

LAURA EVANS TAPES -- Mazzulla Collection, Amon Carter Museum

Tape #2 6/8/49 Reel 1 of 2

000'

(A lot of general group chat. Laura is giving away some of her possessions to people in the room and they are commenting and telling stories about various items)

194'

Laura: The inscription on my garter buckles was 'All hope abandon, ye who enter here.'

(Laughter)

Laura: But somebody stole 'em from me.

(More chat -- people talking over each other. The men are talking about a lake with salmon in it and the women are talking about Laura's cut glass. Politics. Kidding 'Frank' about looking like Santa Claus. Fred tells Laura she's got one more room to see. (In their house) Someone starts to play the piano "Took six men, no eight men, to get it in the house." Rest of the tape is piano playing.

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Tape #3 6/8/49 Reel 2 of 2 (same recording as above cont'd)

000'

Announcement by Fred Mazzulla: ...an interesting, unrehearsed candid conversation between a bunch of good fellows at 8th and Ray St. Present, are the Mazzullas, Cooks, Frank Gimlett, Henry Huff, Laura Evans, Jo-Jo and Mrs. Priest (Preese?) in Salida, Colorado. As I said, this conversation is unrehearsed, and, in fact, it's being taken secretly. Trust you will find it interesting, instructive, entertaining. If you like it, listen, if you don't... (music)

General cross-chatter. Cars & travel. Somebody's operation. Laura tells a long story about her daughter (?) getting mixed up with a forger. They talk about taking Laura to see one of the night spots. Lots of preparation for leaving. Laura notices the tape machine is on. Everyone finally exits. Music (jazz) on again 242'

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tape over at about 250'

DETAIL OF TAPE # 3

Laura's story about Lucille getting mixed up with a forger:

0045'

L: Well, she came in crying, said, Mother, will you loan me your car? I want to go to Denver.. I said, All right, take it. She was just simply frantic. Instead of goin' to Denver, she went to Salt Lake.

Well, then when we quieted things down (?) -- I don't ask no ~~any~~ favors for myself, I have to do it for others (?) Well, I went around to some influential friends ~~and~~ (told them) ~~she's~~ she's leaving now, and I know when she goes to Salt Lakethat I'm going to ask her to vacate. Well, you couldn't blame me, could you? I don't like that. Uh-uh. No, that was terrible. The young boy, he was arrested. The editor, he served, how many weeks in jail? Now he's out on, I don't know, five years probation. She encouraged him.. and was gonna buy him a \$200. Kodak. I said, What for? (She said) You can take pictures in the dark with it. Why shouldyou want You want that foolish thing? Cheating? Murder? Murder!! Well, you see he had a little article in the paper, "Peeping Through the Keyhole". Now, you know, small town like Salida, they like to read it, but people don't like their private affairs aired, do they? And I told him, I said, Listen here, young man, you're gonna get in trouble with that. But it's you, not me, I don't care whether you get in trouble or not. Well, he did. Then they pick up the paper after he was released from jail. Oh, I went around to two or three parties (Powerful friends) said, Why ~~should you~~ confine the poor boy? He hasn't done anything. He was influenced to do that. She's gone away and left him .. in the lurch. What's the use of the sheriff makin' ten cents a day offa meals? Let the poor unfortunate leave town. They did.

Then he was arrested a coupla days afterward in Denver for forgery in Topeka, Kansas. Now mind ya .. I tell you. And he'd come down to the house and she'd cook his breakfast for him. I said, What's the matter? Have you fallen for that? (Lucille) No, no. I'm just sorry for him Mama. Well, she's in Salt Lake and god knows where he is ~~in~~ thru sympathy! Well, I wouldn't have her around after that happened.

(Something about what happened, where he is now etc. His people are good people, Boston, Julliard School of Music etc.)

k: It brought me before the eyes of the public -- people talking, 'n some this & some that, so the way to ~~remove~~ prevent argument, remove the cause, and then you don't have no trouble.

Q; So after all these years of her thinking you might disgrace her, she disgraced you?

L: Um-hum. Gigolo (and all) Mrs. Priest, ~~isn't~~ <sup>don't you think it's</sup> ~~isn't~~ about time ~~for you and me to retire?~~ we were adjourning?

Mr.s Priest: You're not sleepy yet. You wouldn't go to sleep for hours.