

LAND YACHT RADIO WITH LEFTY & RED-EPISODE 9

JAPANESE ANNOUNCER

Osaka ni kuru! Ko kashi hakuran
senta~. Kokusai bungu sho.Poyo,
Kaonashi, Totoro nado. Soshite
tokubetsu gesuto, Subete o hajimeta
otoko-Akiyama-san! Raigetsu wa
kogashiekisuposenta-Osaka. Soko ni
iru!

MUSIC: Land Yacht Radio Open!

LEFTY

Hi-ho and good day, avid Driftless
listeners.

RED

You've tuned into Land Yacht Radio
With Lefty & Red.

MUSIC: Lefty & Red!

LEFTY

We've got a honey of a show lined
up for you today.

RED

George Drobnick from the *What's The
Buzz Beekeeping Society* is going to
stop by and give us tips on keeping
your bees happy and healthy.

LEFTY

Our own Cecil Stringly will be
reviewing a youth orchestra concert
at The Argyle Opera House.

RED

Weather and Traffic updates with
Herm Demmel out in Clyde.

LEFTY

And, of course, Ask Your Neighbor.
But first, let's take a break to
pay some bills.

MUSIC: Lefty & Red!

Ad begins...

ETHYL

Oh my god! Oh my god! Oh my God!

LEFTY
What's up, Ethyl?

ETHYL
Lefty, Red, you'll never believe
what's happening!

RED
What is it?

LEFTY
Is everything okay?

ETHYL
Oh, more than okay. I just--I just
can't believe it! It's like a dream
come true!

LEFTY
Well, fill us in!

ETHYL
I just read on one of my gel pen
websites, that The International
Stationary Expo is happening next
month!

Pause.

LEFTY
Oh.
(to Red.)
So should we wear gloves for the
bee segment?

RED
I would--

ETHYL
Did you hear me? The world's
largest and most prestigious
stationary event is happening after
a ten year hiatus. I just can't
believe it! We'll have to get
somebody to cover my shift.

RED
Wait, wait...what?

ETHYL
Well, I mean, if I'm going to go
cover the event for the full week,
we'll have to--

LEFTY

--Cover the event?

ETHYL

Yeah. I figured the station could send me, as a field reporter.

RED

And where is it, exactly?

ETHYL

Where it always is, silly. Osaka, Japan.

LEFTY

Huh?

ETHYL

And that's not even the best part. Listen to this; the guest of honor at the event is Hirishu Akiyama.

LEFTY

(confused.)

And that's...

ETHYL

He is the father of modern designer stationary in Japan, Lefty! He created all the great anime sticker characters; Igatsu the Happy Walrus, Dama-Kun the Angry Pancake and the Kubi-Kubi Earthquake Twins. There wouldn't be a Hello Kitty or a Badtz Maru without Akiyama-san.

RED

(unimpressed.)

Well...that goes without saying.

ETHYL

He's my childhood idol. I remember as a young girl, maybe eight or nine, not knowing where I fit in. Feeling like an outcast. A nobody. And then, for my first communion, my Aunt Stella gave me an Akiyama pen and paper set. Rumba Pumba the Hot Tub Monkey.

RED

Of course.

ETHYL

And I discovered what was really important to me that day. Akiyama-san reached out across the ocean and touched the heart of a little girl, sitting in a white communion dress in a bedroom in Barneveld. He was my hero, and I knew one day I would get to meet him and thank him.

(pause.)

I figure I could fly coach to save a few dollars, I know money is tight at the moment. And I could find a cheap Ryokan to stay in--

LEFTY

Ethyl. You're not going to Japan.

ETHYL

What?

RED

We just can't afford the cost of a trip like that.

LEFTY

Money isn't tight, Ethyl, it's non-existent. We're a hair's breath from being broke.

RED

We can't afford lunch, much less a trip overseas.

ETHYL

(disappointed.)

But...it's a really important story.

LEFTY

I'm sure it is, and we're really sorry. Believe me, if we had the money we'd send you.

RED

Or we'd at least think about sending you.

LEFTY

Definitely. Definitely think about it, yeah.

EHTYL
 (dejected.)
 All right. Okay. Thanks. I...I
 appreciate that...I guess.

SFX: Footsteps walking away.

LEFTY
 Oh boy.

RED
 Lefty, there's no way we could have
 swung a trip like that.

LEFTY
 I know. I still feel like a heel.

