

TAPE 10

1.

INTERVIEW WITH FERN PEDRO ON LAURA EVANS (1/20/54)

INTERVIEWED BY FRED MAZZULLA

Q ..your name was Fern..

FERN: It wasn't in Salida..it was Peggy.. That is just about all Miss Laura ever knew me by.. was Peggy.

Q ..RIGHT After Laura's funeral..

FERN I think it was ..

Q YOU had read in the paper about it.. You called me and said that you knew about Laura and had known her for many many years.. First about 1928. You tell me.. when were you born.

FERN 1912..in Nebraska..

Q Folks farmers?

B FERN No, we moved to Colorado when I was about three years old...I was raised in (Raulstonberg).. *Down there with senator Taylor* Knew all of them down there..

Q Bob Ford at one time in Raulsonburg..The= man who killed Jesse James?

FERN That was before I knew anything about it. I went to school there..

Q Must be back in 1928 where your story starts...

FERN About '28.. *spring of the year*

Q Where did you hear about Laura.

REEL # 10

FERN

Heard about her in Pueblo, ^{so I decided I'd} make a ~~trip~~ trip to Salida, ^{get a room} talked to her. I was scared ~~xxx~~ to death.. they

*which I did
the day I walked
in there*

rang the dinner bell and I didn't even have sense enough
to go down to dinner. I was too scared.. <sup>here comes Miss
Laura after me.</sup>

Q

Remember the first conversation with Laura?

EERN

Yeah she was singing, coming down the hall..and walked
in and says what do you want?

Q

I said well I am looking for a ~~xxx~~ room.

Said, how old are you? I says ^{I'm} 18.. she says a damn liar
but I will take your word for it. She told me I knew
you were lying but ^{I knew} you wouldn't change your story.

*yeah. you'd
just
monday
afternoon*

Q

What other girls did Laura have then..recall ^{how many}

FERN

Eva the housekeeper. Several...

Q

7 or 8.

FERN

Well let's see, there is 6 rooms upstairs.. cribs..
were all full. I got the last room. <sup>It was the only one
that was empty;
front room</sup>

Q

Did you go right to work.

EERN

Oh sure. Same day. Quick.

Q

How long did you remain there?

~~XXXX~~ FERN

First time, ^{I stayed} from '28 to about '30. And then I ~~xxx~~ left
for just a few months and went back again.

I ~~x~~ was with her off and on from 1928 to 1940.

REEL # 10

FERN(cont.) Many times I called her long distance..said I am
x broke but I want to come home.

First time I left there I will never forget it.

She said well so you are going to leave me. ^{She said} ~~And~~ I
want you to remember one thing - the key is always on
the outside of the ~~xxxx~~ door..and it always was.

Any time I went in there day or night. Could go in there
in the middle of the night, wake her up. *It was still fine.*

Q Laura had a big heart.

FERN ^{*The fact of the matter is I*}
~~In fact~~ went in there unexpected sometimes and she didn't
have a room and I would sleep with her.

Q How about men in Laura's life?

Know Evans..

FERN No.

Q Ever hear ~~xxx~~ her talk about Evans..

FERN *Oh* Yes. That was Lucille's father.

Q And there was also a baby boy born, did she ever mention
that?

FERN No, she never mentioned that.

Q Never heard of it.

FERN No.

Q Well what did she say about Evans?

REEL # 10

FERN

Oh she wanted to get away so she, *(according to her story,)* ~~and~~ left him in St Louis. Brought Lucille on the train.. Christ she said I didn't have enough sense to feed her or change her diapers. She always said Lucille was never a daughter to me..as soon as I got here I boarded her out..I took care of her but that is all. I never - she was never really a daughter to me.

Q

She never mentioned when Lucille was born?

FERN

No. Of course I was under the impression it was in St. Louis because Lucille was just a tiny baby when she left there...

It seems as though she was because she told me that she & Evans lived in St. Louis.

And that is where she left him. Was in St. Louis.

Q

The Evans family still lives in St Louis.

FERN

~~really~~ *do they*

Q

And Lucille ~~is~~ still has stock in the SEwer Pipe and *Clay* ~~(INAUD)~~ *factory*. she ~~is~~ still has stock in the company - but she told you about Evans.

FERN

Yes.

Q

And did she tell you where she left Evans?

FERN

She said St. Louis.

REEL # 10

FERN(cont.) She got on the train and left him there.

Q Well he ~~x~~ came out here, Evans lived with her in Denver.

Q FERN Well he came out here ~~f~~ afterwards. After she came out, she came out alone.

And she said that up until she got on the train with Lucille she had never taken care of the baby.

She had someone to take care of the child and she had never done..it.. ~~We~~ *She* said I didn't know what to do.

When the baby cried she said I didn't know whether to feed it or what.

And she said.. *I'm just* not for kids that is all.. *I just can't* ~~never~~ ~~cared~~ ~~about~~ ~~it~~.. *be bothered with it.*

But she said I would see that she was taken care of at all times.

Q Evans followed her out.

FERN She said that he came out here, I think it was oh, she didn't say exactly. Seemed to me that it must of been a year or so afterwards..

Q And she lived in Denver with Evans. Did she tell you where Evans died?

FERN NO.

REEL # 10

Q: He died in Pueblo in a sanitarium. What do you next remember about her.

She must of talked to you many a nights and evenings.

FERN Yes. Sit and play Pam till daylight. Then she would get on a talking spree sometimes when ^{all} the gamblers would leave - ^{wed quit playing} couldn't play cards, † she would start talking.

She has told some wonderful stories about her life.. different times, when different people were there...

Somebody would ^{come} in..from Denver..she would call me, say come ^{on} in ^{because we're gonna} and ~~hear them~~ talk.

And I would sit there and listen to the conversation. ^{that she was going thru with} Different. ^{people.}

Q YOU were blonde then?

FERN Oh definitely. Blonde.

Q D Did ~~nshe~~ ~~sx~~ ever mention Speedy O'Daniels?

EERN Oh yes she would take money out of his pockets...

some of the names she called him. That is the one man she told ~~me~~ me that she was in love with. ^{was Speedy}

Q Tell you the time she hit him over the head with the pool cue?

FERN Yeah. I don't know ^{just} how that went but I remember

REEL # 10

FERN(cont) her telling about it. She would hit him over the head, the
~~to~~ meaner she treated him, the more money he ~~gave~~ gave her.

She said he would come in and have a bill sticking out of each pocket..when she was mad at him she would go
~~out~~ out and drink.. when she came in ~~she~~ he would have a bill sticking out of each pocket.

And he would say, see woman. Got money for you...

Q

The stroy I heard was whenever Speedy would ^{needed} ~~(lose?)~~ money, they would tap that big Wurlitzer piano..

and he had a key ~~made~~ made, that he could open the ^{they had a} ~~dime~~ ^{coin} slot ~~in~~ in it.. ^{what they called it}

So when things were ^{dark} quiet he would sneak in there and tap the cash box ^{in the p. area} - well she knew someone was pilfering it so she kept that half a pool ^{cue, you know} ~~key 1~~ (INAUDIBLE) as a billy club..

