

TAPE # 7

TRACK 1

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STRANGER (WOMAN) on tape

WOMAN: ..the Hermit.. I was working down there at the hospital..  
(INSTRUCTIONS TO GET RECORDING STARTED)

Q: ..~~at~~ 27 of April, 1952.

EVANS: Yeah, and I will never forget the six.

Q Never forget the six? That is when this ~~stove~~<sup>fall</sup>..baby..now  
what do you want me to do?

Q Well now Laura you have met Mr. Parkhill<sup>here</sup> haven't  
you?

EVANS: Who?

Q: Forbes Parkhill. This is Mr. Parkhill here.

EVANS: Oh yes, huh.

Q: Now he is the gentleman that wrote that book The Wildest<sup>est</sup>  
~~is to~~<sup>of</sup> the WEst. It was published about a year ago.  
And he talked an awful lot about Lil..about..

MAN: Mattie Silks.

Q: Mattie Silks.

EVANS: You picked ~~on~~<sup>out</sup> the worst subject down there..

Q WEll tell me about some of the good ones..do you eremember  
Verona Baldwin?

EVANS: No. Jennie Rogers..

Q: Jennie Rogers.. tell me..

EVANS Next door by ~~George~~ George was Minnie Hall.

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Q Yeah, Minnie Hall was a great big woman wasn't she?

NO.

Q: Big Irish woman?

EVANS Jennie Rogers was a great big woman. Six foot..x raw bone.

Q Where - she came to St. Louis didn't she?

EVANS: I don't know where she came from.. and she couldn't read or write. And she had Phil ~~McCork~~ <sup>McCourt</sup> not Pete, but Phil McCourt's sweetheart was her.. bookkeeper and a nice girl. You know the McCourt's, Baby (Doe's) brother.

Q Yes. Yes, I never knew that before..

EVANS: Oh yes. Perfectly beautiful Georgia girl. Oh she was magnificent. You see there was Pete and Phil McCourt ..they had the <sup>( Taboo )</sup> Opera House .. and then Lil, that was her name, Lil McCourt..that is ( <sup>Myers</sup> ) name.

That is how I found out so much about, Jennie Rogers had 22 women.. that big x three story house on Market Street, right hand side, going up..

Q: Then she was around the corner on 24th Street..one time too.

EVANS: Jennie Rogers was always right on Market Street...

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EVANS From Market Street to Kansas City.. Lovejoy was the cutest & little thing..

Q Rose Lovejoy?

EVANS And she was a landlady.. she had twenty <sup>eight</sup> five.. right on the corner - 20th and Market. Now I think it is a blacksmith shop, isn't it.

Q I don't know what it is now.

That was about what time..along about 1910?..wasn't it?

EVANS Oh God, no.

Q Earlier than that?

EVANS: <sup>Yes</sup> Yeah, this was 1895.. that's where I went up to Leadville and served my apprenticeship.

Q You were an apprentice in Leadville, huh?

EVANS Very much so.

Q Well you were with Mattie also in Denver..

EVANS: Never went to that second class place.. ~~N~~ That was the old, fat old ladies home.. You go to those other beautiful houses, and, of course there was another very prominent man - his wifex was Miss Johnstone.. But I am not going to tell you who he was. Emma Johnstone -she run the Cupolo, that is the house <sup>with</sup> that Lillie <sup>over it</sup> owned. Right across the

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EVANS (cont.) street from Mattie Silks. And, but..

Q That was when Mattie was at 1942..is it..

EVANS <sup>Mattie</sup>  
~~They~~ always stayed ..right that one home..

Q: Well she ~~x~~ had, in the early days, ..

EVANS Got big hearted, with Jennie Rogers, they were all warned they were going to close Market Street when Mayor Speer, a wonderful man, he kept Market Street open. He said Market Street was from 17th to 24th..

Q It was Mayor Arnold..it was under his administration that they closed it~~x~~ up..

EVANS Well Mayor Speer was the best of all - Speer Boulevard. The Central Theatre was down on 17th and Market. And Miss Prescott..I think her name was Lizzie Prescott she owned that house down on 17th Street...  
Well, right around the corner ..

Q Lizzie Preston wasn't it?

EVANS 241 Lizzie Preston.. yes. well right around the corner was a man place. *God*, I can not think of his name..  
✓ alright. And I used to go visit - well you will see as you come up 17th Street the buildings are this way. Right around the corner they are this way.  
Well the back yard fence was right here at Miss Lizzie's

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EVANS(cont.) right, bordered her place. See..just like this..  
here where these others here, and Miss Lizzie's was here..

Q Right angles.

EVANS And I used to go visit. I said what do you all do?

She said come over and see us sometime.

I said sure, well I used to love to ~~to~~ play <sup>croquet</sup> crockay,  
and I was nothing but a kid. I didn't know a damn thing..

And, so by George some old miners came down..one

night. Oh, I will think of the man's name... Georgie

Schaeffer. Did you ever hear of him down in Denver?

WELL..so.. well I said let's go around and and see  
the boys.

Alright, well you see, here was this saloon, here was

this ~~x store~~ <sup>door?</sup> There was a hallway. Back here..you

know, ~~and~~ hallway next to the saloon. And there was the

big room where they sat, the bedrooms is upstairs.

I walked in and I looked around and I didn't recognize  
anybody.

And I said, well where are the boys? One of them says,

what do you mean.. I said, well you got a voice like

one. So finally my little blond come out.. the prettiest

thing you ever laid your eyes <sup>upon</sup> on.

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EVANS            You know they didn't wear low necked dresses those days.. ~~cause~~ they never showed the navel, those days. Along the blond..

Q                 Short dresses..did they wear short dresses..

EVANS            Oh long trained dresses... dressed ~~m~~ just like women. ..that was Charlie Schaeffer's ..well women wentk there. See beautiful big (equipages..) they call them.. driving in there to see these men.

                  He had a wonderful place - Georgie Schaffer..

                  He had studs for buttons. Diamonds..(IAUDIBLE)..great big.. elk charm. ~~by the galore...~~ <sup>Kate bar the door</sup> and he looked, I will tell you who he looked like..

                  Mack Daniels here. When Mack was fat.

                  I used to say Mack.. put you <sup>on</sup> a checkered suit, let you all walk down the street and they will think you are Charlie Schaffer. ..from Denver.

Q                 Who is Mack Daniels?..

EVANS            NO, here in town..

Q                 In (~~m~~ Salida)..

EVANS:           You see Mack DANiels up here.. was a dead ringer for Charlie Schaffer.. of Denver that had this

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EVANS

They called it the Slide..

*(man's place)*

Q

The Slide.

EVANS

Right around the corner from 17th and Market..