RED
 Me too.

SFX: Door shutting. Cats meowing.

MUSIC: Sad music.

ETHYL
 I don't understand, Ahab Fuzzy
 Belly. Don't they realize how
 important this is to me? How much
 it means? I've waited my whole life
 to go to Osaka and meet Mr. Akiyama-
 san. This is my dream. And we all
 know, deep down, there's nothing
 more important than holding on to
 your dreams.
 (starts singing.)
 "If I had a dream..."

SFX: Loud door knock.

LEFTY
 Ethyl! No singing while we're on
 the air!

ETHYL
 Right! Sorry, Lefty! So I guess
 this is it, Lou Jacobi. I can stay
 here and live out my days in the
 drab safety of my kitty office, or
 I can leave, go out there, face the
 cold, hard world and chase my
 dream.

SFX: Meow!

ETHYL (CONT'D)

You're right, Mr. Snotzi. I don't have a choice. I have to go!

SFX: Drawers opening. Clothes being packed.

ETHYL (CONT'D)

I have a few dollars tucked away I was saving for some catnip toys. I can hitch-hike, stay off the main highways and make my way west. From there I'll hop a ship or stow away on a jetliner, I don't know. I just know I have to get to the International Stationary Expo in Osaka, Japan. I have to chase my dream.

SFX: Many meows.

ETHYL (CONT'D)

Oh, my babies. I'm going to miss you all, so. But don't worry, I'll make sure you're taken care of while I'm gone.

SFX: Writing.

ETHYL (CONT'D)

"Dear Lefty and Red. Don't be mad, but I'm going to chase my dream. Please feed my kitties while I'm away. Buster, Shadowfax, Grimley and Choo-Choo Butt get the Purina One Organic Dry food plain, half cup a day each. Samwise, Flubber-Baby, Miriam, Jean Marc, Nemo and Pasqual get a dry mix with the wet gravy lickin's, and Mr. Snotzi, Ahab Fuzzy Belly and Lou Jacobi get pure gravy lickin's mixed with the moist nibbles. Lady Gland Squeezer get's the organic raw pigeon meat with a sprinkle of her GI medication mixed with one of her anti-gas pills." Oh my babies, I hate to leave you. Maybe I can take one of you with me. But which one? I can't play favorites. I know, the first one of you to cough up a hair ball gets to accompany me on my journey to the Land of the Midnight Sun. Ready? And go.

SFX: Meowing, lurching, retching.

ETHYL (CONT'D)

Oh, Mr. Snotzi, I knew it would be you, somehow. A close second, Flubber-Baby. If the prize was for size and weight, I'm sure you'd have won. Well, into the valise, Mr. Snotzi.

SFX: Meow!

ETHYL (CONT'D)

Au Voire, my sweet babies. I'll miss you so. Kisses and squeezes to everyone when I get back. I'm off to chase my dream!

SFX: Door slamming. Cat's meowing.

MUSIC: Lefty and Red!

LEFTY

Well we're outside today, because our guest is from the What's The Buzz Beekeepers Society over in Fennimore, George Drobnick. Welcome, George.

GEORGE

Yup, thank you. Real good being here.

RED

So George, I noticed you brought a stack of wooden boxes out with you. And they seem to be full of bees.

GEORGE

You betcha. This is one of the three hundred hives we got out at the Golden Honey Acre Farms in Fennimore.

LEFTY

So how many bees are in a hive this size?

ETHYL

(walking bye.)

Goodbye Lefty...Red. I'm going to chase my dreams.

RED

Okay, pick up some coffee creamer on your way back.

GEORGE

An average hive has about twenty thousand to fifty thousand bees. I'd guess the size of this hive to be around thirty-five thousand.

RED

Wow, that is a lot--Ow! Woo, I just got stung. Ouch.

LEFTY

Are you okay--Ow! Yow! Dang it. Ouch! George, are these--Ow! Are these bees angry or something?

GEORGE

Oh no, that's about what they do when you into the hive proximity.

RED

Yes, but--Ow! Ah! Ow! Shoot, they're in my hair. They're in my hair! Ow!

LEFTY

Ahh! George, how are you--Yow! How are you not getting stung? Ow!

GEORGE

Oh, I am, sure. Matter a fact I been stung a couple hundred times just standing here.

RED

Yeah, but how are you--Ow, dammit! Sorry--Ah! Ouch!

