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A Working Neighborhood... What does it take?

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A Working Neighborhood...

What does it take?
ACTORS
George ....... Joseph Butler
James ....... Charles Tucker
George's wife. .... Maxine Hall
James' wife. .... Sheila Tucker
George's children. ... Bernadette Butler
James' children. ... James Tucker
Jose Butler
Steven Hall
Karen Tucker
Marvin Tucker

OTHERS
S. Jones-Barker
Gerry Belgiano
Andrea Byle
Mary Byle
Wilbur Byle
David Branch
Gale Branch
Russell Brown
Martha Cardona
Ellen Cartwright
John Comings
John Dickson
Joseph Essegian
Diane Farrell

COOPERATING AGENCIES
Rensselaer County Department of Health
Division of Environmental Health
NYS Department of Labor
Division of Unemployment
Unity House Street Ministry
U.S. Department HEW, P.H.S.
Center for Disease Control
...and special thanks to the people of Troy

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New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Community Sanitation
Neighborhood Action Council of Troy (N-ACT)
Troy Intercity Neighborhood Center, Inc. (TINC)

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A WORKING NEIGHBORHOOD:
What does it take?

JAMES AND GEORGE LIVE IN THE CITY OF TROY, THEY'RE NEIGHBORS. THEY ALSO WORK AT THE SAME FACTORY, AND STARTED ABOUT THE SAME TIME.

James works at lathe no. 7

George works at lathe no. 8

At change of shift one day, a lay-off notice is posted.

The workers begin talking about who might get laid off.
WORRIED ABOUT THE LAYOFF NOTICE, GEORGE DISCUSSES IT WITH HIS WIFE AFTER WORK.

How did it go today?

Not well. There's a chance that I'll get laid off.

What do you mean? What will we do? We just can't afford it!

Maybe I can get a job as a waitress.

I don't know what to do, there's nothing in the paper. I'll have to collect unemployment, but that's only $90 a week at most.
I even saw a rat down in the basement today.

I'll bet James doesn't get laid off.

No. They wouldn't dare get rid of their token Black.

The way he keeps his machine at work he ought to get fired,

I'm not surprised, have you seen the garbage in their lot?

For sure they're comin' from next door!

AND
NEXT
DOOR . . .
AS JAMES COMES HOME FROM THE FACTORY

That figures. The same old thing - last hired and first fired.

I don't know how we're gonna make it.

I guess I'll have to try to find work.

Well, I doubt that I can get anymore than $87 a week in unemployment.

We just can't get by on $87 a week. We have the mortgage, food, gas and electric --- and your insurance is due this month.

LIVING ON UNEMPLOYMENT WILL NOT BE EASY FOR JAMES' FAMILY
Is there a chance that you won't get laid off?

We'll find out on payday. Maybe they'll get George first—he sure leaves his machine a mess.

That's no surprise, he lets his dogs run all over the place...

And have you seen how they keep their lot? It's filthy!

...They tear hell out of the garbage bags, too.

Hey, what's goin' on out there?

Sounds like the kids are at it again.
JAMES' AND GEORGE'S CHILDREN ARE ON THE VACANT LOT, ARGUING AGAIN...
We even get rats from your place.

They’re coming to us from your house!

My dad says your old man’s a slob at work.

My dad says . . .

It’s his fault—he started it.

Who, him?

No, he did!

Let’s calm down, now.

Why don’t you clean up your mess here, and keep your rats at home?

Cool it man! Your kids are always starting fights.

And it's your rats and your garbage not ours!
ON PAYDAY AT THE FACTORY...  GEORGE GETS A PINK SLIP

A FEW DAYS LATER  GEORGE AND JAMES ARE BOTH AT THE UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE

I'll bet that James got my job.

I'll bet that George got my job.

Hey, George is here too. Looks like they're getting everyone this time.

Take these five cards to room 3. The clerk there will give you instructions.
So go ahead and fill out the cards. Make sure you have the right date for when you started your last job.

Gee, they want to know when I was hired. Seems to me James started about the same time.

You mean it has been that long?

Yup — over 5 years and they still canned us!

It’s amazing how time flies when you’re havin’ fun.