Q

I never heard of that at all..

EVANS

Oh that was a noted place...After they closed, Market Street, why Charlie went up town, but he tried to get in Capitol Hill but they caught him..

I guess they abolished him entirely. Then right across from his place on 17th and Market was ..this one that had the Petrified Man.?

MAN

*Soapy*  
Soffie Smith..

EVANS:

*Soapy* *Bascom* *Soapy*  
~~Soffie~~ Smith. ~~Baskin~~ Smith and ~~Soffie~~ Smith..

Q

*Bascom*  
~~Baskin~~ was the brother..

EVANS:

*Bascom*  
~~Baskin~~ was the brother.. X Anyway..why I liked *Soapy* ~~Soffie~~.

they had the gambling over there. X But he wasn't educated then like he was when he went off to Alaska..  
*Wasn't it*  
~~another~~.

Q

Yeah, Alaska.

EVANS:

*Bascom*  
But ~~Baskin~~ he was murderous.

Q

Mean ~~he~~ when he got drunk, wasn't he?

EVANS

Oh, terrible..did you know him?

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~~XXXX~~ Q: No, I knew of him though.. I heard a lot about him..  
Bill Collier, an old police reporter, used to talk  
about Baskin. He got in trouble - that is what got  
<sup>Sonny</sup>~~Seffie~~ Smith really run out of Denver finally..

EVANS: That's right.

Q The shooting that <sup>Baskin</sup>~~Baskin~~ Smith was involved in.. And  
as long as <sup>Sonny</sup>~~Seffie~~ Smith ran his place he was alright,  
Baskin shot somebody..

EVANS: <sup>he run his</sup>~~The~~ place was first class..I should say he ~~idid~~..

Q Yeah, he was.. he was..

EVANS ~~We~~ll all those gambling houses. Take the Peterson  
brothers. Down along <sup>Louisa</sup>~~(Lawn)~~ Street..

Q The Old Arcade.

EVANS The Old Arcade.

Q Ed Chase and (Chuckowitz)..

EVANS Ed Chase..

Q Chuckowitz was in a little later.. Chase though was  
operating <sup>in</sup> Denver for years. At the very beginning.  
He was a college graduate Chase was.. ED Chase..  
Chuckowitz had been a ( ).

EVANS Chuckowitz he was another one.. They were all first  
~~xxx~~ class wonderful gamblers.



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EVANS

I have gone up in Pete Peterson's room - right back of the gambling. they got the stairs. And just to ~~x~~ visit him, he liked me because I resembled his deceased wife. She must of been a damn fool..but my God he..

And he telephoned up to the house - I lived in ~~twelfth~~ <sup>ought</sup> twen  
o nine..Market Street at that time.

And, he would telephone - come down and we will have a little turkey. LUnch. And a bottle of wine..well those ~~x~~ days.. I would take a bath in wine. Champagne, I loved it.

And what I couldn't drink down there I would take back home. He would say, you are going to make your mark in this world <sup>some</sup> one day - I said why?

He said because you are economical. No, I said I can't pay no ten dollars a pipe down <sup>there 40</sup> ~~there~~ for that place for it.

And if I had that much left in the bottle I would carry it home.

Well how I met Pete, you know of course ladies now this is vulgar. You want it or don't you?

MAN

We want it..

EVAN:

WEll anyway in those houses, they used to put on shows.

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EVANS:

*I'm not gonna*  
 Well I ~~won't~~ tell you what kind, *I'm gonna* and I ~~won't~~ tell you  
 what they do. But they would come and give the maid  
 five dollars a piece for ~~xxx~~ every girl to strip off  
 naked. Alright, then they would take up a collection  
 for you to perform on each other.  
 PUt candy in that beautiful little thing *See the others eat out* and ~~she would~~  
*it,* eat it all.. Doctor Moxsom says the beautiful thing..  
 I said, yes, looks like a dead hog's eye..  
 Well, I was new ..holy God I never disrobed before  
 Lucille's father. She come to me, *the maid?* she says, here is  
 five dollars..strip off.  
 I says *strip* off, what for? I ~~ɟ~~ used to be tough those days,  
 cause my father licked me so when I was a kid that I had  
 to fight my way out..you know..  
 Well I said no mam, Emma & Johnstone was down below and  
 I had a lady friend down there, and, the old expression,  
 there is more hook shops than churches those days..  
 And.. there was a big mouth *Big Mouth Jim* (Jim) I had a beautiful  
 voice when I was young.. Cost my father many a dollar  
 and if he had only known for what purpose I was going  
 to use it for..  
 Well anyway, I said no, I will ~~gmix~~ quit..I said with all

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EVANS:

these men. My God I said, the <sup>musicians</sup> Physicians were up in a corner of the barroom.. came in this way, had a mirror like that.. where they could look up and see everybody you know. <sup>They had</sup> they, five niggers up there.. <sup>me strip off</sup> used to (INAUDIBLE) <sup>naked?</sup> me..and I said never.. I said I will quit. Well Pete he admired me for it.

There was the rest of them, you know, all stripped down, I looked around and I said, is that what you have to do to be a sporting woman?

Well I am going to quit you. Everybody liked me because I was such a damn fool.. and I loved to dance. And I loved to sing.. and this other woman Jenny she was Big Mouthed Jen. She had quite a pretty voice too.. But the musicians used to say, oh Laura, come on let's practice.. a song, won't you?

WELL I never paid any attention to the.. the musicians.. (Blacks)  
I didn't know what it was..

Southern woman.. well, anyway.. I said I ought to leave.. I walked out of the ballroom.

Never reduced the lights..the lights were all in the ceiling, you know.. (on the stripped women)

First thing I know, here is something started over there.

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EVANS

And Pete says what are you going to do? I says, I am going up and pack my trunk.

I didn't have much in it.. but I could pack it..

Well he says, I will tell you what I will do..you don't have to go back there. We will go in ~~xxx~~the dark ~~xxxx~~ parlor here and I will buy you a bottle of wine.

Well I said, I don't care what they think, that is disgraceful. Is that what you have to do to be a first class woman? Never <sup>be</sup> one.

Well after it sort of subdued it ~~was~~ was two hundred and forty a round. See that.. ~~a shot~~ <sup>the</sup> of champagne..

Well they would get them drunk and steal two thirds of the bottles..

The porter and the night maid and the housekeeper they didn't.. a case of wine was two hundred and forty ~~f~~ dollars.

And then five dollars for each girl, and there was nine girls. See that.. I don't know what they gave the musicians, I didn't ask. Well, Pete says come on, let's go see what they are doing .. I says I don't want to. Not interested.. <sup>in that</sup> you go on ..