LEFTY

Are you not feeling this? Ow!

GEORGE

Oh no, I've gotten quite used to it over the years. These days it sort of feels like a warm shiatsu massage. I look forward to it.

RED

Yes, but--Ow! But--Ow! But--Ow! Ow! Damnit! Ouch! I'm sorry, I'm out of here!

LEFTY

Ow! Me too. Head for the pond, Red!

SFX: Far away splashing.

GEORGE

Ahhhhh...that feels nice.

MUSIC: Lefty and Red!

ETHYL

Well, I guess it's time to stick my thumb out and get this journey started, eh, Mr. Snotzie?

SFX: Muffles meow. Faraway truck.

ETHLY

Oh, there's a semi-truck. Well, here goes nothing.

SFX: Truck slowing down.

ETHYL

Oh my gosh, they're stopping.

SFX: Truck door opening. Lumpy Wanda speaks.

LUMPY WANDA

Hey, where're you headed?

ETHYL

West.

LUMPY WANDA

Me, too. Hop on in.

SFX: Stepping into cab. Truck driving away.

LUMPY WANDA (CONT'D)

My name's Wanda. People call me Lumpy Wanda... 'cause I'm, you know, lumpy.

ETHYL

Oh sure. I'm Ethyl. Ethyl Flapsaddle.

LUMPY WANDA

Nice to meet-cha. I'm goin' as far as Ogallala, Nebraska, if that helps.

ETHYL

Yeah, great. Boy, this is really high up. I've never been in a big rig before.

SFX: Meow.

LUMPY WANDA

Well now, who's that little peckerhead?

ETHYL

Oh, that's Mr. Snotzie. He's a cat.

LUMPY WANDA

So I gathered.

ETHYL

I hope you don't mind him tagging along.

LUMPY WANDA

Nah, the more the merrier. It's nice to have the company.

ETHYL

Thanks. So how long have you been driving trucks, Lumpy Wanda?

LUMPY WANDA

Oh, pert near most of my life. Started driving when I was twelve. Had to tape cigar boxes to my feet so's I could reach the pedals.

ETHYL

Wow. You must have seen a lot of things travelling around the country like this.

LUMPY WANDA

Oh, I tell you. I have some stories that'd curl your hair.

ETHYL

Ooh, like what?

LUMPY WANDA

Hmm, let's see...all right, about fifteen years ago I'm driving a rig full of coffin liners and bean bag chairs over to Bakersfield.

(MORE)

LUMPY WANDA (CONT'D)

So I'm heading through northern Arizona when I saw what I thought were leaves blowing across the road in the distance.

ETHYL

Uh-huh.

LUMPY WANDA

Now this puzzled me, since there's mostly coniferous trees in northern Arizona; pines, firs, spruces and the like. Nothin' that would drop leaves.

ETHYL

Yeah, sure.

LUMPY WANDA

Well I get closer and closer, when I finally got to the 'leaves', I realized that they was migrating tarantulas.

ETHYL

Oh my!

LUMPY WANDA

Hundreds of thousands of them. There were so many of them that when I hit my brakes my rig started sliding on their guts. I was jack-knifing back and forth like an old geezer's penis in a windstorm. I finally got control of the rig, I headed for the nearest truck stop. When I took a few breaths calmed down, I actually thought maybe I was seeing things at first, like maybe I was just getting hazy from lack of sleep.

ETHYL

Sure.

LUMPY WANDA

But when I climbed out to gas up, I found tarantula guts and legs and abdomens caked on the inside wheel wells of the truck. Some of the ones that survived actually ended up crawling into the sleeper bed in the rig.

ETHYL

Eww!

LUMPY WANDA

Took me a few months to get 'em all out. But I did, eventually. You know folks actually eat fried tarantulas in Cambodia?

ETHYL

I did not.

LUMPY WANDA

Oh yeah, I got all sorts of stories I could tell you. Hauling horse saddles, heavy duty condoms, hell, I once hit a full grown, pregnant moose coming down from Ketchikan. You like light opera?

ETHYL

Uh, sure, I guess.

SFX: Radio button.

MUSIC: Gilbert and Sullivan.

LUMPY WANDA

(singing along.)

*I am the very model of a modern
Major-General,
I've information vegetable, animal,
and mineral,
I know the kings of England, and I
quote the fights historical,
From Marathon to Waterloo, in order
categorical...*

SFX: Truck driving by. MUSIC fades.

