

Scene- *Nighttime, no moon and the sound of crickets. Car parts are littered around the sycamore tree. Penny, a teenage girl around 17, smacking gum, wearing a white dress has her thumb out and enthusiastically runs up to a car that has stopped. Penny is chatty and engaging as she climbs into the back seat of the car. She looks towards the crowd and winks as she whispers, "Watch this!" Moments later you hear the car screech to a stop and the people in the front seat yelling as their young passenger seems to have disappeared.*

Penny

(Laughing as she addresses the crowd) Hi everyone, did you see that? Those gals will be telling that story till kingdom come. My name is Penny Day and I am having some fun. My car here, Rosy, is busted up and so I'm hitching a ride home and I'm late already and bet I'm in trouble -again. I only live a few miles down the road in Santa Paula. Just graduated from Santa Paula High last June. My Dad let me take his new car out, a Plymouth convertible that has a radio, to a party tonight in Fillmore. My friends, June and Gail climbed in and boy we all went nuts when Peggy Lee came on the radio singing Manana -we all started singing at the top of lungs *(Penny starts to sing, Manana ,Manana ,Manana is good enough for me).*

Boy, my parents are going to be steaming when they find out I busted up their new car. But wait, *(Penny looks hard at the crowd)* I think I recognize some of you driving up and down this highway - could swear I've seen you *(pointing to someone in the crowd)* talking on your phone and more than once! And you, *(pointing to another person in the crowd)* you need to slow down -don't want to end up like me or get a ticket. In my day, speeding tickets were only a few bucks! But now, I hear they are up to \$400! That would take all of my allowance for 3 years! Heck – take it forever!! Yep, my parents will be steaming, but this was the last big bash before my friends go off to other parts -scattered all over the country. Not me, I'm staying in town -learning the family business of Day's Fabric's and Notions. It's a small shop off Main Street in Santa Paula. Dads been running it since his father passed on in 1940. It was hard going during the war- couldn't get what we needed to keep people happy but with rationing of food and supplies it couldn't be helped.

You know, the hardest part of the war all of us worrying about my twin brothers Randy and Wilber fighting overseas. I know, I know, how did he get the name Wilber! Well, it's a family name on my Mothers' side and seeing as there were two of them my Dad named one and my Mom named the other! Gads, Wilber got no end of teasing about his name -so he goes by Will. Don't forget. I was lucky, being the only girl -Penny suits me fine. Of course, Penny is short for Penelope but that did not give me trouble for long -with two older brothers I knew how to fight!

Now back to the party in Fillmore. Wait, wait, here comes another car. Oh shoot, passed us by. I guess they noticed you all and thought we were stargazing. Stargazing sounds romantic. Some of the boys use that word to talk us girls into the orchards or fields -sometimes sneaking liquor and always sneaking kisses!! Tonight there were some older boys at the party, some that I knew as my brothers friends, always hanging around our house. I must have had a crush on each and every one of them growing up. They went off to fight with my brothers and came back just like them too, brooding and restless. We all worry and wait. My dad offered Will a job at the store but Will wants to work on cars – I think this one here *(Penny points to the busted up car)* is beyond help though. Randy keeps to himself, even his old girlfriend, Mary, who wrote to him almost every week during the war has moved on. She is dating John Howard now. But I haven't given up on Randy, I know he

will find his way. Oh golly, I hear another car coming, so hide behind this tree so they won't see you! Nope, no luck. Sometime people don't see me here on the side of the road so I have get in the middle of the highway to get their attention.

And speaking about being in the middle of the road, that's how I landed up in this mess!!! I left the party in Fillmore alone. Gail and June had hooked up with some boys who said they would take them home –after stargazing I bet! Anyway, I left the party a little blue but cheered up when my favorite song, the one Bob Hope sings, Buttons and Bows came on the radio. (*Penny sings*)

Don't bury me on this prairie

Take me back where the cement grows

Let's move down to some big town

Where they love a girl by the cut of her clothes

And I'll stand out in Buttons and Bows.