouldn't give up no matter what. She says that's the most important thing about the canal. It's not just about water or even about how much fun we have tubing down it. Grandma Jepson says the canal is a symbol of the heart of Hurricane.

ROBERT: You mean that spirit of never giving up.

EMILY: Of overcoming trials.

ANDREA: They chose to attempt the impossible.

BRANDON: And no one man could do it alone. They had to do it as a community . . .as a team.

MRS. HEATON: I think you can still see that canal spirit in the people who live here today. You can see it in their concern for the neighbors and in their willingness to work. . . .in their loyalty to the town.

ETHAN: And in their stubbornness! From knowing my grandparents, I don't think that has changed either!

MRS. HEATON (*laughing*) Maybe not Ethan, but we older people prefer to call it determination.

KATIE: It's so amazing to think about how those people, working over one hundred years ago, still have an effect on us today.

MELISSA *thoughtfully*: It makes you proud to live here, no matter if your ancestors built that canal or not.

SONG : "Here in this Valley"

MRS. HEATON: And you know what? All that determination, all that stubbornness and hard work and faith and prayer . . .well it all paid off for the early Hurricane settlers. James Jepson met with Church president Joseph F. Smith and was back in five days with the news.

Scene 12 Good News

TOWN FOLKS GATHERED AS JAMES JEPSON COMES RUNNING IN.

IRA I can hardly believe it folks! I can hardly believe it! I just got the word, James Jepson has just returned from Salt Lake and listen to this, he got the money—enough to get us

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

started again!

WILSON: The church leaders agreed to giving money just like that?

IRA: Well, James told them how hard we've been working and all we've sacrificed along with us being an incorporated board with no one receiving a salary and they were impressed. But what they were most impressed with was that on top of our work, our five wards here paid \$5,000.00 in tithing last year.

ALF: So that is how much they are investing?

IRA: Exactly and to think that

EXCITEMENT BREAKS OUT. AS IRA BRADSHAW IS SPEAKING JAMES ENTERS THE STAGE AND CROSSES OVER TO THE TOWNFOLKS

JAMES: So folks have you all heard? We're back in business. Just you see, in no time we'll be having water a-flowing out on that bench. You fellows spread the word, we're back on the job. Go grab your tools and let's get back to work

SVEN Just t'ink. We can vraise our c'drops now wiffout me avink to chase afder da an'mals every time da viver floods! Yeah! Tat' will sure ve a good ting'.

AGNA: It's true. And we'll be able to get all the food we need for our families and flowers . . . maybe there will be enough water for flowers.

TOP: Have you heard the news, Dora? It's amazing. It's going to make our dreams come true. It's wonderful. It's . . . well it's a miracle!

THE TOWNS FOLK EAGERLY SCATTER AND CREATE PANDEMONIUM ON STAGE

INSERT AD LIB DIALOGUE

SONG: "IT'S A MIRACLE!"

ADDITIONAL AD LIB DIALOGUE

DORA Hey Top. Are you ready for another miracle?

TOP: Another miracle?

DORA: What do you think about sharing that twenty acre dream of yours with more than just me?

TOP: Dora you mean? *She nods, he hugs her.* It sounds mighty fine to me.

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

Scene 13 We've got ourselves a city

MRS. HEATON: That \$5,000 investment not only helped pay for equipment, it gave the community renewed hope and purpose as well. The local people found the means to pay the assessments and the energy to dig tunnels and build flumes. Just two years and eight months later the canal was done! All seven and a half miles of it.

I know you're disappointed in the closing of the canal. Like someone said earlier, that canal has been the heart of Hurricane for over eighty years. But its had its problems too.

EMILY: What do you mean problems?

BRANDON: Remember me telling you about it flooding my grandma's land? And there are lots of stories about the canal riders and the danger of riding the canal . . . one man even died doing his job.

MRS. HEATON: Brandon is right, but canal rider stories will have to be for another day.

KATIE *to Jacob*: Like for tomorrow when she tries giving us that math test again.

MRS. HEATON: Instead of focusing on the loss of the canal water, maybe you could see that the city shutting it down means progress—the city is growing just the way your great grandfather hoped it would Jacob.

JACOB I guess you've got a point. My great grandpa probably would be proud.

MRS HEATON: Instead of being sad about the canal closing, how about we go back in time to celebrate the day the canal opened?

ANDREA: I bet that was a great party!

MRS HEATON: I'm certain it was. Everybody ready? (*class reactions of "What is she talking about?" and "Does anyone else think this is getting weird?" and "Where is our magic school bus?"*) **LIGHTS GO OUT.**

MRS. HEATON: Alright, let's join the canal party on **August 6, 1904** . **LIGHTS GO ON WITH PIONEER GROUP ALL IN PLACE AND MRS. HEATON'S CLASS JOINS AS WELL AS SCHOOL KIDS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PLAY.**

Scene 14: Canal opening and Finale

IRA BRADSHAW (*As board pres. He's dressed in black top hat, suspenders, etc.*): Ladies & Gentlemen, after many, many, many years . . .

FINAL DRAFT, ALL OTHER DRAFTS OBSOLETE!

ALF: Eleven years, Ira!

IRA: After all these years of toil and sweat, we are here to pull the head gate of the dam and welcome the first water onto this dry, but *beautiful* Soil. First, we want to thank God for preserving us through these last eleven years and blessing our labors. Brother David Hirschi, will you offer the prayer?

DAVID: Heavenly Father, we thank thee for thy goodness and for giving us the help to see us through this project. We thank thee for a Prophet to guide us in these latter days—for the restoration of the gospel and for this cotton mission which brought us here. Bless us now with continued success that the canal will be stable and provide us with water for this fertile valley for many years to come. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen!

IRA: Thank you Brother Hirschi. And thank you to each of you who dug shovels full of dirt. Thank you to wives who milked cows and took care of the children all alone. Thank you to sons and daughters who helped both on the farms and on the canal. A big thank you to James Jepson for all his work & inspiration.

SVEN: Enuuff tanks already. Let tus open da canal already!

IRA: When I open the gate, let's hear three cheers! (*He pulls the gate and holds it above head.*)

EVERYBODY: Hip, Hip, Hooray! Hip, Hip Hooray! Hip, Hip, Hooray! *Lots of spontaneous cheering with the school kids yelling "cool!" etc.*

Song: "Come & See Our Valley"