MUSIC: Lefty and Red!

MUSIC: Balogna Fest

EVERETT KAULSKI

Everette Kaulski here inviting folks to come down and experience Balogna Fest—next weekend at Ferble's Park in Sauk City. We celebrate everything balogna; from fried bologna sandwiches and bologna rings to bologna hot dogs, bologna kielbasa dogs and, yes, bologna on a stick.

(MORE)

EVERETT KAULSKI (CONT'D)

You can learn the newest balogna recipes from our top chefs, like pickled balogna, braized balogna, balogna soup, balogna fritters and balogna Wellington. But it the end, it all tastes like balogna. We also have the outhouse races, the 5K balogna run, the Balogna Baby contest and we wrap it all up with the Best Big Balogna Parade where we crown the Balogna King and Queen with, you guessed it, balogna crowns. Oh, and there'll be fireworks if it doesn't rain. So head on out to Balogna Fest this weekend at Ferble's Park in Sauk City. You'll have tons of fun...and that ain't no joke.

MUSIC: Lefty & Red!

RED

We're visiting the Arts and Culture corner today, where our resident arts expert Cecil Stringly is giving his review of the Youth Orchestra Concert in Argyle. Cecil?

CECIL

(glumly.)
Uff. Hello, Red.

RED

So Cecil, did you enjoy the concert?

CECIL

Hardly. Quite frankly I've never experienced such a lackluster, clumsy and inexperienced bunch of rattling noise makers in my entire life.

RED

Well, they were all children--

CECIL

Pitiful excuses! The first group to perform we're the most abysmal. Lacking tone, rhythm, discipline, they hooted and tooted and squeaked like hedgehogs put into a garbage bag and rolled over with a pontoon boat. Nine and ten year olds, bah!

(MORE)

CECIL (CONT'D)

And their lame excuses for parents standing in the aisles, grinning like drugged hyenas and snapping away with their smart phones. Cretins, I tell you!

RED

Now Cecil--

CECIL

--But the older children fared no better. Listening to the eleven and twelve year old group flail away at Saint-Saens *Carnival of the Animals*. It was like watching my family being massacred on a beach. And what the thirteen and above group did to Beethoven's *Für Elise*, makes me want to retch into eternity.

RED

Cecil, maybe you're being a little hard on them. It is a youth orchestra, after all.

CECIL

Perhaps. It's just when I hear music being mutilated like that, I just want to--But you're right. There were some positive moments. The renovation of the Argyle Opera House was competent and adequate. Although I don't know who chose the day-glo green for the new seat upholstery. And the brownies and macaroons on sale in the lobby we're moist and quite delicious.

RED

There, you see?

CECIL

The Argyle Youth orchestra performs two more nights at the Argyle Opera House. Tickets are four dollars. If you'd like to shatter your ear drums and make your brain bleed, by all means, go.

RED

Thanks, Cecil. Sounded like a great time. Now this...

MUSIC: Lefty and Red!

SFX: Truck pulling to a stop. Door opening.

LUMPY WANDA

Well, this is as far as I go,
Ethyl.

ETHYL

Thanks so much, Lumpy Wanda.

LUMPY WANDA

This here truck stop will have
plenty of folks going in all
different directions. I'm sure you
can find a ride.

ETHYL

Okay. Thank you.

SFX: Truck pulls away.

ETHYL (CONT'D)

Well, Mr. Shotzie. I guess there's
no turning back now. I've followed
my dream this far, and I know I'll
see it through to the end. Because
everyone has to follow there dream.
(singing.)
"If I had a dream..."

SFX: Car honk.

DUKE

Need a ride, little lady?

ETHYL

Oh, sure.

DUKE

Hop in.

ETHYL

Hot dang! I never rode in a
convertible before.

DUKE

Is that right. Well I guess you're
about ready, eh?

ETHYL

I guess.

SFX: Car pulling away.

DUKE

Whoo! You see that? That one almost got me!

ETHYL

What did?

DUKE

The giant bat. Didn't you see it? They're all around us. Hundreds of 'em. All swooping and screeching and diving around the car.

ETHYL

(unsure.)

Okay...

SFX: Meow

DUKE

What the heck was that?!

ETHYL

Oh, that's just Mr. Snotzie.

DUKE

Hm...are you two married?

ETHYL

He's a cat.

DUKE

Engaged?