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EVANS I am going to move. Well they got me into the ballroom to sing a song.

They grabbed me, took me in the bathroom, you see.. years ago you entered the ballroom..the ballroom was this way.. over in that corner..well they gave me a champagne bath. You can imagine..<sup>they popped</sup> ~~upped~~ the bottles and my beautiful dress. I was wringing wet..now I said what are you going to do.

I said don't <sup>either one</sup> ~~none~~ of you undertake to take this dress off of me. Now I said I am going to tell you something. It was the wintertime and I was cold.

I just wrapped the train around me here, and when I would come out, Miss Jenny..(LAUGH).. <sup>you</sup> high class <sup>80 + 80</sup> ~~also~~..

I said what do you mean..one word brought on another..

I took off my slipper and I nearly killed her..

I knocked her down and I jumped on to her..they had to pull me ~~off~~ out..

But you can imagine that champagne drying on me..

Oho.. was I..my hair and all.. now they says..let's go upstairs.

I said, and I don't want you either.

Q

That was Pete Person? <sup>Peterson pierson</sup>

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EVANS

Yeah, the <sup>Pearson</sup> Pearson Brothers. I said I (don't want) you either..

He says, I saved you, I says, no by God you didn't.. look at my beautiful dress..

Chances are it is ruined. Champagne will spot you know.

Well I will send it down.. <sup>its</sup>spoiled. Take you down here to Daniels and Fishers.. buy you a new one.

Well I thought he was just a talking. Well, he says, I said now I have got to go up and change. And now where am I going to take a bath? I don't dare go back in there g again.

Well the maid came upstairs and he gave her five dollars. ~~And~~ <sup>to</sup> rubbed me down. Well you ought to have seen my hair. My God.. did you ever get champagne in your hair? Whew..

And it <sup>wasn't to stiff</sup> stuck..from then on, I made a good friend out of him. He said he admired me for my independence..

I said, and you are an educated man,

That would come down and ask a civilized person to go through what those women did in that ballroom..and encore them..

Why I said, I don't know whether I want to continue

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EVANS           this life or not.. Well, I was pretty successful..  
when <sup>Here</sup> ~~there~~ come Jack the Ripper.

Q               Was that the time they cut the throats of the three  
girls down there?

EVANS:       No he would go and cut the womb out and ~~leave~~ leave  
them there to die.

And so my lady friend Flossie was down to Emma Johnstone  
and she said well <sup>She</sup> ~~hey~~, how about going to Leadville?  
Well the housekeeper said there is something wrong  
around here.

Well I was so dumb I didn't know what it ~~was~~.. that  
flat feet are coming in, looking around. That was a  
detectives..

And Flossie says, let's get out of here. Well she went  
down to Miss Emmas.. so, I went down to see her, and  
I said well maybe <sup>Emma</sup> ~~Evans~~ is looking for me..  
<sup>Jim</sup> ~~And~~ not going back..(He is broke).. I am not used to  
poverty.

Let's go up to <sup>Leadville</sup> ~~Lakeville~~ - he never did know where I  
was. Changed my name, don't you see...

I didn't have sense enough but they did.. and, this  
Jack the Ripper would go in, and little crib girls,

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EVANS:(cont.) the ~~h~~ most beautiful little .they would import them from Paris.. over here. One would have maybe six or seven working <sup>there in</sup> all them cribs. They cook in ~~he~~ kitchen. They never left their cribs. Just a bedroom, and a kitchen.

Q Did you ever know Jack Mainard?

EVANS: Oh for <sup>Christ sake</sup> God's sake, yes, who in the hell didn't..

Q He used to have a lot of those cribs..

EVANS He didn't amount ~~to~~ much.

Q: No he was ..he

EVANS <sup>He</sup> who was afterwards.. Michael Ryan.. that was the main one. ~~Mike~~ Mike Ryan.

Q ~~xxxxxxx~~ He was a brother of ..what was his name.. Ryan..

EVANS: Don't know who he was related to.. but, there was Jack Maynard, he didn't amount to that.. 3rd class. But you get up there in that Mike Ryan's class, great big. you don't remember..oh you wouldn't remember..

where they had the car with the old horse.. Pull it up the hill and then get..

Q I have ridden on it many a time..

EVANA He had the swellest place out there.. OUt there, that was the end of Broadway wasn't it.. or something.



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Q South end of Broadway..

EVANS ~~We~~ used to go out on horseback.. ~~The~~ landlady, where I lived had a circus horse, a white one, and she had a brother..a brother yes, we were about the same age and I used to love to ride horseback.. And, so we used to go <sup>out</sup> on 16th Street.. side saddle you know. And then just stopp..this horse would just stand up..and people would run off..

And he would pretend that the horse was performing.. run up to grab the <sup>reins</sup> rings.. <sup>why</sup> I got so that I would just sit on that horse.. would I pose..with that old hat <sup>holdin'</sup> on. Long veil..so..

Mike Ryan, us kids.. well I was called a kid when I started out.

We decided to go and see, <sup>out</sup> I wasn't sincere in the business and didn't know what it was..

But they liked me because I was good natured...

but I.. I changed that while in Leadville..

Well this time, this afternoon.. we rode out there and oh Cora Tody.. <sup>here</sup> ~~that~~ was another one.. you never mentioned her.

Q Never even heard of her..

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EVANS Old reliable land lady..oh, these chicken shits that they got here lately.. What do they amount to?

Q What was her name?

EVANS Tody.. T O D Y.. Cora Tody.

Q Where was her place?

EVANS Oh my God. If I could only think...there was Lovejoy, Cora Tody.. poor old (Belle Dora) they never paid any attention to her. She was right next in the back.. Mattie Silks..Jennie Rogers...What is <sup>that</sup> that third one I called. Ahead of Ryan. Oh I called her name.

Q Not Tody..not Belle Bernard?

EVANS: No.. ~~Tody~~.. she will come to me in a minute..

Q Not Jennie Rogers..

EVAN: NO there was Mattie Silks, Jennie Rogers, THIS is what Mike Ryan had.

Q Lovejoy?

EVAN No Lovejoy was, <sup>20 right 9</sup> right across the street... Well we went out there.. The man had 40 or 50 thousand dollars..I don't know which.

And he falls out the second story window.

Q Qf her place you mean?

EVANS: Of Mike Ryan's place. And ~~those~~ <sup>us</sup> kids was out there...

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EVANS: (And <sup>was</sup> those kids was out there), you see, snooping around.  
We didn't dare tell Cora Tody.. Cora Tody never paid  
any attention to me -she just ..

Well, when you are young like that there is no use  
in beating it in <sup>you</sup>. Well, so, we saw some of it.

