

## Music Man Glossary

**Written and compiled by Dana Dajani**

**Valentine-** viii- something (as a movie or piece of writing) expressing uncritical praise or affection: tribute.

**Kibitzing-1-** to exchange comments, chat.

**Notion salesman-1-** Small lightweight items for household use, such as needles, buttons, and thread.

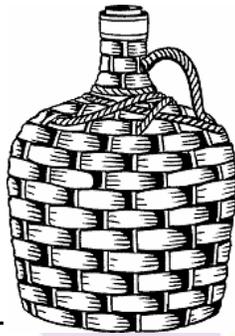
**Noggins-2-**a small mug or cup.

**Piggins-2-** a small wooden pail with one stave extended upward as a handle.

**Firkins-2-**a small wooden vessel or cask.

**Hogshead-2-**a large cask or barrel.

**Cask-2-**a barrel-shaped vessel of staves, headings, and hoops usually for liquids.

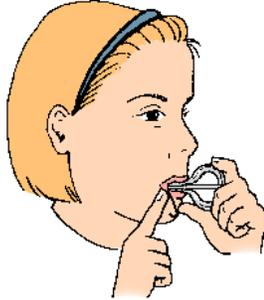


**Demijohn-2-**

**U-needa biscuit-4-** Up to the 1880s, crackers were unbranded and typically sold loose in cracker barrels. But Adolphus Green, who had created the National Biscuit Company through the acquisition of many small bakeries, decided to develop a distinctive, nationally branded product that would take advantage of the manufacturing and marketing strengths of his new company. In 1889, Green hired the N. W. Ayer advertising agency to help develop the new product. After considering and rejecting a variety of names, Green settled on the name Uneeda Biscuit ("biscuit," Green decided, was more elegant than "cracker"). The product would be manufactured in a distinctive octagonal shape and sold in a waterproof wax paper-lined box.

**Tierce-5-** A cask holding the old unit of liquid measure of the same name, equal to 42 US gallons.

**\*\*\*Neck-or-nothing-7-**



**Jews-harp-8-**

**\*\*\*Rode out of town on a rail-9-**

**Thimble-rigger-9-** thimble-rig—to cheat by trickery, a swindling trick in which a small ball or pea is quickly shifted from under one to another of three small cups to fool the spectator guessing its location

**\*\*\*Neck-bowed-10-** pronounced boughed.

**Hakweyes-10-** a native or resident of Iowa -- used as a nickname



**En tableau-10-** a striking or artistic grouping

**Dubuque-12-** city E Iowa on Mississippi River

**Keokuk-12-** city in Iowa named for a Sauk & Fox tribal leader

**Ames-12-** city *central* Iowa N of Des Moines

**Rig-12-** a carriage with its horse

**Balkline game-16-** Balkline is a version of carom billiards with lines drawn on a billiard table to form rectangles. Balkline lost its popularity in the 1930's and gradually was replaced in popularity by pocket billiards or pool. Billiards refers to all games played on a billiard table, with or without pockets. However, some people take billiards to mean the carom games only (no pockets) and pool to mean the pocket billiard games. In the nineteenth century a "poolroom" was a betting parlor for horse racing. ("Pool" means a collective bet.) Pocket billiard tables were installed so patrons could pass the time between races. The two became connected and the "pool-room" developed bad connotations.

**\*\*\*De-gra-da-16-**

**\*\*\*Cistern-17-**

**Tailor-mades-** Tailor-mades are machine made cigarettes. These came into existence around 1880.

**Bevo-18-** anachronistically mentioned in "Trouble," was a non-alcoholic "near beer" first produced circa 1916.

**Cubeb-18-** The dried, unripe berry of a climbing vine of the pepper family - sometimes called tailed pepper. Cubeb used to be crushed and smoked in pipes and cigarettes. Hence, cubeb are cigarettes containing the crushed berries.

**Sen-sen-18-** Sen-Sen was the Tic Tac of the late 1800s and early 1900s. Sen-Sen was developed before the turn of the century by T.B. Dunn and Co., perfume dealers. Hence, Sen-Sen was sold as a breath perfume. Sen-Sen can still be purchased today.