She heard someone flip the lock and she let him have it with a pool cue and turned the lights on and it was Speedy O'Daniels out cold.

FERN

I think she said she thought it was the colored janitor that she had there...

REEL # 10

FERN(cont) She had been hearing noises out there in the ballroom as she called it. Thought it was the colored janitor out there because she caught the colored janitor ^{down} ..~~out~~ there with a cat one time..said that was enough..^{she was young} better watch him. *from then on*

she heard weepless Noises in the ball room, she walked in there and it was the janitor and the cat...

Q This was ~~it~~ a two legged cat?

FERN No this was a four legged cat.. *if it had been a 2-legged she wouldn't understand* (LAUGHS..) (INAUDIBLE)

Q You know what happened to Speedy don't you?

He drowned in the pool in Glenwood Springs..

FERN Yes..^{when they were up} in Glenwood Springs..that is right.

Q Laura said that Speedy was the one man she had loved.

FERN She told me that many times..even after ..after she had gotten away from (Mike).. well she told me all the time she didn't care ^{anything} about Mike O'Leary..his compnay ^{this} but that is all. Speedy was..

Q You remember (~~Squeaky~~ ^{Speedy})

FERN No.

Q (~~Squeaky~~ ^{Speedy}) was a chronic alcoholic..

FERN I knew that.

Q He had a wonderful personality but .. infectious smile..

REEL # 10

Q:cont.)

but was an alcoholic and didn't like to work.

FERN

chronic
she said
when he'd wine
she'd come in &
she said that didn't repay
~~he never paid~~

of No.. he would ~~ix~~ go out and gamble ~~t.~~ money ..pick it out of his pockets...O f course ~~he never paid~~

for what I would give him.

Q

Well after Speedy wasn't it O'Leary that came next.

FERN

Yes.. I knew him.

Q

Was she with O'Leary in '28?

FERN

sort
 No..no..she didn't.. ~~go out~~ with O'Leary until it must of been in '29.

Q

CAN you describe O'Leary?

FERN

He was quite a large man, always well dressed.

Dark ~~hair~~ hair..he had blue eyes... dark ~~hair~~ hair.. quite fair complexion.. *and* he was always well dressed.

QW

Would you say he was six foot tall?

FERN

Yes, I would say he was... Heavy..

Q

Well built man. He wasn't what you would call fat but he was well built... very nice looking man.

Q

He had a wife that was a nurse in Denver?

FERN

that he was playing around with Luana
 At the time ~~yes.. (INAUDIBLE)~~.. *she*

Q

Hapen to know the occasion of their meeting or anything like that?

FERN

No I don't..they met away from there though..in SALida, *would*

REEL # 10

FERN(cont.) where they met. Of course she used to take quite a few trips into Denver. And I think he was a salesman. She met him on one of her trips into Denver.

Q How long did she associate with O'Leary..do you know?

FERN I wasn't too long because..oh I would say maybe a year and a half..

Q Now what about the.. *cottage camp deal*

FERN Oh ~~he went to~~ *she* ..got ready to take off to California.. he talked her into going to California. got out there, *of course* she came back ~~xxx~~ sick, she was really sick when she came back..

And she got to talking and telling me all about it. Took the /Son~~x~~ of a bitch *out there* ..~~save~~ my business..bought him a (cottage) camp she says.. he wasn't satisfied..

he had to go hock my fur..she said ~~that~~ that was the end, when I couldn't find my fur, I just drove off and left him. Left him *and* hope he stayed there...

Q Did he ever come back?

FERN Not htat I know of.

Q She broked off with O'Leary. *for good.*

FERN *that was it* She said if he ever come near the house I will kill him.

REEL # 10

Q: ..You mentioned O'Leary.you said that Laura suggested you take him upstairs..

FERN Oh yes. She was/always trying to get all the girls to do that. She didn't want to ^{have to} sleep with him, all she wanted was just his company.

She didn't want to be bothered ^{about} sleeping with him..

But she says I know when I ~~am~~ am away from home I have to.

About the time all the kids ^{were} coming down there..

Remember (Georgie Maples?)

Q Yeah...

FERN Incidentally I saw him last night..

Q Still drunk.

FERN As ~~never~~.. sitting over in the booth having a drink with him. Talked with him, seen him every day for the last two weeks..about.

Q Is he working at all now?

FERN I don't think... ^{at the moment} I seen him right here in town so much, I don't know. He is off on one of his ~~sprees~~ ~~sprees~~ again..

Q O'Leary was about in '29.

FERN No he left about '29.. 30.. 31.. It was about 30 tht all this took place.

Q Do you know anything about the incident in which she took

REEL # 10

Q(cont) up with the () surgeon?

FERN X No..

Q You don't know about that..

FERN No.

Q Well that story and the way I heard it was that the surgeon was quite a drinker.

FERN Was that before O'Leary or after?

Q I don't know.. before..

FERN T That must of been before O'Leary, before I went up there.

Q Before O'Leary. And xhe got her to sell her place. And she did..

FERN That was before O'Leary..yes.

Q And started out somewhere and stopped off in Denver. And he got her into a crooked card game. And she lost every cent and went back up and started from scratch again.

I have those papers in ^{the} safe. I am trying to piece Laura's story together..

FERN She came back and ^{she} was awfully sick.. ~~I would stay up~~ ^{eva + I used to sit} all night. ^{one night} and ~~even~~ ^{even} the next night.

*Wed she turns - 90
stay up*

I would reach over and feel if she was still breathing.

REEL # 10

FERN(cont.) Of course ~~x~~ she did spend a lot of money on that..her stomach that is what it was...went haywire..and she was operated on.. ^{Here} In Salida..you know..they told her it was her appendix ..it was this..it was that. Doctor bills, and doctor bills.

^{So} Well somebody told her about this doctor in Pueblo. She went down there, took a bunch of x-rays, gave her some medicine and told her to take it and behave herself and stay on a diet..

For heaven's sake, it ~~was~~ during duck season.. somebody brought in some ducks. ^{They were} all cooked..in front of her ^{Even was walking down the} door. With a duck on the plate.. ^{and a fellow} ~~and a fellow~~ ^{Miss Luma} reaches out and grabs it, and locks the door and goes inside and eats it.

And that night we had to call the doctor from ~~Rx~~ Pueblo for (her)..Doctor Nicoletti.

^{But} He ^{really} ~~relieved~~ fixed her up..cured her.

Fixed.. was a (stricture) of the large intestine. He charged her 40 dollars and fixed her up.. ^{By god} she had spent thousands on other doctors.

She was really sick at that time.

That is when she had those ^{little} blackout spells you know.

REEL #10

FERN(cont.) She had those coming back from California.. She would just black out and wouldn't even know when it was going to happen.

Q Now Laura smoked almost constantly all the time..

FERN Oh, she always did....She always smoked, used a long cigarette holder.

Q I had the cigarette holder here...

FERN She used to have them by the dozens, she would keep ~~them~~ there.. cause everytime I went to Pueblo which was quite often - I would go down on the night train.. come back a day or two later.

I would always take her ^a supply of cigarette holders. The longest ones I could find. Yes.

Q After O'Leary she was through ^{with me} after that?