~~When~~ <sup>And</sup> Mike Ryan comes back to town. They are looking-  
for him. This landlady next door gets a horse and buggy  
and tries to get him out of town.

She afterwards ~~x~~ run the.. up on 16th and Curtis across  
the street.. oh if I could only <sup>just</sup> think of those names,  
now.

Well anyway, he tries to shoot everybody..

Q Mike Ryan?

EVANS Yes he was a desperate character. But an awful nice  
fella. But she was the most beautiful thing you  
ever saw. You asked me, if she was a big woman <sup>just no</sup>  
And I told you no. Why in the hell didn't you write  
it down, then we could of referred to it?

I have forgot it.

Q Wasn't she a big dark haired Irish woman?

I am thinking of the wrong one.

EVANS No, ~~then~~ ~~x~~ she was blond. She got in with a big

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EVANS: candidate, or politician and they had a big restaurant on 16<sup>th</sup> and Curtis, across the street. The (<sup>Lamont or</sup>LaMontier), some big place.. she put up the money for it.

But Mike Ryan went to the penitentiary.

Q Well he shot a man, didn't he?  
Finally..didn't they send him up for either killing a man or wounding.. some gun fight?

EVANS Well they were supposed to have robbed this fellow and thrown him out of the second story window..

Q That is what they sent him up for?

EVANS: And she didn't have money enough to fight it anymore..

Q: Did you know Court Thompson - Mattie Silk's man?

EVANS No - I never - Mattie x Silks was third class..

Q Was Verona Baldwin there at the time..

EVANS Oh, there was a queen. You know she was from royalty?

Q I know she always claimed she was..

EVANS Did you ever see her?

Q Yes, great big tall..

EVANS Wasn't she magnificent looking?

Q White hair..

EVANS She looked like..

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Q Looked like a queen..

EVANS She had <sup>Lillis Lovell's</sup> Miss (Level's ) house... yeah, Miss Verona Baldwin. God, she was magnificent...

Q: She was the neice of Lucky Baldwin out in California.

EVANS Oh, was she? When I walked in I saw her sitting there ..in the (style).. <sup>parked here with</sup> (hair?)..two big <sup>rolls</sup> rollers..

You know everything was ~~■~~ long hair those days..

What is that<sup>?</sup>. lot of toughs from Leadville coming down you know. WEll they gave us a place because by George they spent their money..

Beer was two dollars a bottle.. And she says, why I am a human being.. You <sup>oughta</sup> hear her recite.

Q Thatis VERona Baldwin?

EVANS I ~~ax~~ was too young to listen to any recitations..what did I care.. I wanted another drink, and a dance.. ..show you how sensible I was.. But, you oughta ~~to have~~ seen Market Street..

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*001*  
 EVANS: You ought to have seen Market Street. And they had Chinatown. That was right up, let's see 1 2 3 4 doors

Q: Between Market and Blake the alley ..most of your Chinatown ..was those days.

EVANS: No, the alley, yes, that's where they had ..

Q: Hop Alley they used to call it.

EVANS: Hop Alley, that's where they had their church, their restaurant.. and then the front they had a big store. Oh no it extended further up..

Q: ..ONE TIME all the way through to *from* Market. *clear thru to* Blake..

EVANS: Underground passage. The Cupolow had the same thing. Lilly's House...downstairs in the basement. Go right over..the way they used to do, they would rob people on Market Street.. you would wake up on Blake. What is the next street to Market?

Q: Blake..the other side the alley.

~~EVANS~~ But a lot of these little Chinese stores faced on that alley.

EVANS: They had no stores..there was one big store.. and, then they had the .. opium dens *in* there.. and then they moved them out on the vacant lots.. No ventilation or anything. You would walk right

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EVANS across that block..

Q They were fire traps too.. in my day.. police reports here.

MAN: He used to be police reporter in the old days, on the Old Denver Times..

Q: Denver Post.

MAN: On the Denver Post..

EVANS Who did?

Q: I did..

EVANS Is that right. (REVERSE TAPE)

Q ..know Bill Colliard?

EVANS: Uhhh, Chief of Police.. <sup>his son Chuck</sup> you know old Armstrong didn't you?

Q Yes, he was chief when I was down there...

EVANS That was my old side partner.

Q He was a fine old..

EVANS Bet your life he was.

Q: He used to.. ~~he would~~ <sup>he with</sup> run these gambling joints long before he was.. he was bouncer or something..

EVANS I don't know what he was. Bob Austin..now that was another big <sup>gambler</sup> ~~one~~..

Q I remember hearing of him..

EVANS And his brother -in-law Henry Orns.. oh his wife

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EVANS(cont.) was magnificent..why she and I were going to Honolulu.. and his girl lived in the house.this fella came along, and I said, oh, let's go.

So she goes down to the hotel to bid ~~Bill~~ Henry goodbye. And he killed her.

And then he clips off a piece of his ear and he falls down.. they put him in the hospital.. and, ~~and~~ <sup>she</sup> he went to (Canyon) and I think he stayed there 15 minutes and then he came out.

Q He clipped off his ear to claim that he had done it in self defense, I suppose.

EVANS No that he tried to ~~commit~~ commit suicide. And that she did it..but she ~~sh~~ couldn't.

Q ~~Q~~ That reminds me, whatever happened to that Jack the Ripper? - he killed three women, didn't he?

EVANS: <sup>No</sup> Oh, more than that. Nobody ever knew..they never took no..

Q They never found anyone did they?

They never found who it was..

EVEN: They never tried.. it was really..just walk in.. split them open.. Cut the womb out and goodbye John, he was gone.



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Q That was about the time you came to Leadville, when was that, in the middle nineties?

EVANS Ninety.. 95. Yeah, ~~1~~ 95, and then I left there in '96.

Q You were just in Leadville, one year?

EVANS Yes, I wouldn't of left then if they hadn't of had the strike in, and they ordered every place closed... martial law.

Q Well they..that was during the strike.. they closed down everything..nobody had any money..I suppose then.

EVANS Well no. (SOMEONE COMES IN)<sup>well hello.</sup>.. they had plenty of money.

Q Well the miners didn't during the strike I mean.. the strike lasted quite a while, didn't it.

EVANS: Well we didn't stay - there was five hundred of us up there at that time.. 45 up on West <sup>5th</sup> First Street....

Q Where you on State Street..or..

EVANS: I never lived <sup>out</sup> on ~~any~~ State.. or.. ~~ixw~~ that was third class.. I was always high powered..I thought I was. I guess I was.

Q Did you ever know was it Molly Demursca. Up there..

EVANS No.

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Q: Sally Purple..

EVANS No.

Q Wasn't she in Leadville..I guess that was.. earlier.  
Maybe it was later than that period..

