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Blue Ribbon Minstrels Anniversary Broadcast

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ANNOUNCER: Ladies and Gentleman, Nissen’s Blue Ribbon Minstrels. [Music begins to play.] It’s the anniversary broadcast of the Blue Ribbon Minstrels brought to you by the Nissen Baking Company, makers of Blue-Ribbon Bread, the freshest in town. Yes, it was just a year ago that the Blue Ribbon Minstrels went on the air for the first time, and tonight we’re going to review some of the minstrel highlights of the 52 [broadcasts?]. And now, the opening chorus.

[Music continues to play, and singers begin to sing Blue Ribbon Minstrels theme song, but most lyrics not audible.]

ANNOUNCER: Please be seated.

VOICE 1: [Inaudible] … I went horseback riding this afternoon.

INTERLOCUTOR: Fine, sit down and tell me about it.

VOICE 1: I can’t.

INTERLOCUTOR: You can’t tell me about it?

VOICE 1: No, I can’t sit down.

INTERLOCUTOR: You know horseback riding always gives me a head ache.

VOICE 1: That ain’t what bothers me.

INTERLOCUTOR: You’re quite a horseman just the same. I was watching you last week and I don’t see how you ever stayed on that bucking bronco.

VOICE 1: Oh, I had to.

INTERLOCUTOR: What do you mean, you had to?

VOICE 1: My pants were caught onto the saddle. But I’m going to learn to ride side saddle.

INTERLOCUTOR: Side saddle? Why?
VOICE 1: ‘Cause that saves a little place where you can sit down.

INTERLOCUTOR: For your approval, Mr. Bones offers that rhythmic favorite, *Where the Lazy Daisies Grow*.

[Music plays and performer sings the following lyrics:]

Gee, it would be great if I could go to sleep and wake up where the lazy daisies grow.
One I love and two I love and three I’d love to wander where the lazy daisies grow.
Life to me would always be a holiday down in the fields that I once knew.
Cause if it satisfies the bees and butterflies then I’d be satisfied too.
Just like Huckleberry Finn I’d wear a grin if I were in the land of sunny smiles.
Or just to see the one I love, the one I’m always dreaming of, I’d walk a million miles.
There is where the roses pair in paradise, a little birdie told me so
Gee, it would be great if I could go to sleep and wake up where the lazy daisies grow.

INTERLOCUTOR: Presenting the Blue Ribbon banjo king, Mr. High Quality. He gives you his arrangement of *Yes, Sir, She’s My Baby*.

[Instrumental performance and audience applauds.]

INTERLOCUTOR: Say, Rufus, didn’t I see you wheeling your baby yesterday?

RUFUS: Uh, huh.

INTERLOCUTOR: Well, what was that green flag on the carriage for?

RUFUS: Man, didn’t you ever see a green flag on the back of a train?

INTERLOCUTOR: Yes, come to think of it, I have, but what does it mean?

RUFUS: It means there’s another one coming.

[Audience laughs.]

INTERLOCUTOR: By the way, what’s the name of your newest youngster?

RUFUS: Oh, we call him Opium.

INTERLOCUTOR: You call him Opium? Why?

RUFUS: My wife says opium comes from wild poppies, and I’s the wildest poppy she knows.

INTERLOCUTOR: Well, I don’t know about that, but you certainly caused a big disturbance in the movies this afternoon. What happened?

RUFUS: I lost a caramel.
INTERLOCUTOR: Why all that commotion over a caramel?

RUFUS: It wasn’t exactly over the caramel. My teeth were stuck in it.

INTERLOCUTOR: Well, anyhow, the singing star in that movie was exceptionally good. Didn’t that woman have a large repertoire?

RUFUS: Uh, huh! And that dress she was wearing made it look twice as big.

INTERLOCUTOR: Next we bring you the vocal harmony by our own Biloxi Brothers. They sing Open Your Eyes and Goodbye Mary.

[Music plays and performers sing the following lyrics.]

