

Skit Presented to Celebrate the Completion of the First Conversion Square (28) for the J Keybook of the JAS System. (11 May 1945)

MOSIE GETS HIS SQUARE

or

YOU CAN'T "RIKU MITSU" IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW

by Dorothy Moore and Frances Rickett, SPSIB-3-e

SCENE: An Office in wing 3, first floor, B Building. A blackboard with an empty conversion square on it is in back center. Small desk for Prouty and Bennett at left. Desk for Millard and chair for Gladys at right. Chorus seated at right behind Gladys. Chorus, Bennett, and Christopher enter through audience. All others enter, as introduced, from the left.

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

Chorus of willing slaves--created by expediency, inspired by "Moe", directed by Dubbie, driven by Prouty--
Lena Robertson, Lorna Pottberg, Veda Gardner, Elizabeth Hudson, Phyllis Durst, Anne Barker, Lois Dougherty, and Delia Nicoletti.

Captain Maurice H. Klein--the great big man with the melting brown eyes, straight from the heart of Hoboken--
Anna Marie Huffaker Jacobson

"Herr" Waldo H. Dubberstein--a pearl among oysters, the sage of the brush--
Claudine Walker

"Chris" Christopher--the fair-haired boy of B-3-e--
Frances Rickett

"Sir" Charles T. Prouty--late of Cambridge--
Marjorie Champlin

Miss Gladys Lewis--the belle of the coffee pot--
Miss Lewis

Mr. Frances R. Millard--the genial translator with the big backlog--
Esther Yeo

Mr. Emmett Bennett--Mrs. Bennett's little boy "Emmett O'Malley"--
Nancy Durgin

Anonymous girl--
Mable Woody

Organist--
Dorothy Neans

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LIGHTS! PLACES!

WE GIVE YOU GENIUS AT WORK-----

CHORUS: (TUNE: My Man)

Oh, our 'oe, we love him so
 He'll never know.
 All our life is just despair
 But we don't care.
 When he walks into the wing
 Our world is bright
 All--right.
 What's the difference if we say
 We'll go away
 When he knows that we'll be here
 Until V-Day.
 For whatever our Moe is
 We are his forever Moe.

PROUTY: Waldo!

DUBBERSTEIN: Coming, Charles!

PROUTY: (Arms akimbo, stomach out) Well, here it is!

CAPT. KLEIN: (Lumbering over) What? Got the square?

PROUTY: In time, in time. CH is definitely Z. (Dubbie enters it on blackboard.)

KLEIN: Well, let's send it off to the British.

DUBBIE: Now, wait a minute, Moe. Take it easy. There's no sense in sending it till we get two letters.

KLEIN: Ah---, well, anyhow I'll go tell the colonel. (Exits)

PROUTY: (Complaining) Come on, Waldo, let's get this organized. Gladys! Bring these charts up to date. I want all good pepple doing this. (Glares at end slave. Slave moves over and sits down-cast while others copy. Klein drifts back in.)

BENNETT: Take out CH as Z. (Slaves follow suit. Charles shrugs shoulders and starts working. Dubbie erases blackboard.)

KLEIN: You dunderheads! (Bennett settles back to tiddlywinks.)

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MILLARD: Kyū shu! !

DUBBIE: What's the trouble, Mr. Willard?

MILLARD: Oh, nothing--just sneezing in Japanese.

PROUTY: Waldo, Waldo. Here's something for the girls to slide.

DUBBIE: O.K., girls, now the indicators say this message goes from DH to EC, but I think it's reasonable to assume that it stays on LP. Of course, the key's shaky and we have no alphabet--but I think we can get it--All you have to do is try sliding it through about 150 positions.

KLEIN: Sure, just slide it through. You'll find it.

DUBBIE: Remember--it's purple. (Chorus with "yes" gets busy.
Anonymous but shapely girl walks past--all stare.

KLEIN: Hm--sweet kid--nice personality.

DUBBIE: Well, Moe--I think you'll agree that I'm generally a rational being and I think she ought to lose 15 pounds.

GLADYS: Yes--Dubbie is always right. Everybody ought to lose 15 pounds!

CHORUS: (TUNE: Bell-Bottom Trousers)

We are Dubbie's damsels
Taking his advice.
Knowing we are dumbbells
For he's said it twice.

He has freely told us
How to win a man
We must all get thinner
Or we never can.

Men are worth the winning
Dubbie says it's so
And, of course he is one
So he ought to know.

Policies are changing.
The church is on the wane.
Go along with reason,
And you'll feel no pain.

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One point worth retaining
If you want to get a man
You must all be thinner
Or you never can.

Golf is beneficial
Tennis keeps you trim.
We would gladly try it
But others play with him.

His advice is lavish
We could tell you more
But we cannot keep you
Someone wants the floor.

One point worth retaining
If you want to get a man
You must all be thinner
Or you never can.

PROUTY: All right, girls--let's get busy. Anybody got anything?

GLADYS: I had the best steak last night.

DUBBIE: Steak? Where were you? Out with the boy friend?

KLEIN: Can't expect to be bright and snappy if you stay out
all night, right Waldo? Right!

PROUTY: Where'd you have that steak, Gladys? I'm so sick of the
wretched stuff they give us here. But say, have you been
to the Mayflower, lately? We had a most delightful dinner
there the other night--It was dear--but worth it. Crepes
suzettes that simply melted in your mouth--etc, etc,

BENNETT: CH is Z! (Panging desk with fly-swatter)

PROUTY: CH is Z--Get that, Gladys? Girls? CH is Z. (Dubbie puts
it on the board)

KLEIN: That's what you had before, you "Hanyaks"!