EVANS: There was Flossie Aikens.. Not Flossie Aikens..  
Miss Flossie.. and, then there was the Big Brick..  
Oh I can't think of her name now. ~~Be~~ Mollie Price..  
ever~~n~~ hear of her.. Miss <sup>Lillis Lovell</sup> (Lillie Sovel)..

Q Lillis Lovell. She had a sister...

EVANS Yeah, Miss SERine <sup>~~Kat~~ ~~Gamill~~ Brownell</sup>.. She married Major  
Wilder. At one time Major Wilder owned the Elgin  
Smelter <sup>up</sup> ~~out~~ there.. by the Rio Grand Depot.

Here she ran a little chicken shit millinery store  
<sup>back in</sup> by Arkanas.

Q Now which one you speaking about?

EVANS ..THE Miss (Lovell,) Miss <sup>Lillis 's</sup> (~~Lillison~~) sister...the ~~mx~~  
major..well miss Lillis has her <sup>come up</sup> (commache) she goes  
over to Creed, makes enough to go down to Denver  
and buy from Jennie Rogers... 20-20 Market Street..  
17 thousand Cash.

Well Miss <sup>Serine</sup> (~~ream~~) comes out.. what did she know..say  
it was (~~comical~~).. run a little millinery store,

REEL # 7

EVANS

Sit all day and make a hat.. sell it for six bits.

So when she came in of course you know old tough *holies*  
*(Hollis)*.. (SOMEONE EXITS.) *Bye bye hon!*

And *she*..didn't know what it ~~was~~ -- get up in the morning..  
 put on her little black dress.. shirtwaist shirt..  
 little shirred skirt..the belt.. *here well* they would all  
 come down in *swell* velvet robes you know..

She says, what is this?

Well I felt sorry for her. Well, I said Miss.. I *raid*  
 explained it to her. Oh, my *(Sister)?* daughter is disgraced..

Well I said what's she going to do? Well I don't know.  
 where is Lillis..Lillis had robbed .. a woman over there  
 four or 5 kids of her husband.. He was  
 the undertaker. And they were looking for Lillis  
 Lovell.

But they were away on their honeymoon. *Very well* So she says,  
 oh, I can't stand this. Alright. J. T. Briggs,  
 owned the Black Prince mine up there.. gives her  
 50 dollars to carve a..Easter ~~on~~ Sunday.. turkey.

She was so refined.. and so nice you know..

Why she said this..oh I said Miss *raid* *(Reige)* *(Sinner)*.

REEL # 7

EVANS:

*this Moffat & Smith you know*  
 Old Ed Smith.. ~~the Market~~ Smith.. (INAUDIBLE) .. well  
 Mr. Moffet and old Edwin Smith, were partners up  
 there in five different properties.

Moffat and Smith. *The Maid of Erin* (INAUDIBLE) the *Bon Air*  
 The Wolf ~~(one)~~.. the Penn Rose.. and some other..  
 and.. *the Johnny* (INAUDIBLE)..  
*the Johnny*

Well, when Ed Smith came down there one night he  
 brought four or five millionaires, and his bill  
 was eight hundred dollars the next day..

*when*  
 And he left. SAid how much is this girl worth?

Two fifty... they are two fifty, Reed.. and he  
 got to me. Well my beau was *Nicholas Arthur* ..x he represented  
~~Markx~~ Moffat and Smith up there and took care of  
 everything.

Just think of the salary of five hundred a month, he  
 made, then he got ten percent.. on the boarding  
 houses.. for collecting for their board. *holding it out* up in  
 the office.

Well, old Ed Smithx says, Arthur how much is this  
 long legged so and so worth?

*Nick*  
 They looked at him..well he says, Mr. Smith.. oh about  
 two and a half or three dollars..

REEL # 7

EVANS: Oh say, I roared back - I used to be mean - never mind. I was ready to go over ~~xxxx~~ and hit him in the mouth.. I was going to.. spoil the ~~parade~~ <sup>parade</sup> right then and there. SAid Mr. Smith doesn't have to pay for any of my entertaining, Laura... Well you bet the next day I had a sixty dollar dress.. from ~~that damn~~ <sup>there at the Emporium..</sup> (uptown/ )..~~and~~ And I got so well acquainted with Nick, I could just write his name like he could... Because I used to sign a lot of them for him.. up there at those boarding houses. Alright.. Then that night..we had.. quail..that old Ed Smith hated me and I was glad of it too... I used to sing songs and do parodies on him. So..

Q You can't remember any of them..can you? I thought it would be good if you can remember one... Sing it for us..

EVANS: Well one was 'after the balls are over'.. I couldn't ~~do~~ <sup>remember</sup> it. ~~I thought~~ maybe I could think of it.. Well then poor Ed he goes home.. I had ~~to have~~ claws ..oh just as tight as I could, in his hair...  
Braided

R\_EL # 7

EVANS: And he goes in the room, and the woman wants to know.. where he got the quail claws .. Laura you lascivious bitch... you come naxxg near getting me killed.. I said I didn't do that Mr. Smith, Clara did it. Where were you all..

One ~~he~~ <sup>Judge woman</sup> was a great big old ~~arse~~ .. if ever I catch you down there on West fifth street, I am coming in there and tear up that place.

Now Laura the next time I come down.. reexamine my halo won't you.. He said and see that there is no quail claws in them..

She is just orney enough to go borrow some to put in. ~~That was~~ what was good with Leadville.

You had the high class.. men get out with the muckers.. Come down there to the house..

And if you didn't have a ~~taken~~ <sup>taking</sup> way, you are out.

Suppose we let a miner go back with money? Oh they couldn't do that.. that is against our religion...

Q It is unethical.

EVANS: Yeah - Doctor Meers he was a.. he was a wonderful physician.. alright. And when he would come down to the house with one glove on, why, you knew it

REEL # 7

EVANS: was time to put him on the separator..

Well I was ~~w~~ singing, After the Ball is Over..

I was coming through the hall. I didn't see him.

Ohhh - is the nightingale.. as I opened my parlor door, I stepped in and there he stood.

Elegant looking old doctor. Wonderful.

Well I had an old hair trunk. Looked like a bear...

One of them old roll tops you know.. in ~~the~~ the back, I worked oh, for two or three days.. I cut a slit, then I lined it.

Then I used to put the money that I didn't think they needed in there and you couldn't tell it was a pocket could you.

He says I was a southern general. I says general of what? He says would you mind singing my favorite song. Oh I will think of the song..

Alright he.. he put 16 dollars down my dress..

he won two hundred and forty-two dollars gambling that night.

And that was something extraordinary..

The ~~the~~ next day when he left I wouldn't even give him two bits to go buy a drink up the (Topic)..

