

BARNUM

(Cutting her off with a hit on his  
tambourine)

....I don't understand it. They came by the thousands in  
Philadelphia!

JOICE HETH

And walked by by the thousands. You been had, Mista Barnum.  
(SHE spits)

....Anyway, what's so special about an old lady? A young  
lady, that's different. If you had me up here a hunnerd and  
forty years ago they woulda' come all right....

BARNUM

What'd you say?

JOICE HETH

I says what's so special 'bout an old lady?

BARNUM

But a special old lady....

JOICE HETH

(As HE stares at her)

Mista Barnum, whut you lookin' at?

BARNUM

I'm looking at a nurse about a hundred years ago, you got  
this baby bouncing on your knee....

(An idea hits)

....George Washington!

JOICE HETH

(Shaking her head)

I don't know no people named Washin'ton.

BARNUM

George Washington, the Father of our Country.

JOICE HETH

I told you I don't know any....

BARNUM

Joice, that sidewalk looks a mite hard to sleep on and I'd  
say there was a fair chance of rain tonight. Maybe even  
hail....

JOICE HETH

What'd you say the boy's name was?

BARNUM

George Washington!

JOICE HETH

(Seeing the light)

You means lil' Georgie? Why, Mista Barnum, I pretty near raised that boy!

(MUSIC starts intro to vocal)

BARNUM

(As HE puts up sign reading "JOICE HETH, NURSE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON" and JOICE begins playing)

All right, Joice, let's do it!

(To PASSERSBY)

....Step right up and see her -- Joice Heth, George Washington's Nurse!

THANK GOD I'M OLD

JOICE HETH

(Singing as through the following PASSERSBY begin gathering)

WHEN YOU SEE THE SHAPE THE WORLD IS IN  
WHEN THE WAY IT IS AIN'T WHAT IT'S BEEN  
WHEN FOLKS JUST CARE FOR GOLD  
THANK GOD I'M OLD!  
WHEN YOU TAKE A GANDER AT THE NEWS  
WHEN YOU HEAR THE LANGUAGE PEOPLE USE  
WHEN NO SWEET SONGS ARE SUNG  
I DON'T WANNA BE YOUNG

BARNUM

(As HE takes her chair)

....You got 'em, Joice, now liven it up!

JOICE HETH

DADDY TIME HE  
DOESN'T FRET ME  
SHOULD HE SPY ME  
THAT DON'T UPSET ME  
LET HIM EYE ME  
COME AND GET ME  
THAT'S FINE BY ME  
AGE DON'T WORRY ME...

BARNUM

....One Hundred and Sixty Years Old!

JOICE HETH

WHEN YOU SEE THE WAY FOLKS MISBEHAVE  
WHEN IT'S ONLY GOOD TIMES THAT THEY CRAVE  
WHEN KIDS ARE MUCH TOO BOLD  
THANK GOD I'M OLD!