FERN Yeah, she was pretty much through ~~with me~~ that was when she was giving all of us advice.

I ~~di~~ wasn't too old then, I didn't think that I should sit around the house and mope about it..

Q What did she tell you?
If he doesn't have money just leave him alone..

That is kind of hard to tell a young girl.. after all.

It was ^{right during that time} (INAUDIBLE).that was after she and O'Leary separated.. ^{she'd come back from} ~~back to~~ California.. somebody trying to thir

REEL # 10

Q:(cont.) who it was...sent her .. oh they sent her an invitation to come down to Florida..to the Dog Races.. She wanted me to go down with her - that is when those root beer stands were so popular.

And she said ~~okay~~ ^{O. Peggy}, you come on, go down there with me. She said we will buy a root beer stand, half of it is yours, and half of it is mine.

She said you run it , I will take the cash..I said oh sure ~~xx~~ you would..but I never did go down with her.

of course that was When my old man and I was ~~g~~ fighting.. and she thought that would be a good idea, cause she didn't ^{particularly} care about me being ~~g~~ with him anyhow.

But we made up.. ^{or I didul go down with her well} ~~she~~ she didn't go either.

Q Did Laura tell you about the different places she ran houses..did she tell you about her early days in ^{Leadville} ~~Pueblo~~?

Q FERN Yes..she mentioned..never was too much of a story.

Q You went to Leadville one time?

EERN Oh yes, ^{we} went up to the convention.

Q Remember the year?

FERN No I don't.

REEL # 10

Q '32 or '33?

FERN It was right in that time..4 ^{of us} went up..

Q What kind of convention was it.. American Legion..the Elks?

FERN The Elks I think. Anyway we went up there and had quite a spree.. came back..

Q Leadville was wide open in those days..

FERN Oh yeah..

Q Dago Mike ?

FERN Ohx No..not when we were up there...

Q Who was running the house up there.

FERN Laura Pkinney had ^{owned all of} them..x she was renting them out you know.. all cribs up there then... and ..

Q Laura was renting out the f cribs?

FERN Laura Pkinney yes, *Joe Pkinney's wife* .

Q And she owned the Pioneer.

FERN Yes. She and Joe..she and Mike Pkinney not ^{Joe} ..Mike Pkinney Joe wasn't married...

So on New Year's Eve I don't remember even just ^{out after} what year that was, ~~I was~~ ^{(Inaudible) I sent ~~her~~ *old man* a sandwich} and a cup of coffee... about midnight and ~~they~~ ^{he} didn't get back till two o'clock

REEL # 10

FERN:

so Eva and I ^{I we take} took off.. ^{and get right} ~~rented from~~ across the street from where he was.. ^{we} get to drinking.. got in an awful fight ^{right} on main street..of Salida...the next morning here comes Chief Bailley down.

Bring your old man uptown..I says, I will leave too..

By god, neither one of you will leave before you appear in court tomorrow morning.

So Miss Laura was out to breakfast..she didn;t have a cook then. *She came back &*

I told her what happened, I was crying I was scared to death.

She says now don't worry about it.. she says go up over there..get your car.. go to Leadville. You stay up there. I will call you. After court tomorrow. *She said* I will go to court for you.

Which she did, and I guess she called right there from the jail ^mthe courthouse, and told me says, alright ~~come~~ come on back, everything is alright.

But I didn't. I stayed up in Leadville for a while.

Q

You were working the cribs?

FERN

Not at that time. We rented an apartment ~~out of~~ ^{up} town. So the funds got kind of low. I will never forget it.

REEL #10

FERN(cont.) *this husband of mine* ..had seven silver dollars.. *he says* well I might as well go lose it or win some more.

Went down to the Pioneer.. and they started a *Barbage* ~~(bar root)~~ game over the bar. *I went with him.*

Quarters ~~or~~ fifty cents.. by ~~eight o'clock~~ *daylight* in the morning he had 22 hundred dollars, they moved the gambling table right out in front of the bar.

And I would walk back and get a cup of coffee.. and ~~yax~~ he would lost 3 or 4 hundred..and I would come back and sit down by him and he would start winning again.

So.. He gave me five hundred one dollar bills and said now go on up to the Vendome and get you a room and stay there.. dont' ~~x~~ come out.

I says alright .. And by gosh he turned around and lost ~~xf~~ all of it..bu-t five hundred again..so I had that.

He didn't get that anyhow.

Mike going up ~~thx~~ there..

Q Mike was here two months ago.

FERN Was he?..know Mike.. he is a swell person...

REEL #10

FERN He was very much in love with a girl who used to work for Laura when I first went to Laura's. She had the crib right next to Dorothy.. She would get in a car, drive up to Leadville.. stay here.

Q Girl who had the husband..or was that Margaret?

FERN Margaret.

Q Margaret always. *drive Hudsons.*
I am sure I had pictures of Dorothy..

FERN Dorothy was a little bitty .. thin black haired & girl.

Q Italian?

FERN No. And she was pretty crazy about little Tony.. Tony Mungo. The little one.. She ^{used to} go ~~up~~ ^{there they got} and ~~gets~~ in a ^{neck of a} fight, ^{she} comes back with a broken nose and a black eye, and that was the end of it. Of ~~T~~ Tony..

Q Was Tony Mike's brother.

FERN Yes. I think they were cousins, which was it now?
I don't know they were related somehow.

Q Laura gave me all of her pictures...And I am sure I have a picture of ^{Dorothy} ~~you~~..

FERN You probably do. We used to take quite a few pictures.

REEL # 10

Q: 156'
Well these were (pics by Henry Hay) see I have all the pictures ~~of~~ (Henry Hay took) of the girls...And I am sure I have some with Dorothy's name on it.

FERN: You probably do.. because there are pictures of ~~them~~ all.

Q Now you were last with Laura about 1940? *the girls up there*

FERN The last time I was working there was in (39..)

Q Well a while back we were on Laura's eating and drinking habits. You said she had some stomach trouble..

Did she ever drink to excess?

FERN No,, never to extremes.. I can never remember but one time that Laura really tight and that was when beer became legal. And we all went out that night.. made all the places..

Laura got pretty tight that night.

Q Remember Laura telling about the Swiss S? The drink with absinthe?

FERN Yes.. She didn't drink too much during the time that I was up there..

Q How about eating..she was always skinny *as a rail*.

FERN Yes..she used to eat pretty good.. she liked ~~the~~ little ^{old} dollar hotcakes.

I used ..after Anna the cook quit I used to go out

REEL# 10

FERN(cont) there and cook dollar hot cakes for her.

'Bout Size of a silver dollar..the only way she wanted them.
She said I don't care how many I eat but ^{that's} the size I
want them.. ^{that} that is the way she got them...

We would go to the restaurant for ~~the~~ ^{but} other meals, she
liked her breakfast at home..

So I would get up and go out in the kitchen and cook for
her.

Q Did she lose her ~~temper~~ temper on occasion or not?

FERN Never saw that woman lose her temper in my life.. not
at anyone you know close to her...oh ~~she~~ she would
to some/..come in. She would get mad at them ~~but~~ ^{(men) of the customers don't} but
Handled it.

Never with anyone cnnected with her. Never *heard her*..