BENNETT: CP is F. (Rolls chair over to Millard's desk)

PROUTY: CP is F. Everybody get that? Gladys? Girls? CP is F.
(Dubbie puts it on board)

KLEIN: Say, Dub! Think we better send it to the British?

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DUBBIE: Yup! I'll compose a telegram. (Composes. Klein looks over his shoulder.)

CHORUS: (TUNE: "I Have Sixpence")

We've got a letter
A little measly letter
We've got a letter that goes into the square.
It fits into J so all we can say--is--
Send it to the British over there--Good Guys.

No keys have we to grieve us.
No silly little rows to deceive us.
Not even a column, believe us
Just two simple letters for our friends--Good Friends.

Send it off--Send it off--
Wire it, before they find it, too--oo--oo--oo!

Happy is the day that we get the famous J
Especially if we beat the British to it.

GLADYS: We found five preps and a shu ryoku!

PROUTY: Hmm. Five preps and a shu ryoku--Let me see--Let me show that to Mr. Millard. Think this shu ryoku is reading, Mr. Millard? What's it saying?

MILLARD: Well, I'm not at all sure--But I'm willing to go out on a limb--Try a "NO" after that shuryoku.

PROUTY: Mr. Millard says to try a "NO".

CHORUS: (TUNE: "I'm Beginning to See the Light")

I never slide "NO" and find it there.
If I try a "WA" it's gone elsewhere.
I slide a GG and there's never a pair.
Mr. Millard, what shall I try?

I slide a "shu shu", but it won't read;
And sesi me muru is not what I need.
I work and I slave but I get no lead.
Mr. Millard, what shall I try?

Go sanko made--any old day
Riku and mitsu--they don't pay
Dendai and JL's--gone away--
The whole thing's a horrible lie.

I can't make a number recapitulate
There isn't a "nen" and there isn't a date.
I've done everything-- even stayed here late!
Mr. Millard, what shall I try?

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(Everybody works)

CHORUS: This is it! Tutti Frutti in GG's--This is it!

PROUTY: Look, Mr. Millard!

MILLARD: Scizzors Bells! That's it, all right! It's that miserable old "shu kan johō!" Let all the faithful gather round the blackboard and let's get started. CW is Y(etc.)

BENNETT: Take CH out of O. (etc.)

DUBBIE: Enter it in purple.

KLEIN: Can DF be P? Let's send it to the British.
(Chorus records at board. Anonymous girl passes. Silence--all eyes on her.)

KLEIN: Sweet kid. Nice personality.

DUBBIE: Ought to lose about 15 pounds. (General hubbub--letter, etc., till Chris enters)

KLEIN: Well, the genius kid! How are ya, genius?

CHRIS: (Giggle) Fine----How's it going?

PROUTY: Pretty well, I think--Of course, there's still some trouble--a few conflicts we'll have to iron out.

BENNETT: Charles. There are too many foxes in the dog row. Take out the one under miKe.

CHRIS: (Baffled) I might have known I couldn't leave you guys to your own devices. Take out everything!

PROUTY: But, Christopher!

CHRIS: Everything! Now don't get excited, Charles--I have a copy right here.

DUBBIE: How'd you get it?

CHRIS: I lay awake all night mulling over those master pairs. And all of a sudden, it occurred to me that if we took the 3rd radiant and bisected it, using the slide rule--

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(7)

PROUTY: To the 3rd or 4th power?

CHRIS: 4th--And then took the basic equivalents with their variants and equated them on that basis.

PROUTY: The 3rd or the 4th basis?

CHRIS: 3rd. We would set up a coordinating relationship. Do you follow?

BENNETT: Of course. Assume tailing and from the frequency of the tetragraphic sort you can complete the plain component---

PROUTY: On 1st and 2nd letter!

CHRIS: Exactly!

KLEIN: So--have you got the square?

CHRIS: Yes--sure--It fell apart just before I did. Here are a few copies I had Beck and the kids run off.

CHORUS: That's it--We're in--Send it to the British!

DUBBIE: Congratulations, Moe! This is fine work. They'll probably make you a major!

KLEIN: Thanks, Dub--Of course, I'm no mental giant--but believe me--if this were Hoboken--they would make me a major!

CHORUS: (TUNE: "Great Day" and "There'll be Some Changes Made")

We've been down and out
Nothing to shout about
We thought we'd never read J.

Now the skies are blue
Once more we've seen it through
We can all laugh at the way--

Mr. Wotns warned us
Some early morn
We would find his system different--

HE SAID(spoken)

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I made a change in the key book
'Andca change in the square
And from now on there'll be no master pair.
The text will be different
Subtractors too.
Nothing about it will make sense to you.
You're gonna miss your way of living
'Cause you can't overlap.
Jimmy's machine won't open up this trap.
I velly solly you must take the rap.
There've been some changes made today--
There've been some changes made.

AND

We were in the soup
Till Wotns sent a dupe.
And then we saw right away.

RAM could run it through
Find us a hit or two.
Give us a break into J.

Then we started sliding
And pulling plain text
Right from the empty ether.

Now we've got the square
Mosie can save his hair.
We've really hit a great day!

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