**Libertine-18-** Pronounced lib ur teen, accent on lib. In modern usage it means a debauched, licentious, or immoral man. Meredith Willson's famous *Trouble in The Music Man* uses it as an adjective – "libertine men and scarlet women." So, basically a libertine is the male version of a scarlet woman. It is interesting that this word comes from the Roman "libertus" meaning a man who has been freed from slavery. However, in sixteenth century Europe, there was a freethinking sect known as the Libertines. The Libertines believed that the whole universe was God and therefore man is God and hence he cannot sin. There was no distinction between good and evil so there were no moral codes.

**Mass-steria-18-** mass hysteria

**Hifalutin'-** pretentious, over-blown, pompous, or bombastic. Several references contend this is a purely American expression that was first used in print around 1850 and that its origin comes from "high-flown" or "highflier." It is generally thought to have referred to the puffed-up rhetoric used by Fourth of July speakers. One source (more hifalutin' than the others) says it may have come from "high fluting" where "fluting" refers to the fancy decorative work found at the tops of columns.

**Captain Billy's Whiz Bang-20-** After serving in World War I, Wilford H. "Captain Billy" Fawcett began printing a small bulletin of barracks humor for disabled servicemen in a veterans' hospital. A wholesaler picked up the publication and started selling it in hotels and drugstores. *Captain Billy's Whiz Bang* is considered the great grandfather of the *National Lampoon* and other humor magazines. Once considered risqué, it is now considered a mirror of contemporary society in the Roaring Twenties. Fawcett eventually built a successful magazine line with *True*, *Cavalier*, *True Confessions*, and *Mechanix Illustrated*. Fawcett eventually turned to paperbacks producing the famous Fawcett Gold Medal line. Note: If Captain Billy's Whiz Bang did not appear until after World War I, then Prof. Harold Hill's line in *The Music Man* is an anachronism.

**Knickerbockers-** Knickerbockers are also known as knickers. They are a short, loose-fitting pant gathered in just at or below the knee. The term probably comes from the costume shown in illustrations of Washington Irving's *Knickerbocker's History of New York*.

**Balzac-25-** Honoré de Balzac was a French writer of realist novels. Balzac was born in Tours, France on 20 May 1799. Balzac conceived of the idea of collecting his novels into one mammoth continuum entitled *La Comédie Humaine* (*The Human Comedy*.) Balzac infuses his novels with extreme realism. His description of background is almost as important as his development of character. Balzac died on 18 August 1850.

**Elinor Glyn-** a romance novelist of the early 20th century, considered somewhat scandalous in her day; mentioned in dialogue between Marian Paroo and

Eulalie Shinn

**Gary, Indiana**--was a factory town built from the ground up by U.S. Steel only six years before the musical's time setting

**Masher-26-** a man who is aggressive in making amorous advances to women.

**Saint Pat-26-**

**Columbia-31-** torch in her hand

**Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean-31-**

**Stereopticon slides-31-**

**Tablow-32-** tableau

**Rostrum-32-**

**Tom-tom-32-**

**Springfield rifle-32-**

**Pompy-eye-33-**

**Jericho-36-**

**Tantara-36-**

**Gilmore-36-** Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore was regarded by John Philip Sousa as the "Father of The American Band." Gilmore was born in 1829 on Christmas Day in County Galway, Ireland. He immigrated to Boston in 1849 where he became famous as a cornet soloist and bandleader. In 1857 he founded Gilmore's Band which featured two woodwinds for each brass instrument. This is the same as used in modern concert bands. He wrote "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" and "22nd Regiment March". It was Patrick Gilmore and his band who started the tradition of greeting the New Year in Times Square. Gilmore died in 1892.

**Liberatti-36-** (1847-1927) Alessandro Liberati, Born in Italy, played in the Cacciatori Band of Rome. 1872 came to U.S., became a U.S. citizen, and directed his own band that toured the U.S. from 1889-1919 and 1921-23.