REEL # 7

EVANS: Well right at the head of Fifth and Harrison, was Smith's offices. Upstairs.. if ever you go to Leadville now it is rig-ht there on Fifth..upstairs.. ~~xxx~~ They have that whole floor up there..

Went down the next day to put what I wanted to in the bank, and spend the rest. <sup>He says</sup> You see that hand painted <sup>(high walkin')</sup> up the street? <sup>Arthur</sup> ~~Oh~~ he says, I see a lady walking up the street. A what? Yes, he says I have two hundred and forty-two dollars last night, she wouldn't even give me two bits to buy a drink..

Nick says she didn't want to see you indulge today I presume. He says I have bought many a woman <sup>one</sup> for <sup>her</sup> (INAUDIBLE).. He says, you are not the only one.

Q Go ahead.. <sup>Should I go on?</sup> this thing is not working properly now..

(FIXES TAPE MACHINE)

Did you ever have an experience with a spiritualist?

EVANS: I don't believe in spiritualism.

Q I was swondering if you ever had any <sup>seances</sup> ..with it?

EVANS NO.. I am not afraid of the dead. It is <sup>the</sup> ~~rough~~ <sup>Co. Keyed</sup> living.. what more pear shapes are you going..to pull off?



REEL # 7

Q: *You just about got into that, Laurie. You're all right*  
~~Going to bed Laurie, you alright?~~

EVANS: I suppose..well I about run out now..

Q: You didn't go back to Denver after you were in Leadville, did you?

EVANS: Oh never. Never. Never.

Q How long were you in Denver..just a couple of years before you went to Leadville?

EVANS About a year..

Q About a year.. About a year ~~x~~ in Denver and then a year .. in Leadville?

EVANS Here, and I have parked here every since.. And wasn't it a coincidence, that son~~x~~-of-a-bitch of .. (Martinis) down here, closed me.. just 54 days to the anniversary of my arrival...

Q What the 50th anniversary..

EVANS January 26, 1950. And I arrived here in ~~(~~xx~~ ~~Sam~~ ~~at~~)~~ *Julian*  
 with a.. suitcase full of champagne as usual,  
 fell in the gutter down here.. *lookin' for a* second story ~~xi~~ saloon..  
 Charlie (*Antley*) was the marshall..  
 and he looked *come* ~~in~~ there and he says, what is the  
 matter, are you hurt lady? I said ~~Q~~ ~~x~~ I don't know.  
~~x~~ somebody *have to* help me get up. See when they ordered

REEL # 7

EVANS: us out of Leadville, everybody ..saloon keeper made each and everybody a present of ~~xx~~ what they wanted. Well we got the (~~xxx~~ crew drunk?) on number two... coming down..and, and when we got here we were looking for two story buildings..

And I fell in the gutter down here, right in the middle of the next block.

Well he helped me up. I said we were looking for a two story saloon.

And I started to laugh - and I said I want to show you something. I ~~went~~ open the suitcase and there was five quarts of champagne.

He says you don't need it.. I <sup>says</sup> we don't need it.. we are just looking around. Well he says, come on, we will take you up ~~to~~ the hotel.

The old St. Clare up here...well the fella ~~that~~ ran the hotel - he had a bar downstairs. Swell fella.

They put us ~~x~~ up on the roof.

But they had an old elevator that ran/~~the~~ <sup>by</sup> water... you didn't know how long you would be suspended in ~~x~~ the air, or take a chance of walking down..

Well we swelled the receipts.. that fella came up

REEL # 7

EVANS:

*(across there...)*  
*then, of course, the*

The railroad boys .. knew us from up in Leadville.

Of course they had to come down.. And they ~~new~~

138'

knew Sherman then was the new house..

My lady friend and I we were going to Seattle..

and, she said well let's rest a while. Let the rest

of them go over to the New Sherman and I am going

down with Johnny *Burroughs* ~~(Burness)~~ he was a .. very ..

people..they lived in Pueblo.. *gave her* ~~they were~~ five hundred

dollars. Right here in Salida.

*they* said, *aha* dear, come down and rest for a week. Then you  
and Laura can go where you want to. *we* ~~They~~ were going to  
Honolulu.

And well you could wor-k this town. Skip Leadville.

Work Glenwood springs pay days. SAlt Lake on, work  
your way clean up there.

Well we were two young girls. Had beautiful clothes  
and nothing to worry about.

At least I didn't. And I know *Brady* ~~(Vada)~~ didn't..

Well, *Brady* ~~Vada~~ goes down to Pueblo.. with (Johnny.)

You know this Billy *Burroughs that was* ~~the~~ chief detective here for  
*the Rio Grand here*  
( ) for years..

REEL # 7

Q: KNow of him..yeah..

EVANS: Know of him, huh? Well been a United States marshall  
for years. Well then we got separated.

~~HE~~ <sup>they</sup> take Johnny I think and put him in <sup>Dr. Worth's</sup> insane <sup>asylum</sup>  
Insane asylum, and take poor little Brady, out in  
the suburbs a prisoner.

Well I waited here a week. And I said, I <sup>am</sup> rested..

I am going over and see what the girls is doing.

That was a Saturday night.

I walked in the front door, and there was professors  
sitting there playing the piano. Playing an old  
familiar song that I knew. I started to singing..

Wonderful tenor voice he had.

My, he says, come in here. And, my lady friend Marie,  
she had a beautiful voice too..

But ~~he~~ she was a high soprano. And I had a contralto  
voice. Well he said, my who are you? I said, ~~xxx~~ where  
are  
~~of~~ the girls. He said, they are upstairs. Alright.

First thing I know the house began filling up.

I began drinking beer and calling off quadrilles..

and, my <sup>lord we just wakened</sup> ~~making~~ them up..I said,

REEL # 7

EVANS(cont.) what is the matter all you people here.. <sup>you</sup> dead around here. Get up here and dance. Well the landlady's room was right back of the ballroom and she had a peephole.

But she couldn't imagine who in the Name of God had come in her house.. And was taking so many privileges and dancing..

Well I wasn't paying any attention to her. She had to come out. So the girl said, I said I don't know..

*I want to know what's they say*  
~~one of us~~ become of (Brady) I never hear her.

Well, just as soon as the land lady came out ..she says oh.. are you the girl's friend.. I said I was.. I don't know what I am now.

And she says, oh won't you come over here .. Well I said I <sup>have</sup> had laid off for a week. ~~just~~ *Guess I* better come back. Now we kept that house open till five in the morning.

And they said go home and stay there. But, we never did get to go to Honolulu.

*Brady*  
~~Lada~~ stayed in Pueblo, and, she got in with a detective there. She educated his daughters..