Q always ~~kind~~

FERN Always even tempered..all the time..

Q ..THE VOICE..did she have a pretty nice voice..I think
she told us that at one time she had had some voice
training.

FERN Yes.. ^{she used to} when I first went up there, of course Laura was
pretty spry then.. She would get out there and dance
and sing, ^{well} ^{just} Had a big time.

REEL # 10

FERN

that darned old
Sold ~~the~~ beer for a dollar a bottle.. *haha*

Q

To get back to this Leadville trip, when you went to the convention you said she ~~was~~ cut up a little bit there..

FERN

Yes..

Q

What happened then?

FERN

She got pretty tight. *Decided was gonna*
~~Said~~ she would ride this old horse and buggy up the street which she did...
in fact we all did.

She finally decided that wasn't wild enough..she gets up on the horse...

She rides on the horse the rest of us are in the buggy.

course WE went down the line and stopped everyplace and had a drink or two.. *But I think*

She stayed more sober than the rest of us did that time.

Q

Did she relate that she had at one time ~~driven~~ driven a chariot up ~~the street.~~ *State + Harnoon.*

FERN

Yes.. She had just mentioned it. I think it was on this trip that she mentioned it. Telling about ~~it.~~ *different than she'd done*
When was it she dedicated the (Elk's Club) - *was that in*
Leadville or where?

REEL # 10

FERN(cont.) Somewhere, these people that were quite well to do

they ~~would~~ take her up to the Elk's Club *she gets up & tries*
to ride this big mountain Elk...
 (INAUDIBLE - LAUGHTER).. ~~th~~ She got pictures of it.

Do you have those.

She had a picture of herself up on this darn elk.. ~~d~~

they threw her out of the Elks Club. Told her if she

couldn't behave she would have to leave.. *so the whole bunch*

Q That is ~~one~~ ^{you see} that she didn't.. *left* when ~~did~~ she dedicate
 the Elks Club.

FERN That was the night of the opening of the Elks Club..
 everybody was ~~x~~ there I guess..

She goes in there, that is before I knew her - ~~th~~ she
 had ^{just} told me this story..

And, then..

Q That could of been either Leadville or Salida ~~axe~~ because

FERN No, I don't think it was in Salida. I think it must
 of been in Leadville ..

She said ~~w~~ she was trying to give the elk a drink

and she couldn't give him a drink from one end so she
 tried from the other. *She nearly drowned the elk's Club, too.*
 (INAUDIBLE LAUGHTER)

Q I don't know if you know it or not but there ~~wxx~~ were
 two clubs. In Leadville, the Elk Club..(ELK).. and the

REEL # 10

Q(cont) And the Elks Club..ELKS.. And before the Elks Club
the Elks Lodge was started
 (INAUDIBLE)..The forerunner of ~~he~~ the Elks *Lodge* Club was
 the Jolly Corks. And the Jolly Corks got their start
 some people tell us in Leadville.

Man by the name of Charles H. Vivian.. in Leadville
 started the Jolly Corks.. and it later became the
 Elks Club.

But ~~n~~ in Leadville there was an Elk Club. ELK...
 So it could of been..

FERN No I think it was ..must of been the Elks..~~n~~just
 from the way she talked you know.. that it I am
 quite sure this was an Elks Convention that we were
 to, up there... And that is when it ~~n~~all came up
 and she told us about it. They threw her out bodily.
 She had some pictures of it, somebody in the crowd had
 taken pictures..

I don't know what in the world ever happened to those.
 But ~~l~~ I have seen the pictures.

Q I have never seen those..

FERN I did..she had several of them...

Q and then when you ~~xxx~~ were ~~x~~ at the convention she
 drove the horse up and down.

REEL # 10

FERN

Oh ^{heavens} yes, she would ride up and down the street on the horse. It wasn't wild enough ^{that she} to ride in the buggy with the rest of us, she had to get up on top of the horse... She said to the driver if I owe you anything will ^{you but I'm gonna ride} pay, ~~had to get up on that horse,~~ and she did.

Q

Well one of the old timers in Leadville, Sid Jennowitz, told me that he remembered ~~ed~~ back in '95, that Laura would get out early in the morning, and ride a beautiful red horse side saddle.

Did Laura ever mention that to you?

FERN

Oh she has mentioned you know a lot of different ^{used} episodes like that..but I know she. ~~xxx~~ to love to ride horses.

She was quite..quite a person to ride horses.

~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ I remember she was ^{telling} ~~talking~~ about one trip that I don't even know the ~~people~~ people that she was with, of course this was way way back.. when they all went on this hunting trip, or fishing trip I don't know which it was.

Anyhow they didn't get to where they were going.

And I guess they were getting low on food and somebody went and killed a rattlesnake and brought it back,

REEL # 10

FERN(cont.) told it ^{her} was fish- she ate it, she said I never had anything so good in my life.

213' The whole prospect she had on that trip..that was way back too.. that was when she was quite young..too.

Q Did Laura, you~~x~~ told me a while back she had some pictures. In her room. You recall ~~her~~ the large oval picture of the nun.

FERN Yes.

Q I have that picture.. She also had a picture of Lill^{'s} Lovel. Remember the girl ^{on the glass plate} with the red rose in her hand. Then she had a picture of a baby. ~~x~~ Of a child.. She also had that, then you said she had a picture of Jack? (Dempsey)

FERN Oh yes that hung there from the day I walked in~~x~~ the place and it was there. *as long as I can remember.*

Q What pose was~~x~~ that in?

FERN They were just getting off the train. It was taken at the train..Jack and I guess with Maxine it must of been. And of course there were people in the background. But the picture was of them of course. And they were just getting off the train, ^{there} in Salida.

Q Recall the size of the picture.

REEL # 10

Q:(cotn) 12 inches..10 to 12 inches.

FERN About that. 8 by 12.

Q Well I have never seen that one.

FERN I was told to tell you not where I got the information but they said that somebody said they thought Romeo had that picture.

Q No if Romeo had it he would tell me.

FERN They said they thought he had it..maybe it was another one that he had.

Q No ~~xxxx~~ Romeo would give it to me in a minute..
He gave me one of the Dempsey pictures.

FERN Well maybe that was the one they had confused it with.

Q Cause Romeo gave me one of these..

FERN Yes.

Q The picture.. shows Jack sitting with the girl..
Now I thought all the time that was Billy..

FERN I don't ~~think~~ think so, I think it is Maxine. Because
I knw the one he was married to, ^{his} Maxine, ^{he was married to} was the one
that he was getting off the train with in ^{you see} the train
in the background.

Q That is probably the Salida station.

FERN Yes..it was....

REEL # 10

FERN And that picture from over there..as you go into..

Q To the left?

FERN Yes, to the left..over that chest ~~xxxx~~ of drawers...
that hung *there* ~~that~~ for years.. Yes.

Q Getting back to the picture of the child. The square picture of the youngster. It is hanging in the library. Laura, one of Laura's pet expression was, "A Child is Born.."

FERN Yes, that was always her ^{expression} pet. As long as I can remember, *she always, that was*

Q She repeated that more than any other expression. Why.. did she say that?