ETHYL

Uh...

DUKE

Never mind. You just hold on to this flyswatter and whack those bats as they dive bomb us. I'll man the helm. Onward and upward!

ETHYL

Oh boy...

MUSIC: Lefty and Red!

MUSIC:

KARLA

Hey, Karla Hurtzweiler here,
inviting you to come visit Krude
Karla's Bar & Grill in Fountain
City, where we got the best fuckin'
burgers in the county. You asshole
pussys don't like burgers? Well
fuck you, 'cause Krude Karla's also
has brats, pizza and home made
pasties. And we have the biggest
mother-fuckin' beer selection in
the State. Lite beers, lagers,
ambers, and for all you cock-
suckin, mother fuckin', shit-eatin'
Chicago yuppie faggots, Belgian
IPAs. And every Sunday we have live
music in our outdoor beer garden,
so all you long-haired hippie
assholes with your fuckin' slut
stoner girlfriends can dance your
pussy, butt-fuckin' shit-eatin'
stoner asses off to some cock-
suckin', mother-fuckin', pompous
cunt, asshole, shitbag, crap
suckin', jizz fuckin', pussy
lickin' ball tasting, piss drinkin'
Millennial Acoustic Folk/Rock band.
So come on down to Krude Karla's
Bar & Grill, just off county road G
next to fuckin' Elmer's Auto and
Toy Museum, in Fountain City. Krude
Karla's...a family place.

MUSIC: Lefty & Red!

SFX: Car on the highway.

ETHYL

Excuse me, Duke, but should you be
weaving all over the road like
this?

DUKE

I'm fully in control darlin'. Uh-
oh, we're headed into Barstow. Time
for the drugs to be kicking in.

ETHYL

The what?

DUKE

I'm on a very special mission which requires the prerequisite stash of mind and mood altering substances to get through it. Mescaline, high powered blotter acid, uppers, downers, screamers, laughs--

ETHYL

You don't say?

DUKE

I want you to know this is a very ominous assignment -- with overtones of extreme personal danger. I'm a Doctor of Journalism! This is important, damnit! This is a true story! Oh, I forgot about the beer. Want one?

ETHYL

No, thank you.

DUKE

How about some ether?

ETHYL

Uh, oh look, this is where I get off. Don't bother stopping, I'll just roll out here.

SFX: Door opening, Ethyl hitting the pavement. Cat meowing.

DUKE

(driving away.)

Wait a minute! Come back and have some peyote!

SFX: Car disappears. Wind.

ETHYL

Whew, that was a close call. You okay, Mr. Snotzie?

SFX: Meow.

ETHYL (CONT'D)

That's good. No worse for wear. Well, here we are. Stuck on a deserted highway in the middle of nowhere. It's a bump in the road, that's for sure. But sometimes we have to take the bad with the good when we're chasing our dreams.

(MORE)

ETHYL (CONT'D)

We have to look past the problems
and see the good on the horizon.
Because, in the end, dreams are all
we have.

(singing.)

"If I had a dream..."

SFX: Huge bus horn. Air brakes. Door opening.

BARRY

Hey' little lady. Gonna get
yourself killed singing in the
middle of the road like that.

ETHYL

Sorry, I didn't see you.

BARRY

I'm The Good Reverend Barry
Westerman.

ETHYL

I'm Ethyl Flapsaddle, and this
here's Mr. Snotzie.

SFX: Meow.

BARRY

Aww, You two need a ride? We're
headed for the coast.

ETHYL

Oh, absolutely. Thank you!

Climbing on bus. Door closing.

BARRY

Everyone, this is Ethyl. Ethyl,
this is God's Faith Finders, USA!

GROUP

Jesus loves you, Ethyl!

ETHYL

(uncomfortably.)

Cool.

MUSIC: Lefty & Red!

LEFTY

Red, have you seen Ethyl? I wanted
to give her some more contacts for
ad calls.

RED

Yeah, she went into town to get some coffee creamer.

LEFTY

Ethyl doesn't drink coffee.

RED

Well, that's what she said. She was going to "go chase down some cream" or something like that.

LEFTY

Hm. Go figure. Well, at least she's trying to do something useful.

RED

Be nice. How are the bee stings?

LEFTY

Not bad. The swellings going down, so I can almost see out of my left eye. You?

RED

I can almost sit on my left cheek.

LEFTY

Every bumps a boost. Later.