Open your eyes, my dearie, open your eyes
Just look at me a while, so baby, [inaudible] baby
Open your eyes, oh baby dreamy eyes
Your love is [?], just put me in a trance, honey open your eyes
Goodbye Mary. It breaks my heart to see you go away.
Good Luck, Mary. I dream of you both night and day.
Be good, Mary. Goodbye to every joy I knew.
Be good, Mary, and good luck will follow you.

[Audience applauds.]

INTERLOCUTOR: Ladies and Gentlemen, that rhyming minstrel man, Rufus Satchel the Clown.

RUFUS: Ah, thank you. Roses are red, violets are white, I saw ‘em on the line just the other night.

ANNOUNCER: Well, seeing is believing. And once you see how the various members of your family enjoy Nissen Blue Ribbon Bread, you’ll realize why it’s such a popular loaf throughout this section of Maine. Blue Ribbon Bread is downright delicious, but that is only the beginning. Not only is it good, but it’s also good for you. Blue Ribbon Bread is highly enriched with vitamin B1 and B2, niacin and iron, food elements that help keep you feeling your best. So when you visit your independent grocers ask for Nissen Blue Ribbon Bread and enjoy the difference.

[Singers finish the Nissen spot by singing a jingle.]

Oh, the bread is tasty, healthful, too.
Ask for the brand that thousands do.
Head into the grocery store and say,
Nissen bread for me today.

INTERLOCUTOR: In sentimental fashion, Montigue Bowerbank sings Carolina in the Morning.

[Music plays and performer sings the following lyrics.]

Nothing would be finer than to be in Carolina in the morning.
Nothing would be sweeter than my sweetie when I greet her in the morning.
Where the morning glories twine around your door
Whispering sweet stories I’d love to hear once more
Strolling with my girlie when the dew is pearly early in the morning
Butterflies will flutter up and kiss each little buttercup at dawning
If I had Aladdin’s lamp for only a day
I’d make a wish and here’s what I’d say
Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina in the morning

[Audience applauds.]

INTERLOCUTOR: Are you an early riser, Snowball?

SNOWBALL: I gets up every morning when they have them exercises on the radio.

INTERLOCUTOR: Oh, you do exercises every morning?

SNOWBALL: No, but the gal across the street leaves her curtain up and boy, she does ‘em.

INTERLOCUTOR: Speaking of girls, why do you go around with a girl like Petunia?

SNOWBALL: Mr. [Locutor?], that girl’s a lady. I can prove it.

INTERLOCUTOR: Why, how can you prove it?

SNOWBALL: By the door she went through at the dance last night.

INTERLOCUTOR: Oh, but that’s ridiculous. How does that prove she’s a lady?

SNOWBALL: Well, that’s what it said right on the door. Ladies.

INTERLOCUTOR: I will have to admit that Petunia is as pretty as a picture.

SNOWBALL: Yes, sir. And she’s got a nice frame, too. Not only that, but she’s a mighty good cook.

INTERLOCUTOR: Oh, I’ve been looking for a good cook. Tell me, Snowball, where can I get ahold of her?

SNOWBALL: I don’t know, she’s awful ticklish.

INTERLOCUTOR: Now another minstrel melody, this time sung by Snowball J. Cottonpicker. If You Knew Susie Like I Know Susie.

[Music plays and performers sing the following lyrics.]

If you knew Susie, like I know Susie, oh, oh, oh what a girl
There’s none so classy as this fair lassie, oh, oh, Holy Moses, what a chassis
We went riding, she didn’t balk. Back from Yonkers, I’m the one who had to walk.
If you knew Susie, like I know Susie, oh, oh, what a girl
ANNOUNCER: This marks the first anniversary of Nissen’s Blue Ribbon Minstrel Show. It was just a year ago that the Nissen Baking Company presented the first broadcast that became tonight’s series. And so tonight I’m expressing sincere thanks to those who are directly responsible for the success of the show. First a word of appreciation for the continued interest shown by you at the radio studio audience. [Inaudible] members of the cast and the Blue Ribbon Band who have given so generously of their time and talent to present 52 of these Blue Ribbon Minstrel Shows.