FERN No I don't..I have often wondered. *But she never would say anymore about it.*

Q I have my own idea of where it comes from. *when she was practicing her profess* It was a way of perhaps terminating the engagement...

That is my guess.

FERN Yeah, cause everything that happened ..she would be sitting there playing cards. And if she had a winning hand, well a child is born. *(Slops hand down)* That was it.

Everything that happened was ..at the end, ~~it~~ was ^{the} ~~the~~ child is born. //

Q Took the place of a climax..was there anything that ..

REEL # 10

FERN Anything that happened..why that was it.

Q I think perhaps she used it all the time that she was working..whether ~~was~~ she was working ~~in~~ inthe crib or ~~not~~. *in a parlour house.*

FERN She used that expression all the time. *that I ever knew her*

Q Did she ever relate to you the story about anything going around the world..did she ever relate that story to you..

FERN NO.

Q That was another of her favorite stories.

FERN She had so many of them. You just can't recall ~~of~~ all of them..

Q You mentioned about getting a dog one time.

FERN Oh that was in..oh must of been..'28.. about ..It was 6 years old.. *when I went up there in '22.* Lillie Powers ~~gave~~ *sent* it to her in a box. She didnt find out until *quite* some time afterwards who had even sent it.

That is the reason ~~it~~ she called it Little Pimp Powers. Lay on the foot of her bed and growl at everybody.

Q What kind was it...

FERN Little black and tan. Yes..when that poor dog died that was *he* lived to be 14... And I wasn't there at the

REEL # 10

FERN(cont.) time that it happened but I had been there just shortly ~~before~~ before that..^{to} spend a few days with ^{Miss} Laura..

And I know he was getting old.

And at that time the room next to her the the one ~~that~~ that Eva had all the time, on the ground floor.

She had made into a ~~gxxx~~ gambling room.

She had a great big round table in there, used to sit in there and Play Pam.

And I remember that they were telling about the night that Mr. ~~Rxx~~ Powers died..he was covered up in a chair in her room. And right in the middle of the game.

Q Mr. Powers was the dog.

FERN The dog..she always called ~~in~~ him Mr. Powers or Pimp Powers. She would ^{they said}..it was right in the middle of the game. *Paganini game*

And she threw her hand down, and said, Mr. Powers is dead. Walked in there, sure enough he was. And hadn't been five minutes before that they looked ~~x~~ at him,

he was.. you know.. *Of course*

He was old and lame..they knew he was going to die..

Did ~~x~~ she ever tell you the story about the black cat having kittens in her bed?

REEL # 10

FERN

Oh I drug in an old black cat. ^{So} Miss Laura says what you going to do with it. I don't know, I can't keep it upstairs. I've got a ^{dog} ~~dog~~ too.. So she kept the poor old cat ^{here} The cat gets out of course she is going to have kittens, and ^{Miss} Laura says well we will just make her a ~~bed~~ bed in my room..which she did.

We ~~went~~ ^{go} in there about four o'clock ~~XXXX~~ one morning after playing ~~Pen~~ ^{Paganini} in the other room, here are the nicest little bunch of kittens right in the middle of Miss Laura's bed you ever saw.

Had the kittens right in the bed. Oh she threw ^a ~~up~~ her ^{fit} hands.

She told me ~~can~~ ^{Peggy} oh you got to stay here and help me clean up this bed ~~now~~ now.

So I can go to bed. She raised kittens and all. Put them out in the back. *Took care of em.*

Q

Laura loved animals. Pictures of her with turkeys.. and rabbits.. and at one time she had a donkey, and I think she had a cow at one time.

FERN

She had two pigs at one time. ~~TKexx~~ They followed her all over town.. That was before I knew her.

REEL # 10

FERN ^{280'} She took the darn things down to the bank one day and forgot ~~■~~ them and left them in there and the banker had to call her ^{+ fell her} to get her pigs ^{come} before he could close the bank.

That was about the time the old cow fell threw the cellar door. She had to call somebody with a hoist to get the cow out. ^{of the basement}

Q I never heard that one.

FERN OH yes, that old cellar door she had in the back there. It was right behind the dining room window.

Q Stick up by the wall, then sloped off.

FERN Yes. The old cow fell through there .. ^{she said} I guess it cost ~~her~~ ^{me} more to get the cow out of there than what the cow was worth.

Q Did she ever tell you about running houses in (Alman)
At one time she went ~~■~~ to Central City..did she ever tell you about that?

FERN NO, but..

QX ~~Q~~ Ever tell you about the time she dressed up as a nun. She must of told you that sotry.

FERN I have heard that..

Q She told it to us..

REEL # 10

FERN I have heard her tell ~~w~~ that.

Q She made a fifty dollar bet that she could.. attend
~~A~~ a masquerade ball without being detected.

She must of told you that many times.

FERN Yes, I can't recall just the whole story..but I know
 that she had told that about when she dressed up as a nun.
 What a character.

Q Did she ever ~~tixkx~~ tell you about running a house in Alma

FERN Well that was after I knew her. That was, oh sure, ^{fairly}
 sure she went up there, and this Dorothy that I was
 telling you about went up with her. Dorothy Ross was
 the girl's name.

And she went up there with her. Ross. I think that
 is when I went to Pueblo. During that time.

Sure she went up there. ^{it} had a place up there..they
 had her close down. They made her close down.

SQ She was closed in (Salida)?

FERN Sure..she had to close down.. they ^{wouldn't let her} ~~didn't want to~~
 have any girls down there..there was quite a ~~xxx~~ little
 feud about it..but she went up to ^{Zelma} (Velma).. ^{in guise} ^{sons}

Q ^{Zelma}
 Velma?

REEL # 10

FERN

And she was ~~up~~ up there until things quieted down *She could come back + open up.*

Shortly after she came back from (Alma) I went ~~xxx~~ back to ^{up there} (her place.)

Q

Did she ever tell you about running in any other place? She ran in Alma..I think she was over in Luray at one time for a while.

FERN

I don't know.. I was in Luray for a couple of months.

Q

Know Jess over in Luray?

FERN

No. I wasn't up there very long. *more than a couple months*

Q

When were you in Luray?

FERN

That was when I was so ~~sick~~ sick. *See I can't remember* Forget what year it was. I had a (club) there. *when I got sick +* I was in bed all winter, and left in the spring.. I went there in the late fall and left there the next spring.

Q

End of the year.

FERN

I can't ^{just} recall when it was. *Must have been* About 35..though.

Q

They were running wideopen?

FERN

Not too much. *of course* I was bootlegging up there in the club. *not too many - store that was when he* Had a few girls. Mine up there was running full blast. They would *all come down on long change* ~~talk~~.. I don't know I guess they had a lot of confidence in ~~x~~ me, they would come down and give me their check, and I would give them back what

REEL # 10

FERN(cont) was left when they got ready to go back up on the hill.

cell for a
~~All~~ string of mules..had them out in~~th~~ the back yard,
 +get up and cook their breakfast for them..

Send them back up.

Q Were you ever in (Tender MINE).

FERN NO.. Oh I used to go over to Silverton but I didn't
 ..I think I was in Silverton for oh maybe two weeks
 before I went to Luray. And. What in the world, trying
 t think of the woman's name.. *that run the house up hill* Jimmy Sparlen was her
~~MAN~~ man - can't think of what her first name was.