REEL # 7

EVANS: She bought them a baby grand piano.. graduation present.. graduation dresses... ~~and~~ <sup>she</sup> she got tired of him.

And sought a younger boy, and, went to City Hall.. closed ~~u~~ her up.. wasnt that dirty?

Q: Yes.. Did you ever know Spud Murphy in..

EVANS: Well that is what I am talking about..

Q You said <sup>Etha</sup> ED Brady I thought.

EVANS: <sup>Etha</sup> ~~Ed~~ Brady. She never was the name of Spuddy.. Till she went down to Pueblo. And got in with Spuds Murphy.

~~EVANS~~ MAN Oh, her name was Brady..

EVANS <sup>Etha</sup> ~~It was~~ Brady.. <sup>we turned up</sup> ~~..stayed~~ together.. Then they went to Leadville.

MAN:B But she was known as Spud Murphy though.

EVANS: Well when she went down there, they called her Spuddy. But I called her Brady. She was no Spuddy up in Leadville. She was old Silence. She is dead now.

Q That is what I ~~was~~ going to ask ..

EVANS: She died here about 5 or 6 years ago.in29..

I was up in Casper and she was out - what do they call that place out there -

~~EVANS~~ MAN: In Pueblo you mean?

REEL # 7

EVANS: Well it was wide open. (Sandbar)..

Q Oh Casper ~~Sandbar~~..yes.

EVANS: So I heard that Brady was out there.. ~~so~~ <sup>well</sup> I got a cab and I drove out. And she was doing washing and ironing and cleaning up cribs for any and everybody.

Well, I ~~w~~ saw a colored girl first. I said do you know Spuddy Murphy, or <sup>for</sup> Brady. ~~Sure~~..

I had a dollar, I said this is for a drink, I don't want it - I don't care for it. She says yes, she is around here somewhere <sup>while</sup> ~~here~~.

I said would it be much trouble to find her? Tell her Laura from SALida. ~~is~~ <sup>I was</sup> going to bring Brady home with me. She turned out to ~~xxxxx~~ be the biggest drunkard - well I used to be the big fool, Brady was silence.

She would wait till she got fifty dollars and then she would get a fifty dollar bill.. ~~get~~ <sup>she had</sup> even thousand dollar bills sewed upin her petticoats.

You know we used to have big pockets in the sides those days, ~~Bar~~ Brady never liked to beg..

But you know I couldn't find her.. Well then there was a little girl came over to me here,

REEL # 7

EVANS:(cont.) she says, Spuddy, wouldn't see you.

I said, I said I would of brought her home. She says ~~he~~ she is an awful drunkard. And that thing that she has ~~is~~ <sup>well</sup> how she got pneumonia. In her old cabin there was a little rent in the carpet. He come in to sympathize with her, tripped on that, fell over on the bed and knocked the breath out of her.

He was drunk. Well of course it was laughable but I couldn't laugh.. I said <sup>oh</sup> that is the end of ~~Anna~~ <sup>CH-2</sup> Brady is it? She educated her brother - (clip) (Johnny) in Kansas City, that cost her a doctor and a surgeon ..she went back to his graduation and do you know that he refused to acknowledge her.

Cause he knew she was running a house. That woman sent that boy many a hundred dollars. Yes sir.

She was ..went to visit him one time, before he knew it, she was telling me about - they got a skeleton and how they boiled the meat off the skeleton. And then they threw it down. <sup>and how</sup> now you got to put every bone back..

She said, oh how much fun she had.. matching



REEL # 7

EVANS: .. them little bones.. You knew Brady did you..

MAN No, I had only heard of her.. She was down there at Pueblo for a ~~long~~ long time.. Everybody knew her.

EVANS: Yeah.

MAN Well you know, (~~Ran~~ Verona Baldwin was pretty well fixed, wasn't she.. when she retired, when they closed up Market Street <sup>in Denver.</sup> ~~and then.~~..

EVANS: Well I didn't know anything about those land ladies..

Q You sort of lost track.

EVANS When I left they ~~a~~ was all land ladies down there.. You see they <sup>hadn't</sup> haven't closed ~~it~~ it yet.

Q: Lizzie Preston was still there..was she?

EVANS: <sup>Miss Lizzie</sup> This lady? No. She closed her place..down on 17th and Market. SAY there was a mam..

One night she had a beautiful diamond cross. Just before we left. I left..<sup>twenty eight mine</sup> and I went down on 17th Street. With this girl I went to Leadville with.

So, Miss Lizzie came down - she was standing there in the front yard and a man made a grab for it, Holy Moses, she up and she knocked him silly.

She had a horse and buggy out there in front..

REEL # 7

EVANS: I have often wondered if..then the Central Theatre was right next door to her place.

Q: Well was she the one that some other landlady there on Market Street, had a lot of diamonds at home. She lived up on South Street, and she went home one night a couple of men in the house.. and they tortured her by cutting her fingers open. Who was that?

EVANS: Wait a minute. NO that was - she was on 18th .. and Laurence.

Q What was her name - I can't think of it.

EVANS <sup>But</sup> she was Miss Lillis Lovel's side partner.

Q That wasn't Rosa Lee?

EVANS Oh, no..no..no. Ohh my God, she came up to Leadville after she was robbed.

And she had a picture of herself with all of her diamonds on.

She lived - well there is..right there in Denver on 18th I think it is.. Bay Windows..is that place still there?

Q: I don't..whereabouts on 18th?

REEL # 7

EVANS: 18th and Laurence. Well I wish I could think of this woman's name.. it will come to me. She came up to visit Miss Lillis. And, beautiful woman. Well shaped..it will come to me. Cause I knocked her down in the ~~x~~ hall one night .. I ~~will~~<sup>ought</sup> remember the ~~night~~<sup>name</sup>.. So~~x~~ anyway Miss Lillis used to work for her. May?...May Harvey. May.

Q I didn't know her.

EVANS: And Miss Lillis says, why do you ( ) Miss ( ) what she did. What she had done to her, what in the devil is she going out, she and her girl with a couple of strange men drinking all decked up ..around here, beetles and bugs.. snakes and flies.. frogs. With two strange men. Now .. all four of them supposed to got drunk together. Those days it was horses and buggies with everything. Yeah, ~~x~~ May Harvey.

Q Is ~~kshe~~..she is the one that they cut her fingers?

EVANS No..no they didn't cut her fingers. They just ~~pulled~~<sup>politely</sup> lightly..took them off of her.

Q: Well there was one of them..they ..

REEL # 7

EVANS: The landlady and her girls..

Q they cut this woman's fingers ..all ten fingers they slit the..

EVANS No..no that..

Q: Not for diamonds though, that was at home.. She had diamonds..(OVERLAP)..that was somebody else.