**Pat Conways-37-** 1865-1929. 1900-08, Director of the Ithaca N.Y. Municipal Band, which later became famous as the Conway Band. Toured and performed around the U.S. at the same time as Sousa's band.

**The Great Createore-37-** Giuseppe Createore, born in Naples, Italy 21 June 1871, came to the US in 1900 and toured from coast to coast and in Canada. In 1906 he returned to Italy and formed another band, which he brought back to the US. Createore's Band recorded songs on 78 LPs such as "Electric March" and "American Army March.." He then settled in New York, and was active as impresario of various opera companies, which however were not successful; conducted band concerts during summer seasons in various U.S. cities. He died in New York on 15 August, 1952.

**W.C. Handy-37-** William Christopher Handy is considered the "Father of the Blues." He was born in a log cabin in Florence, Alabama, on 16 November 1873. Handy, a piano and trumpet player, left Florence and embarked on a musical odyssey that carried him to St. Louis and Memphis. With the publication of "Memphis Blues" in 1912, Handy standardized a unique, original form of American music that became known as "the blues". Later compositions, from "St. Louis Blues" to "Beale St.

Blues", established gritty, soulful standards for this heartfelt musical genre. In the 1920s, Handy moved to New York City and became a successful music publisher. Handy died in 1958.

**John Philip Sousa-37-** John Philip Sousa, or "March King" as he was known throughout the world, was born in Washington, D.C. in 1854. Sousa was both a band leader and a composer. Sousa was the director of the U.S. Marine Corps Band from 1880 to 1892. After being discharged from the Marine Corps he formed his own band and gave concerts worldwide. His marches include: "Semper Fidelis," "The Washington Post," "El Capitan," and "Stars and Stripes Forever." Sousa died in 1932.

**Frank Gotch and Strangler Lewis lay on the mat for three and a half hours without moving a muscle-38-** Frank Gotch, born in Humboldt, Iowa on 27 April 1878, is considered by many to be the first great professional wrestling champion. He is famous for his "step-over toe-hold." On Labor Day in 1908, Gotch, the then American Heavyweight Champion, defeated World Heavyweight Champion, George Hackenschmidt, at Comiskey Park in Chicago to unify the two titles. Gotch died in 1917.

Ed "Strangler" Lewis was born Robert Herman Julius Friedrich in Wisconsin in 1889. Around 1910, he took the name Lewis from a wrestler of the previous century known as Evan "The Strangler" Lewis, a master of the strangle hold. Ed "Strangler" Lewis never used the illegal strangle hold but developed the legal headlock which, when properly applied, would render the opponent unconscious. In the days of Gotch and Lewis, there was no time limit on matches. There is no evidence that Gotch and Lewis ever fought.

**Dan Patch-** Dan Patch (a big, light bay colt born in Indiana in 1897) was perhaps the best-known harness race horse of the Twentieth Century. He traveled the country by rail in his own private boxcar staging exhibitions. In 1906, he paced the mile in 1:55 - a record that remained unbeaten for 32 years. By the time he died in 1916 there was a chewing tobacco, a washing machine, and a dance named after him. Dan Patch was a "pacer," not a "trotter."

**\*\*\*Or you'll hear from me till who laid the rails-38-**

**Jeely Kly-39-** This is a regional phrase used as a more acceptable version of "Jesus Christ". Similar substitutes listed in slang dictionaries include Jeazle Peats, Jeezly, jeasley, jeasly, Jee!, Gee! Jee whizz!

**Pianola:** a trademark kind of player piano; Pianola. A mechanically operated piano that uses a roll of perforated paper to activate the keys. syn: player piano.

**\*\*\*Boy did you cut a swath tonight-45-**

**\*\*\*For no Diana do I play faun-47-**

**\*\*\*Agog-48-**

**\*\*\*Que veev-48-**

**Del Sarte-49-** (1811-71) Francois Del Sarte, French teacher of acting and singing. Del Sarte formulated certain principles of aesthetics that he applied to the teaching of dramatic expression. He set up rules coordinating the voice with the gestures of all parts of the body.