She had a diamond in her front tooth.

Thought it would be something different so she just
 had a diamond set in her front tooth.

Q Getting back.. *is you peggy* you broke into the business in '28
 at the age of 16.

And is there anything..did you do it just out of
 something that you thought up yourself..or.. any incid-
 ent that led up to it.

Something you always wanted to do ..or.

FERN More or less. Lead up to ~~it~~ in Pueblo. I got to
 running around with a bunch there.. Bunch of girls.

REEL # 10

FERN(ont.) I left home. Of course I had been married for a very short time. At that time. I more or less ~~imx~~ just got (lost) from the family and I went to Pueblo and of course I heard about Miss Laura, so I thought well, it would be an idea..I went up there...

She tried to talk me out of it.

She said of course if you are going to ^{just} go out and run around, you might as well be selling it as ^{just} giving it away.

So She took me under her wing ^{right then.} She used to say oh ^{paggy} you are more of a daughter to me than Lucille ever was.

In Closer to you, you have been around me more ^{this last husband} And then ~~the~~ ^{my sister} ~~(cousin)~~ of Lucille's. ^{you know} (INAUDIBLE) ^{He used to} ^{come} ~~be~~ down ~~to~~ the house all the time..

(INAUDIBLE) ^{we} ..all thought that was ^{just} ~~pretty much~~ a wonderful ~~kin~~ thing cause she was pretty much ~~in~~ love with him.

Quite ^a surpris~~e~~ to everybody to think that she did love him. ^{through.}

Q Did Shields meet Lucille there. ^{in Salida.}

FERN She sure..she came.. ^{that's when her & Lepard separated.} (INAUDIBLE) Her name was Lepard when ~~amxx~~ ^{after} ~~actually~~ they were married. She called it Lepard. Lucille did, sure. But that was after they

REEL # 10

FERN(cont.) separated and she brought the girl back..

Q The girl was (*dead, you know (?)*)

FERN Yes.

Q The boy is living in Salt Lake.

FERN But he was with his dad.

She brought the girl back with her .. *the boy stayed with* ~~David~~ his father,
and that is when she met Shields *to when she came back.*

that was the first time I met Lucille was when she
came back to.. after they were separated.. Laura
~~xxxxxx~~ told me about her.

Mentioned her so many times. Lucille came back..
that is when I met her, and that is when she met
~~xxxx~~ Shields.

Q And Shields died?

FERN Uuh..yes I guess they hadn't been married but just a
very short time .. *when* ~~and he~~ ~~died~~ died.

Q You said about two years... *After you started in with Laura* *where did you go next?*

FERN That is when I went to Leadville.. Then *right* back to Laura's
again. I was really and truly with Miss Laura
most of the time until about '35, then I left and went
down to Oklahoma.. And Texas..of course I made
several trips back..

REEL # 10

FERN I would be with Miss Laura for a few months, then back again.

So I went ^{down to Corpus} (~~to~~ ^{Christ}) Texas. New Year's Eve 1939, with 1940 coming up I said this was it, and

370 I quit.. that was it..

(END OF SECOND SIDE OF TAPE)

TAPE # 10 (Continued) (New Tape)

FERN Couldn't see myself getting any older and still staying in business. I didn't like it that well.

Q You quit in 40?

FERN Yes. Quit on New Year's Eve, 39.

Q I have a recording with Lillie Powers.. that tells about why she went into business and I want you to hear it.

FERN it ..oh I would love to.

Q It is one of the classic recordings of that era.

~~FERN~~ She had just completely forgotten the thing was being recorded and Lil would of been an actress if she hadn't of went into business.

~~FERN~~ FERN Oh yes..

Q If Lil had an education or any training why she would

REEL # 10

Q:(cont.) of been a star on Broadway cause she was a natural
born actress.

FERN She ~~was~~ really was, I knew her good
~~was~~ ..about it. I went down and stayed
with her for two weeks -that was one of the craziest
things that ever happened you know..

The two trains from Pueblo and one coming from
grand junction met there..

That was on New Year's Day. This man of mine he is
going to be up there and 12 o'clock sharp New Year's
Eve. New Years DAY, he didn't show up.. He got
drunk and called me up.

I just didn't make it I will see you tomorrow I will
be in on the train tomorrow. I says alright..

I went in and told Miss Laura, I said Miss Laura
I can't take it any^{more of it.} ~~more~~..I am leaving.. Where you
going. I don't know.

Alright, go down to Lillie Powers. She thought I was
catching the train out ~~of~~ there but instead I walked.
My ankles were swollen to about three times this
size.

And I walked, I bet you 14 miles before I got a ride
on New Year's ~~Day~~ Year's Day there was no traffic.

REEL # 10

FERN(cont.) Got in Lillie Powers..she started bathing my ankles. Taking care of me. I stayed there about two weeks. And I went back to Miss Laura's.

Miss Laura told me,
She said that man of yours is in town, my God, what are you going to do?
she I said I will hide ~~down~~ *you out* here in the tourist camp *and*
she did. She ~~x~~ would bring food down there and everything. She kept me there *I guess* for, four or five days, before he would leave town.

Q And this was your husband?

FERN Yes.

Q And you had left him before.

FERN Oh we separated many times. In fact of the matter you asked me how come I started in this, it was him - I met him when I was in (*Hummel?*) and I had been married.

And, lost a child..and just didn't much care...

Cause I was married when I was 15, married a man ~~at~~

41. You ~~can~~ can imagine, it lasted six ~~x~~ ~~x~~ months.

Just Long enough for me to get pregnant. *Of course I lost it,* I was living
+ I met this man, quite the
-at home.. (INAUDIBLE)..gambler.. and we went to

there in Palstonberg

REEL # 10

FERN(cont) ~~(Honey) the Gambler... we went to~~ Pueblo and got to running around with this ^{crowd} guy, and of course he was right there all the time too..

I wasn't married to him at that time.

So I kept telling him, I ^{he} heard about Miss Laura..

I want to go to Miss Laura's. ^{He says} alright if you want to go up there, I will take you. ^{up there.} which he did.

I went in that afternoon, Oh just before dinner. Talked to Miss Laura. ^{sat the room.} (~~INAUDIBLE~~)

Right after dinner, he walked in and she grabbed a hold of him and said for heaven's sake, called him Pete.

Said for heavne's sake, ^{she says} what are you doing here..

She knew him when he was a little boy delivering groceries.
~~..~~ from Salidia, his people.

For that matter he knew (Georgia) when he was a kid going to school together.

Q I must of known him.

FERN He grew up in Pedro.

Q I must of known him because George Naples, I grew up with Goerge.

FERN You remember..oh, remember the Danko's.

QQ Yeah, they was up.. I think..

REEL # 10

FERN Yes, well Mrs. Danko washis sister.

Q Lived out at ().

FERN Yes, and the first time that I really went to Salida..
I went up there ^{that's how come I heard of Miss Laura.} (~~INAUDIBLE~~) I went up there and we
spent 3 days up there with his sister.