Hey, James when did you start at the plant?

June of ’72.

How did you remember that so fast?

Because it was good to get work then. My youngest boy was just born then.

Yeah...and my old lady’s pregnant now.
AS THEY ARRIVE BACK HOME, THEY SEE A STRANGER DUMPING TRASH AT THE REAR OF THE LOT

James, would you like a ride home?
Sure, why not?

You know, I'm sorry about the hassle we had the other day over the lot.
Me too, George. We should know better than to get involved in our kids' affairs.

Did you see that dude?
Yeah — I always thought it was you throwing trash on the lot!
And I always thought you were the one dumping garbage here.
THE DOGS ARE GOING TO HAVE A FEAST

Man, you really have a garbage problem on your lot here.

Hey, it's not my problem.

What do you mean? Don't you own this lot?

Not me, I thought you did.

... AND SO WILL THE RATS

Well, I think it's time we found out who does own it.

Maybe tomorrow we can go down to City Hall to check it out.
AFTER THREE VISITS TO CITY HALL, THEY LEARN THAT THE CITY OWNS THE LOT (AND OTHERS ON THE BLOCK)

I’m going down there again to see if we can’t get some action on this.

Yeah, since the city owns it they should at least help clean it up.

TWO WEEKS LATER AFTER ANOTHER VISIT TO CITY HALL

AND NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE!!!

James, isn’t the city going to do anything about that lot?

I think we’ll have to do it ourselves.

Let’s call a block meeting at the Center. Maybe we can do all the lots.

Then you’ll come to the center tonight?

Hey Flo, we’re having a meeting tonight to plan a clean-up of all these trashy lots.

You can count on me, brother.

We thought you’d be interested.
THAT NIGHT AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, GEORGE AND JAMES EXPLAIN WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED THUS FAR

I heard that the County Health Department sends out trucks to pick up trash...to remove food and shelter used by rats.

So if the city won't make a move, what do you think we should do next?

They'll only pick it up. Who's going to do all the work?

Look, it's our neighborhood. We'll do it together!

We'll need some tools and empty cartons.

Let's all meet back here on Saturday at 10, ready to work. The more folks we can bring, the sooner we'll finish.

I've got some rakes. I'll bring...

I can bring a shovel.

Looks good to me!
ORGANIZATION FOR THE SATURDAY MORNING CLEANUP CONTINUES...

...And we'd like to know if the county has a truck available.

I'd be glad to send the Rodent Control Unit — truck and crew — to help you folks.

We'll need lots of empty boxes for the cleanup this Saturday.

Could you put up a notice about the cleanup?

Take whatever I have here, I'm happy to support neighborhood projects.

Sure, we'll do whatever we can.

Maybe some of the lots could be used for gardens.

So are all you guys gonna help with the cleanup?

We're talking about cleaning up all the trashy lots.

Sounds like a good idea to me.

What are you talking about?

Maybe we can have a party afterwards.

Brown & Sons
THE CLEAN-UP IS VERY SUCCESSFUL, WITH MANY PEOPLE PARTICIPATING.
THE NEXT WEEK JAMES AND GEORGE RETURN TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE...

That's good to hear! If we get our jobs back maybe we can buy that lot for ourselves.

I wonder if there's any news yet?

Hey James, it says here the factory is going to be rehiring people next month.

If you hadn't given me a ride home, we never would have started talking, and the lots never would have been cleaned.

And with the neighbors' help the work was easy.

You know something, if we could get the lots cleaned up, we could probably get many other things done in this community...

...and there is much to be done here if we all work together.
TROY INNER-CITY
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, INC.
2245 SIXTH AVENUE, TROY, N.Y. (518) 272-3317

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COMMUNITY ACTION   COMMUNITY ADVOCATE
HOME OF 567 NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION COUNCIL OF TROY, INC
37 FIRST STREET
TROY, N.Y. 12180
(518) 272-8155

567 Neighborhood Council   United Projects
9th Street Association   1st & 2nd Ave. Association
No. Central Neighborhood Assoc.   Hillside Neighborhood Assoc.
East Side Recreation Board   South Troy United

Working with the neighborhoods to build a better Troy