**Chaucer-50-** Geoffrey Chaucer was the greatest English poet of the Middle Ages. He wrote *The Canterbury Tales*, a group of stories ranking among the masterpieces of literature. Chaucer was born in London around 1340 and died in 1400.

**Rabelais-50-** Francois Rabelais, a French humanist, is one of the comic geniuses of literature. Rabelais was born in about 1483 in Poitou, France. He was a Benedictine monk and became a physician. Rabelais' satirical masterpiece, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*, is a collection of five books. Beneath the often ribald humor of the book are serious discussions of education, religion, politics, and philosophy. The third book in this tome was condemned as heresy by the Sorbonne. He died in Paris in 1553.

**Steelies-54-** Steelies are marbles made of steel. They originally were the steel balls out of ball bearings.

**Aggies- 54-** Aggies are marbles made out of agate.

**Peeweess -54-** Peeweess refer to smaller marbles, usually 1/2 inch in diameter or less.

**Glassie with an American flag in the middle-54-** Glassies are glass marbles.

**\*\*\*St. Bridget-59-**

**O'Clark, O'Mendez, O'Klein-59-** Herbert L. Clarke was a cornetist with Sousa. He was famous for his solo arrangements of numbers like the *Carnival of Venice*.

Mannie Klein was a trumpet player who was comfortable playing both jazz and classical music.

Rafael Mendez was a great Hollywood trumpeter of the thirties and forties.

**\*\*\*St. Micheal-60-**

**\*\*\*Hod-carrying-60-**

**\*\*\*Mavrneen-pinchin, Tara's hall minstrel-singing Irishmen! Be-gob and be-jabbers! -60-**

**Hodado-61-** Ho do you do?

**Widda-62-** widow

**\*\*\*Footbridge-65-**

**\*\*\*Black hole of Clcutta-65-**

**\*\*\*Boodling-66-**

**Wells Faro Wagon-67-** Since 1852, the Wells Fargo stagecoach has been a symbol of reliable service. Over one hundred years ago, their stages traveled across thousands of miles of desert, prairie, and mountain roads to deliver mail and cash.

**\*\*\*Grey Mackinaw-67-**

**\*\*\*Prepaid Surprise or C.O.D-68-**

**\*\*\*D.A.R-69-**

**\*\*\*County Seat-70-**

**\*\*\*Tempus fugits-70-**

**\*\*\*Girls' basketball bloomers, black stockings and tennis shoes- 73-**

**\*\*\*Shipoopi-75-**

- \*\*\*Ye Gods- 79- eh Gads
- \*\*\*Sturgeon-80-
- \*\*\*A buttonhook in the well-water-80-
- \*\*\*Deputized-84-
- \*\*\*Redpath Circuit-84-
- \*\*\*Molin-84
- \*\*\*Sweet and Low- 86-
- \*\*\*Gumption-88-
- \*\*\*Criminee-90-
- \*\*\*I got the goods on him in spades-91-
- \*\*\*Raspberry seed in my wisdom tooth-91
- \*\*\*Can't tell her from a cat-boat in a hurricane-104-
- \*\*\*Buster brown-104-
- \*\*\*The clink-107-

**Lilligags-107-** To dawdle, to goof off, to fool around." Lollygag," like "hifalutin," seems to show up in American English around the middle of the nineteenth century. Interestingly, "lollygag" originally meant, "to fool around" in the sense of kissing, caressing, etc.

\*\*\*Doxy-107

\*\*\*Round heel fiz gig-107

**Like a cote a' shropshyre sheep-115-** Cote is a shelter or shed for small animals or birds. Shropshire sheep are a medium-wooled sheep grown mainly for the meat they produce.



### Trivia--

- The indie band The Shins are named after the Shinn family in The Music Man. James Russell Mercer chose the name for the band because his father loved The Music Man.
- The song "Till There Was You" was covered by the Beatles in 1963 on their second album *With the Beatles*. It is the only showtune the Beatles covered.
- Jack White of The White Stripes has integrated segments of The Music Man into his live show (Pick a little, talk a little & ya got trouble)

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