And, we went back to Pueblo and the next day ^{we} came back
again..andthat's ^{when} how I (~~know~~) ..I talked to ^{Miss} Laura.

Moved in with Miss Laura.

But, his sister and brother-in-law lived out near ^{the}
(Smelter) there.

Yes some of the kids are living here in Denver now.

Q When did you marry him?

FERN '34.

Q In '34..in Salida?

FERN No, (Canyon) City..we ~~we~~ drove down to Canyon City.
And was married.

Q You ^{stayed} were married to him ^{til he died?}

FERN Oh yes, I divorced him. And then remarried him again.
In 1939.. ^{like I told you} went up to ^{him} said this is it. From here on
out its you.

So he did, he ~~x~~ was very good to me.

Q What kind of work did he do?

REEL # 10

FERN: For quite some time we were in Kansas, he worked for the government there.

His brother lives in Kansas. Lived out there at Fort Riley. And he worked out there for several years. And then he was transferred to Minnesota. *He moved*
~~Stayed~~ ^{up} there for over a year.

Q Where in Minnesota? ~~What kind of work did he have?~~

FERN *St Paul*
 (~~City Hall~~) I finally went to work for city ordinance
^{plant} after it was built...

He was transferred up there before they even broke ground ~~in~~ ^{for} the place. With Colonel Underwood.

And I went up there about a month later..I stayed with his brother. And his wife.

And I went up to Minnestoa, we stayed there for over a year.

Went back to Kansas. And went back to work for the governmnet there in Kansas.

So when he was ~~there~~ in Denver he worked for lumber ~~maxx~~ dealers. Most of the time.

Q And when did he pass on?

FERN 20th of March. Ten months ago today.

Q: Just about a month before Laura Died?

REEL # 10

FERN *040'* Just about a month, cause I thought to myself, (INAUDIBLE) under a nervous strain, I will go up to Salida and see Laura,,and the next thing I know my brother-in-law called and said, did you see in the paper, cause incidentally my brother-in-law I met at Laura's house.

And my husband brought, he and Georgie Naples^{up} to the apartment in '47 or '48.. Georgie Naples he gets tight and passes out..so I put him to bed.

My sister comes up there.. she has this apartment house over here on 18th.

I interduced her to Pappy.. and he says I am going to marry that woman. I says you are crazy..cause I had known him ever since '28 when I was at Laura's.

My ~~a~~ sister didn't know all this though. She knew that I knew him but she didn't know where or how.

And I swear to God about a year later they were married.

He is from Salida. Guy Roberts^{*}.. Kathy Roberts^{*}, ~~xxx~~ his brother is Earl Roberts up there..

I connect that with
 ...eight twenty seven.. (~~INAUDIBLE~~) *know what street?*

Q

FERN

I don't know just ~~xxxx~~ where it is.

REEL # 10

REEL # 10

Q When I worked for the post office up there, I connected the name with the number

Is EARL Roberts is (*shell*) up there and Guy Roberts lived up there... They ^{all} called him 'Pappy' on the railroad.

Incidentally the (*Sue*) Parsons, did you know him?

Q I remember the name.

FERN Well he married a girl up at Lauras.. Bobbie..they are living in Grand Junction now.. she is working for the (*Courtesy*) Control.

Q A good many girls working for Laura got married, in fact I have one of her tapes where she talks about ^{how soke} one (*Gerrie*) ^{has got} ~~of the girls getting~~ married.

Remained in Salida, a good many of them..

One girl (*Jackie*) ~~(Jackson)~~ she married Eddy (Logan).. I think.

Yeah. ~~Tex~~ They live there in Salida for quite some tiem. She used to come down ^{see Miss Laura}

Q Well Lil's girls.. Lil told me that several of the girls worked for her got married.. and one of them is living in the Springs now..

FERN Yes.

REEL # 10

Q And I have 3 or 4 girls that used to work for Laura,
do legal work for them.

FERN

Oh there have been several of them. ^{that are right here} In Denver. ~~2~~

~~wrote to them.~~ ^{fight} First ~~person~~ I ever had in my life
was a girl. ^{speed to be a beauty operator here}...in Denver now. (Pearl,) know her? ^{Red haired}
^{girl}

(SOUND VERY DIFFICULT TO HEAR)

She was.. ^{wanted to meet Jimmy} remember him. ^{Jane's boy.} (INAUDIBLE) Good looking
fella.

So I managed to get her a date to go out with ^{him} her...

^{we all went out to Poncha Springs}
^{she got} smart about it.. (INAUDIBLE)
^{she + I had} ~~it out.~~

I don't ~~know~~ know whether I was just ^{the} too sober ^{est} or what.. ^{but}

Any^{how} she was quite black and blue.. ^{back in} went ^{to} Laura, ^{Miss}

Laura said, ^{yeah.} what ~~am~~ did you do now?

^{we} ^{she said, well.} Oh just had a fight. Considerate ~~enough~~ enough not to hit
her in the face. ^{that way she could work !!} (LAUGH)

^{she said, that} Poor girl she ^{'ll have} had to wear long sleeves for a week
or so, ^{but...}

Q

I had to take ^{recording} an ~~accordian~~ up ^{to} Casy ^{Keane} (Time) don't know
if you remember him or not.

Work at Laura's place..paper hanger insulator.

FERN

I think I do.

REEL # 10

Q

Casy lost his eyesight ..he just is learning how to live - after he lost his eyesight.. One day I took ^{a one hour recording of Casey's - a classic} (INAUDIBLE)

And he was in the car, Right after Dempsey fight, so it was in '13 or '14..

Had a big party.. And Maxine was there. And they all went up to Poncey Springs..turned the ^{Dusenberg} car over..

Laura said that her place was a hospital..

FERN

Oh yeah..

Q

that was a .. Ponche ^h Springs was a partying ~~ix~~ place.

When I worked in the Post Office up there ..a new girl would blow into town..sometimes two..and they would come into the post office..

Of course the first place they would hit for was the General Delivery windows.

And any mail for ^{Mamie} Katey Smith.. Mamie Brown, Mamie

Green, And Mamie White? Then fiinally anything

for Sophie ^{Stepovich} (Saphonic.. or.. some name. The girls

in those days ^{ran} were pretty much ^{to} Polish. And French,

French and Polish. ^{names} names.

And I would look of course there may be a letter or two..maybe more. ^{maybe none} I would ask ~~f~~ for change of address

^{They}

REEL # 10

Q:(cont) card and say well get the mail in Box 327.

FERN Oh sure..

Q Laura's box. You all work for Laura, and in those days they ~~were~~ couldn't go to work until they had checked in the VMD and three or four days for.. smear and so on.

You can't work? Nope. Do you want to see the town. So they had quite a gang (Easter).. ^{Hollis another fellow} played the guitar. The Arkansas Traveler.

He would play the guitar, (^{Hollis played} the mandolin +) had a big bull dog Pat.

And depend ~~on~~ how many girls ~~in~~ there were, ^{if there were} 4 girls ~~we~~ ^I would get somebody else.

But ~~it~~ always end up at Poncer Springs.

EERN Sure that was quite the place.

Q Always ended up up there.. And we would phone up there.. ^{they} used to close the place at 10. They would tell us where to hang the key.