MUSIC: Lefty & red!

SFX: Interior bus noise. Clapping.

CHRISTIANS

(singing)

"I'm going on a trip and Jesus
Christ has helped me pack,
Just look inside and see the
contents of my sack."

BARRY

Take it, Kurt.

KURT

(singing)

"I'm bringing peace and love and my
camera in my sack,
I'm going on a trip and Jesus
Christ has helped me pack!"

CHRISTIANS

"I'm going on a trip and Jesus
Christ has helped me pack,

(MORE)

CHRISTIANS (CONT'D)
 Just look inside and see the
 contents of my sack."

BARRY
 Your turn, Celine.

CELINE
 "I'm bringing my bible and a
 Twinkie in my sack,
 I'm going on a trip and Jesus
 Christ has helped me pack!"

CHRISTIANS
 (singing)
 "I'm going on a trip and Jesus
 Christ has helped me pack,
 Just look inside and see the
 contents of my sack."

BARRY
 Join us, Ethyl.

ETHYL
 (singing)
 "I'm bringing my wallet, wait a
 minute, where'd it go?
 I hate to cast aspersions but I
 think that we all know!"

SFX: Clapping stops.

ETHYL (CONT'D)
 It's just funny, you know,
 because... what would Jesus want
 with my wallet? Then again, why
 would he help me pack? I mean, if
 you're going to endow the son of
 God with a vested interest in such
 obscure chores, you know... who's
 to say we couldn't endow him with
 some kind of comical greed...? Not
 that Jesus is greedy, you know...
 but that's why it would be funny if
 he was. You wouldn't expect Jesus
 to steal your wallet, or to roller-
 skate, or crush a beer can on his
 head. It's out of character.

SFX: Uncomfortable cough. The bus pulls away.

ETHYL (CONT'D)
 (Yelling at the bus.)
 If you were Buddhists, we'd be
 laughing our asses off right now!

SFX: Meow.

MUSIC: Lefty and Red-Ask Your Neighbor!

LEFTY

Time once again for Lefty and Red's
Ask Your Neighbor.

RED

The call-in show where you give
advice, post a problem, make an
announcement or just swap and
barter goods and services with
folks in the area.

LEFTY

No money changes hands, no hard
feelings.

RED

It's our little, local radio
version of a church street fair.

LEFTY

Without all the antique milk
bottles, third-rate caricature
artists or stolen car stereos.

SFX: Phone ring.

RED

Hi, welcome to Ask Your Neighbor.

HAROLD

There's a coat on a post.

RED

Come again?

HAROLD

This is Harold Hornbacher over in
Lafarge. There's a coat on a post.
I was walkin' just off Main Street
on Dykers Road, and there I sees a
bright yellow-green coat hangin' on
a post near the hiking trail by
Veteran's Park. Real nice. Got the
puffy sleeves and the goose down
filler and what have you. Looks
real expensive. Like a mail order
type thing.

RED

And how can we help out?

HAROLD

Well, I was gonna maybe take the coat and put a notice on the lost and found bulletin board at the library. But then I was afraid someone might see me take it and accuse me of stealin' it, or whatever the heck.

RED

Yeah, that could happen.

HAROLD

So then I just thought I'd call and let whoever know that their coat is hangin' on the post over here, and that they'd better come pick it up. I mean, I'll wait here for a while, just to make sure no one else takes it, but I gotta be home in a few hours so--

RED

Okay, so if anyone left a yellow-green puffy coat hanging on a post over at Veteran's Park in LaFarge, give us a call.

SFX: Phone Ring.

LEFTY

Hi, you're on Ask Your Neighbor.

BERNICE

Hello, this is Bernice Ramsey, over in Muscoda.

LEFTY

What's up, Bernice?

BERNICE

Well, I wanted to let that fellow in LaFarge know that if no one claims that puffy coat, we'd certainly take it over here at the Woof & Meow Pet Store. Delores, one of the owners, her daughter Kylie is a whiz on the sewing machine, and she turns winter coats into beautiful cat and dog beds that she sells in the store.

LEFTY

That's pretty creative.

BERNICE

So just letting you know, we'll take that puffy coat if it goes unclaimed.

LEFTY

Got it, Bernice. We'll keep an ear open.

SFX: Phone ring.

RED

Welcome to Ask Your Neighbor.

BERT

Hi, this is Bert Coomes over in Lime Ridge.

