

Why a Duck? Scene from "The Cocoanuts" The Marx Brothers

Hammer: Now, right over here...this is the residential section.

Chico: Oh, people live there, eh?

Hammer: No, that's the stockyard. Now, all along here, this is the river front. And all along the river...all along the river, those are all levies.

Chico: That's the Jewish neighborhood?

Hammer: (pause) Well, we'll Passover that...You're a peach, boy. Now, here is a little peninsula, and, eh, here is a viaduct leading over to the mainland.

Chico: Why a duck?

Hammer: I'm all right how are you? I say, here is a little peninsula, and here is a viaduct leading over to the mainland.

Chico: Alright, why a duck?

Hammer: (pause) I'm not playing "Ask Me Another," I say that's a viaduct.

Chico: Alright! Why a duck? Why that...why a duck? Why a no chicken?

Hammer: Well, I don't know why a no chicken; I'm a stranger here myself. All I know is that it's a viaduct. You try to cross over there a chicken and you'll find out why a duck.

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Chico: When I go someplace I just...

Hammer: (interrupts) It's...It's deep water, that's why a duck. It's deep water.

Chico: That's why a duck...

Hammer: Look...look, suppose you were out horseback riding and you came to that stream and you wanted to ford over... You couldn't make it, it's too deep!

Chico: Well, why do you want with a Ford if you gotta horse?

Hammer: Well, I'm sorry the matter ever came up. All I know is that it's a viaduct.

Chico: Now look, all right, I catch on a why a horse, why a chicken, why a this, why a that...I no catch on a why a duck.

Hammer: I was only fooling...! was only fooling. They're gonna build a tunnel there in the morning. Now is that clear to you?

Chico: Yes, everything excepta why a duck.

Hammer: Well, that's fine...then we can go ahead with this thing. Now look...I'm gonna take you down and show you our cemetery. I've got a waiting list of fifty people down at that cemetery just dying to get in it, but I like you.

Chico: Yeah, you're my friend.

Hammer: I like you, and I'm gonna shove you in ahead of all of'em.

Chico: I know you like me.

Hammer: I'm gonna see that you get a steady position.

Chico: Atsa good.

Hammer: And if I can arrange it, it'll be horizontal...Now, remember, when the auction starts, if somebody says a hundred dollars?

Chico: I say two hundred.

Hammer: That's grand. Now if somebody says two hundred?

Chico: I say three hundred.

Hammer: That's great! Now, you know how to get down there?

Chico: No, I'm a stranger...

Hammer: (interrupting) Now look...now look, you go down there, down that narrow path there...until you come to the...that little jungle there, you see it? Where those thatched palms are...and there's a little clearing there...a little clearing with a wire fence around it. You see that wire fence there?

Chico: Alright...why a fence?

Hammer: Oh no! We're not gonna go all through that again!