FERN That~~x~~ is what we used to do.

Q Those were the days.

FERN Remember they had the big old swimming pool there.. And they had the sweat baths...yes..

REEL # 10

FERN

And what we used~~x~~ to do, we would get all the girls *there* at Laura's.. *they* friends, or husbands, or whatever it happened to be.. *we'd go up there* and poor old ^{Eva} (~~kind~~) she was always by herself. .. somebody dove between her legs one night and we were all too drunk.. *to realize it* ..until we saw her to start bubbles.. she just about drowned. *that night.*

Took her back to town and told Laura. That was *just* about the end for Eva. She was kind of *sceptical* ~~scared~~ - Laura wouldn't let Eva go up there so often with us then.

Everybody would say, well we are going to go up there Miss Luara. We are going to sober *up* ~~out~~, sweat out, ~~get~~ Get to feeling good.

And get up there and everybody would have a fruit jar full of old Court whiskey.

That~~x~~ is about the time, *Miss L. used to say to me O Peggy don't do* oh you didn't even drink when you first came here.. I wouldn't take a drink when I first went up with Laura.

Q *088.* Let me check this tape .. (CHECKS TAPES)

What were the fees the girls collected in those days. The crib girls used to get a dollar.. and Laura's girls two dollars...and up.

REEL # 10

FERN Oh yeah, remember that.

Q How much did the average girl make in a ~~w~~ week or a month?

FERN I have seen the nights there that I never got dressed.

When I first went to Salida.

Miss Laura ^{or Eva} stand at the foot of the stairs and let one man up and send another down.. And I seen many a night that way. That would go on ~~w~~ from eight o'clock at night, until two in the morning.

And I would never ~~xx~~ come downstairs. ^{They} Just send them up. I made money there I made (^{oh his heavens})...

at the end of the night I would go down, paid Miss Laura what I owed.

Q It was a 50/50 deal wasn't it?

FERN Yes.. But I would keep track of it. ^{+ mark it all} all down on paper.

At night I would go down ~~x~~ and square up with her...

But **I** made so much money in that house it isn't even funny.

Q What did you do with all of it?

CERN Oh what I didn't spend the better half did.

I would get off on a tangent, quit for a month or so.

Miss Laura would say, oh why don't you save your money.

REEL # 10

FERN

I didn't have sense enough to. But I made a lot of money in that house.. had a lot of friends there.

I remember one ~~n~~ night ^{in particular} it was raining, oh it was terrible.. ^{it was during hunting season} Man came up there from Denver.. ^{to go hunting} And his ^{acertain I had} dog with him..and his chauffeur with him.

Miss Laura wasn't home. She was in Pueblo. Coming back that night though. None of the girls would have a thing to do ~~w~~ with this man.

So I sat down in the room and talked to ~~k~~ him.

Oh of course he had a bunch of quarters, ^{we} and played the slot machine.

He said gee, how come you are so nice to me. I ~~xix~~ said oh I don't know. Just feel that way tonight. nice rainy night out.

~~W~~ He was telling me about his dog. Dog out in the car cold, I said well bring him in.

Brings the dog up, and I make him a bed in ~~for~~ front of the ~~xg~~ register.

And the man pulls out 25 dollars and says ^{here} this is just for taking care of the dog.

That man stayed there two days and three nights.

REEL # 10

FERN(cont.) Got up and wrote me a check for a thousand dollars.

Miss Laura came home that night, I went downstairs, I was going to put ~~in~~ in an order from the drugstore for him.

Miss Laura ~~came in~~ ^{looked at me} and says who have you got upstairs?

I said, I don't ~~xx~~ know, one of your friends.

She goes upstairs and finds out who it is.. And

it ~~x~~ was ~~x~~ a long lost friend of hers.

Very well
~~well~~ known man.. *here in Denver* Of course he is dead now..

Very ~~xx~~ prominent man, of course I ~~have~~ ^{used to see} seen a lot of those.

And I was pretty much Miss Luara's pet. And ^{her} favorite.

She would go out and sit in the parlor, sit in the

ballroom. With somebody that didn't want to be

seen.. ^{They'd} ~~and~~ come in her side door, then I would go in her room.

A lot of those occasions.

Q One of the recordings that Laura made for me that I can't play for anybody else, because ~~x~~ there are things on there that I just can't..

FERN That is right...why certainly.

Q Can't let out..famous names..

FERN Names and things that you can't..

REEL # 10

Q But Laura knew that I wouldn't.. abuse them..
or misuse them.. I have tapings that I just can't play.
For instance one man Devine..and nobody knows
~~xxxx~~ Devine except .. Well it is in the movies and
it isn't that one..

Laura mentions names that ~~ix~~ would rock me..

Pretty..

FERN I know one particular movie star that used to when
she was a little girl run down ^{come down} to Miss Laura's
her mother ^{would have} ~~had~~ to come after her.

That was not too long before I went up to Miss
Laura's.

Q ^{Told me}
~~So many~~ things..

FERN Just things that you can't.. She had me to meet people
in her house that .. that couldn't possibly be
mentioned. The names, couldn't. She would get a
lot of these..

Special friends of hers .. she ^{naturally} ~~would~~ lock ^{ed} her door
youknow.. And entertain them in her room..she
would call me down.

Come on down.. ^{Peggy - I always made a good}
(INAUDIBLE) ^{amount of money}

She would never let a lot of the other girls even know

REEL # 40

FERN(cont.)

who was in there..

Q:

Q Well Laura was quite..

FERN

She was very tactful.

Q

Very tactful.

FERN

Yes, she was...

Q:

Like this fella she talked about tonight..I know who the man is. She wouldn't put it on the tape because the members of the family are still living and would be embarrassed.

FERN

Well certainly..that is the same way it is with the party ~~you were~~ ^{I was} telling ~~me~~ ^{you} about a while ago. He still has people here in Denver that if it ever was..did come out, you know, it wouldn't be.

Q

I took the tape recording to ^{of a} the colored girl here - she used ^{about a year ago} to work as a maid in Leadville. ^{in the early days}

So it must of been one of those days when somebody must of said something - she didn't like or - it rubbed her the wrong way.

And she was ^{in a fighting} (~~angry~~) (INAUDIBLE)

And ~~she~~ ^{wanting} wanted to get even ^{mood,}

I just happened to catch her that way, and the names

REEL # 40

Q:(cont.) and the incidents she tells, ..

FERN Oh yes..

Q ~~And not that~~ ^{im positive} they are all true.. But she just had to cut loose, and she did.

FERN She had to tell somebody.

Q And she told about burying one ~~ix~~ girl in Leadville. And the girl didn't have long to live..the folks in the east.

And after I am gone, call them up and ask them if they want to bury me. ^{one of the very very} ~~well the..~~ (INAUDIBLE).. ^{wealthy families.}

end of interview with Fern Pedro

140'
INTERVIEW WITH LAURA EVANS NOT TRANSCRIBED ON THIS PART OF THE TAPE AS INSTRUCTIONS STATE IT WAS TRANSCRIBED BEFORE.

*Interview w/ Laura is transcribed on insert pages that follow
55A - 57A*