

On Golden Pond – sides for Norman and Ethel

Scene 2

*The middle of June. Mid-morning. The screen door is back in place. Norman sits studying the classified ads.*

NORMAN

Here's one. Listen. "Driver wanted for occasional chauffeuring and errands. Five days a week. Pay negotiable." Sound about right?

(he reads to himself)

"Experience required." Well, I guess I've had experience. I've driven enough cars, God knows.

(he calls offstage)

How many cars would you say I've had?

(he talks to himself)

Twenty probably. If you don't count the [Nash]. Twenty cars and one [Nash]. Sounds like experience to me.

(he calls)

I think I'll give these people a call. Huh?

(no answer. Then, to himself)

There's no number. How do you like that? For God's sake.

It's so typical. They want a man for a job and yet they don't list the number. Well, I hope those errands weren't too crucial. Good God!

(There is a KNOCK on the door)

NORMAN

Someone's at the door!

ETHEL

It's me, you poop! Open up!

(he opens the door. Ethel enters with two small buckets)

NORMAN

What were you doing out there?

ETHEL

I was picking berries. There are oodles and oodles of little tiny strawberries along the old town road. Look.

NORMAN

Ah. Very impressive.

ETHEL

Unfortunately there are also oodles and oodles of mosquitoes.

Worse this year than ever.

NORMAN

Really. I hadn't noticed them.

ETHEL

You've barely gone outside. What on earth you're doing in here on a day like today is beyond me.

NORMAN

Oh. Well. I've been quite busy. I've been looking through yesterday's paper for gainful employment.

ETHEL

Here we go again.

(she exits to the kitchen.

Norman doesn't notice)

NORMAN

Excellent prospects, I think. Chauffeurs, yard work. The Dairy Divine wants an ice cream dipper. I think I could do something like that, don't you? Oh.

(he turns. She's not there.

She returns)

NORMAN

Oh. There you are. What do you think?

ETHEL

I think this business of looking in the classified ads is about the silliest nonsense I've ever heard. What are you going to do if you call up and someone says, "Come on over and start tomorrow?"

NORMAN

Go on over and start tomorrow.

ETHEL

Oh for the love of God. Whatever is the matter with you? Why don't you take a bucket and go pick us another quart of strawberries? I'll fix us up a scrumptious shortcake for lunch.

NORMAN

You want me to pick strawberries?

ETHEL

Yes. Do I have to put an ad in the paper?

NORMAN

I'm not sure I know how to pick strawberries.

ETHEL

There's really nothing to it, Norman. You bend over, and you pick them.

NORMAN

Bend over? Whatever for? Where are they?

ETHEL

They're on the ground, where they belong.

NORMAN

But you've already filled the buckets.

ETHEL

Don't move.

(she exits. A MOTORBOAT is heard offstage)