RED

What's on your mind. Bert?

BERT

Well, in regards to that puffy coat. I'd be careful and look around there and make sure there ain't no dead body or anything lying nearby. A coat on a post is suspicious as all heck. It's a little scary, if you ask me.

RED

Well, thanks for the input, Bert.

BERT

I'll be standing by to dial 911, if you need me.

SFX: Phone ring.

RED

You're on Ask Your Neighbor With Lefty and Red.

HERM

This is Herm Demmel over in Clyde.

RED

What's up, Herm?

HERM

Yeah, say, I'll be really like to take that puffy coat off Harold's hands if nobody comes to claim it.

(MORE)

HERM (CONT'D)

I've been operating with a pretty rag-tag winter coat the last few seasons.

RED

Really?

HERM

Yeah. It was my Granpa's. He wore it during the Big War. But it's seen better days, I gotta say. I been takin' to stuffin' newspapers in the sleeves to keep the cold out the last few seasons. So a nice puffy coat like that would sure do the trick.

RED

Okay, well we'll let Harold know, if the coat goes unclaimed.

SFX: Phone ring.

RED (CONT'D)

Welcome to Ask Your Neighbor.

HAROLD

This is Harold Hornbacher callin' back again. Seems Audrey Furley was out walkin' her dog on the hikin' trail and she got a little over heated, so she hung her yellow-green coat on the post. She came back after her hike to reclaim it, so...all clear on the puffy coat. Harold Hornbacher signin' off.

RED

Thanks Harold. Whew, that's a relief.

LEFTY

Another lost coat mystery put to rest. And that's all the time we have for Ask Your Neighbor. Now this.

MUSIC: Lefty and Red!

SFX: Pickup truck pulling to a stop.

ETHYL

Well, thank you, Doug and Francois.

DOUG

Oh, it's our pleasure, eh?

FRANCOIS

We are Canadian, so we are naturally nice to people.

DOUG

You take care, Ethyl. We hope you get to Osaka, Japan okay. And if you need a ride back, you got my number. I'm always home about 5.

ETHYL

Yep. Thanks again, fellas.

SFX: Truck pulling away. Fog horns and seagulls. Meow.

ETHYL (CONT'D)

Well, Mr. Snotzie, here we are. Reday to cross the ocean and meet my dream. It's a long way off, and a lot of miles to cover, but I know it'll be wirth it. Because eveybody needs to chase their dream.

(sing.)

"If I had a dream..."

SFX: Loud foghorn.

CAPTAIN WILLY

Somethin' I can help you with, little lassie?

ETHYL

Yes. Are any of these ships going to Japan?

CAPTAIN WILLY

Yesiree. The one you see right behind me. The Tainted Lady. She's got a hold full of whicker baskets and Vietnamese Potbelly Pigs, ready for slaughter. We set sail in half an hour and dock in Tokyo harbor in three days time. I'm Captain Willy McManus, and I run this ship.

ETHYL

Terrific. Is there any way I could possibly hitch a ride on the Tainted Lady?

CAPTAIN WILLY

Well, anyone who sails on The
Tainted Lady got to pull their
weight. Do you cook?

ETHYL

Not really.

CAPTAIN WILLY

Clean and swab decks?

ETHYL

Marginally.

CAPTAIN WILLY

How about singing calming
Vietnamese lullabies to anxiety
ridden potbelly hogs?

ETHYL

(singing.)
Dam chin trang
Vo tay ba cho
Ming mang mung
Tong bot mo...

CAPTAIN WILLY

Yer hired. On board with you,
lassie. Oh, and no pets.

SFX: Meow.

CAPTAIN WILLY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, what?

ETHYL

I said, "Thanks, Captain Willy."

CAPTAIN WILLY

There's a good lass.

SFX: Foghorn.

MUSIC: Lefty and Red!

LEFTY

Well, that's all the time we have
for Land Yacht Radio this week.

RED

Tune in again for more exciting
stories and news reports from the
Driftless region.

LEFTY

From all of us here at WYLR Radio--

RED

Do you want to come with?

LEFTY

Then come here once.

ANNOUNCER

Will Ethyl make it to Osaka in time for the International Stationary Expo? And if so, will she be able to meet her hero, Akiyama-san? And will she remember bring back the coffee creamer? For answers to these and other questions, tune in again to Land Yacht Radio With Lefty & Red. Same Cat Time. Same Cat Channel!