[Inaudible] without further ado, let me introduce the members of the band. Our musical director and band leader who can play any song in any key is Norm Lambert. Shuffling Joe Brown, Jr., our drummer, is Bobby Jones. Mr. High Quality the Blue Ribbon Banjo King is Sammy Viner. Lucifer W. Breeze our trumpeter is Stan Ivers. Lankey Lou Gumdrop our saxophone player who offers the bass and cello now and again is Lanky Lancaster. And Jackson K. Flusopump our trombone virtuoso is Dick Snare. And these are the Blue Ribbon Minstrel Men. Our interlocutor is Everett Colman. Mr. Bones is Don Holmes. Rufus in [Leman?] Betts. Snowball is Morris Shafmaster. Sambo is Gene Louis. Appleton B. Jones is Charlie Lancaster. The Biloxi Brothers are really brothers, Felix and Philip Veilleaux. Montague J. Bowerbank is Bob Beverly. Shuffling Joe Brown, Sr., is Louis Pearson. And Waldo W. Whippletree is John McLeod. Our Mushmouth W. Jones has been played by Dana Sidelinker who is now serving for Uncle Sam.

[Band plays For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow.]

INTERLOCUTOR: Sambo, you’re getting thin. How much weight have you lost?

SAMBO: You remember that watermelon I had tattooed on my chest?

INTERLOCUTOR: Yes I remember, but what does that got to do with it?

SAMBO: Well, I lost so much weight that that watermelon looked just like an olive. [Audience laughs.] But I sure was healthy when I was a youngster. Here’s a picture of me when I was a baby.

INTERLOCUTOR: Oh, you certainly were bald-headed.

SAMBO: Hey, wait a minute. You’re looking at that picture upside down.

INTERLOCUTOR: Oh, yes, I see now. I forgot my glasses. By the way, Sambo, I see you’re wearing glasses. Having trouble with you eyes?

SAMBO: Yeah, I saw spots in front of my eyes.

INTERLOCUTOR: And do the glasses help?

SAMBO: Oh, yes, now I can see the spots an awful lot better. [Audience laughs.] Oh, I forgot to tell you, your wife had a little trouble this morning. She swallowed a bug.

INTERLOCUTOR: Swallowed a bug? Oh, that’s terrible Sambo. What happened?

SAMBO: Oh, I fixed everything all right, right up quick. I gave her some bug poison.
INTERLOCUTOR: Neatly side-stepping the issue, Sambo Wadsworth Longfellow sings Somebody Else, Not Me.

[Music begins to play and Sambo speaks the following lyrics.]

Great moments come to ever’ man; Some situation where he can
Attain such fame, that folks acclaim the very mention of his name
The circus played our town one day
Two bengal tigers, why they done got away
The manager, well, he looked right at me
He said, Son, here’s opportunity
Somebody’s got to get, he said they’ve got to get them cats
That’s what the man said
Somebody, that’s what he said, somebody’s got to go
The tiger man, you know, why, he’s sick in bed
Put on your hat and coat, that’s what he said, that’s what the man said
That man who catches, who catches them all alive,
A hero, a hero, that’s what he’s gonna be
He may be dead, but he’ll be a hero
It was a wonderful, wonderful chance for somebody,
Yeah, somebody else, not me
Somebody’s got to get them cats
Somebody’s got to go
The tiger man is sick in bed
Put on your hat and coat, he say
The man who catches them alive
A hero’s gonna be
It was a wonderful chance for somebody
Somebody else, that’s what I said, not me

[Audience applauds.]

INTERLOCUTOR: Waiter, this soup isn’t fit for a pig.

VOICE 2: No, we haven’t got any pork.

INTERLOCUTOR: I don’t want any pork, I said this soup isn’t fit for a pig.

VOICE 2: Well don’t get excited. I’ll get you some that is.

INTERLOCUTOR: And another thing, I don’t like these flies.

VOICE 2: Oh, we got apple, mint, custard, lemon and strawberry.

INTERLOCUTOR: No, no, no, I didn’t say pies. I said flies. Flies. Flies.

VOICE 2: Well, who does?

INTERLOCUTOR: Oh, why did I ever come in here? Listen, don’t you ever shoo flies around here?
VOICE 2: Oh, no, we just let them run on past us.

INTERLOCUTOR: Well, I’ve got to eat. Where’s the menu?

VOICE 2: You just go down the hall and it’s the first door to the left.

INTERLOCUTOR: Stop balancing those trays of dishes over my head.

VOICE 2: What say?

INTERLOCUTOR: Look out for that tray. Stop it.

[Sound of dishes crashing.]

INTERLOCUTOR: You clumsy waiter, how did you happen to do that?

VOICE 2: I thought you said to drop it.

INTERLOCUTOR: No, I said stop it. Stop it.

VOICE 2: Oh, the other one, too?

[Crashing sound heard.]

INTERLOCUTOR: Appleton B. Jones regales us with one of his novelty songs, *You Tell Her I Stutter*

[Music begins to play and performer sings the following lyrics.]

Bill McCluskey was a husky, healthy, handsome lad  
And McCluskey had a pretty little girl by the name of Pearl  
But McCluskey, big and husky, stuttered very bad!  
So when he wanted her to marry him, he told her brother, Jim:  
Now, y-y-y-you tell her ’cause I-I-I-I-stutter  
And a-a-a-lways get in D-Dutch!  
S-s-she ought to know, I-I-I’ve got a b-b-b-bungalow  
Where we two can have a little [Eee-ssaw-nonsense sounds?]  
H-H-H-H-Help a feller and g-g-g-go and tell her  
I’ve b-b-bought the ring and such  
I’m thinking o-o-o-ver cause I-I-I-love her  
So y-y-you tell her ’cause I-I-I-I-stutter too much

[Audience applauds]

INTERLOCUTOR: And now the Blue Ribbon Minstrels, featuring the original Shuffling Joe Brown, Waldo W. Whipplecreek, Jackson K. Slushbump and the entire company.

[Instrumental number.]
It’s just a little street
where old friends meet
I’d like to wander back some day
To you, it may be old
And sort of tumbled down
But it means a lot to folks
In my hometown.
Although I’m rich or poor
I still feel sure
I’m welcome as the flowers in May
It’s just a little street
Where old friends meet
And greet you in the same old way

[Instrumental number plays.]

[Performers begin to sing the following lyrics.]

In the good old summertime
In the good old summertime
Strolling through a shady lane
With your baby mine
You hold her hand and she holds yours
And that’s a very good sign
That she’s your tootsey-wootsey
In the good, old summertime

ANNOUNCER: Now Just a reminder that these Blue Ribbon Minstrels shows are presented for your listening pleasure by the Nissen Baking Company, bakers of Blue Ribbon Bread. If you have enjoyed the past 52 broadcasts, remember, their purpose is to remind you that you also enjoy Nissen’s Blue Ribbon Bread. It’s good and it’s good for you. So ask your independent grocer for Blue Ribbon Bread and enjoy the difference.

Oh the bread is tasty, healthful, too. Ask for a brand that thousands do. Step into the grocery store and say, Nissen’s bread for me today.

INTERLOCUTOR: Now the grand finale with the entire company.

[Performers sing the Blue Ribbons Minstrels theme song that opened the show; most lyrics aren’t audible.]

ANNOUNCER: Now it’s good night from the Blue Ribbon Minstrels. This anniversary program marks a new season of broadcasting under the sponsorship of the Nissen Baking Company. Free tickets are available for each of these broadcasts. So if you want to see the Blue Ribbon Minstrels in person, get your tickets from this station. And listen to Nissen next week, same time, same station. The Blue Ribbon Minstrel Show is written and produced by your announcer, Irving Hunter, and Eddie Owen. This is the Maine Broadcasting Company.
[Music and applause, eventually fading.]

[transcript ends]

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