EVANS: She had all ~~over~~ her fingers.

Q Well she didn't lose her fingers but she could never open them straight after that.. they were always bent.

END OF REEL # 7 - (TRACK # 1)

DIRECTIONS: This hour that you have just heard is the first of two rolls of tape recorded at Salada, Colorado on the 27th of April, 1952.

Present at Recording Session; Forbes Parkhill, Laura Evans  
Fred Mazzulla, and Jo Mazzulla.

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REEL # 7 - Track # 2

Q: Who would you call the outstanding Madam down there in your day? Jennie Rogers?

EVANS: Well there wasn't any. They were all big high classed women. They had beautiful houses, <sup>you called Solomon</sup> ~~Soloman~~ ..the (loan) company.. you could come all decked out in diamonds, so much a week.

But somebody had to go your security...You walk in a place like that, you just glittered.

Q Well now if one of the girls wanted to buy those diamonds <sup>on</sup> ~~all the~~ time, would the madam go in as security.

EVANS: She had to.

Q: Or get somebody else?

EVAN Have to..

Q And most of the madams credit was.

EVANS **A**-Number one, yes.

Q CAuse they were making lots of money.

EVANS: **A**-Number one.

Q Did you ever know the man Jennie Rogers married.

EVANS: I didn't know anything about that..

Q Jack Wood - he a was bartender up the Brown Palace Hotel.

EVANS: Didn't know a thing.

REEL # # 7

EVANS:

G

Well when you were in Leadville, I am going up there tomorrow..I am interested in some of that old time history, and how did the girls dress in those days in Leadville.

Would they wear full length gown or what?

EVANS:

Oh they, you never, you never saw anybody with a low neck dress on. ~~In our day~~ <sup>here</sup> If ~~your dad~~ <sup>If you did</sup> why, it was lace, cut off ~~your~~ <sup>high</sup> collars, Katy ~~Baldwin~~ <sup>Bar the door</sup> ~~were~~ sleeves ..two couldn't get in the door... long trains.

Q:

You don't know where I could get one of those gowns.. do you.. do you have any old ones..

EVANS:

Oh my God, no.

Q

I am trying to get something from (Left) Bay and it is awfully hard to get.

Now the crib girls would wear short skirts, wouldn't they?

EVANS

Well they dressed according..of course in those cribs they had to dress because it was too cold. But in ~~winter~~ <sup>for water</sup> they would have to take hats.. and ~~make~~ <sup>break chunks</sup> ( ) out of the Barrel..

They ~~had~~ <sup>pail</sup> 50 cents I think for 25 gallons.. and heat it.. the cribs were so cold.

REEL # 7

- Q: Now in Denver, along bout my time, a lot of those crib girls wear, short, short skirts. Very short skirts.
- EVANS: Now those little girls wore dresses up to their knees..
- Q: They would be (selected) in the doors.. They would stay in the doorway..
- EVANS: ..silks..stand in the doorway and rustle...  
Well they do that..that's every place in the crib.
- Q You don't know where I could get one of those old costumes, do you?
- EVANS: Oh no, ..
- Q: I don't suppose anybody kept any of those? I..I would love to get one of those for..
- EVANS: I don't know where in the name of God you could get one. The closest to them is what Baby <sup>Doe</sup>~~Doll~~ had..  
That's the closest to them.  
That's the way we dressed, in them long trains..
- EVANS: Well you would wear what would be a ..for that time, just formal evening wear, wouldn't you? Evening dress or something?
- EVANS: Evening dresses are a hundred to a hundred and a quarter.

REEL # 7

Q: Where in Leadville did you usually buy your clothes. Did you go to Denver to get them.. or in Leadville?

EVANS: No, well Madame Frank's had an emporium up there. Between ~~F~~fourth and ~~F~~fifth on Harrison Avenue. She had everything, but it <sup>d</sup>cost~~s~~ you.. YOU could go in there and buy everything with a pair of shoes. And she furnished..then after a while then here come these.. you know, up there with dresses. Travelling men...

Q: In Denver where would you get the clothes?

EVANS: Well I tell you, you buy from Daniels and Fisher. Across the street was the Golden Eagle, the Denver looked like (Dogsenshire).. And then other little junk shops.. <sup>How</sup> I happened to get these beautiful dresses - this lady friend of mine, Bob Austin's brother-in-law killed, why she couldn't read nor write, Nora ~~look~~<sup>look</sup>. But she had beautiful clothes.

And the land ladies used to send up town and say, bring down four or five or six hundred dollars worth of dresses.

Well, Nora says you are a new girl, turning <sup>out</sup> up,



REEL # 7

EVANS: don't you let them work you. Maybe there is a dress there at 35, they will charge you 50 and 60 for it. You and I, you see, we had one day off a week. WE will go up on 14th and ~~(Stout)~~ <sup>State</sup> ~~Stout~~ there is a fella up there had a drying and a cleaning place. Well, so, she says, and we will get clothes for almost nothing.

Society people here don't wear dresses but once. They go down ~~then~~ <sup>there</sup>, and they sell them to him.. And, I got a hundred and fifty dollar dress for 25 dollars once. A beautiful ~~flat~~ <sup>black gros-</sup> grain silk big jet nail heads all over it.. that was trimmings you know, long train, for fifteen dollars.

She and I just loaded up on this stuff. And, I didn't go to Daniels and Fisher's.. And but, the girls some <sup>owed</sup> four, five and six hundred dollars.

At night, time to retire, I would see them walking back you know, like going..like <sup>to</sup> a jailer or ~~jewelry~~ <sup>jury</sup> or something, I wonder where them devils going? Going upstairs to the locker.

I said what is the locker? ~~And the madam they~~ <sup>the landlady'd</sup> make them take off their diamonds and all their clothes,

REEL # 7

EVANS: When they came back they just had their slippers..  
their night dress..their robe.. went to their rooms.

Q: Well that's a new one on me. I never heard of that  
before.

EVANS: NO, that's the truth. But <sup>Nora</sup> (~~Laurie~~) and I would go up  
and get second hand clothes. They were beautiful.  
Yes, indeed.

Q: Did you ever know a Jones woman that used to sell the  
clothes..down there.. I guess that was maybe a little  
early.

EVANS: That was long after my time..

Q You speak of Bob Austin. He used to be a partner  
~~at~~ Chase in the gambling joint up fifty..

EVANS: Who?

Q: Bob Austin. Was that the gambler you speak of?

EVANS I had to laugh - when Henry.. <sup>Nora + I you know</sup> we were good friends.  
She was a lauder<sup>ann</sup>man (Nora) fiend... did you ever hear  
of that? And she would take a teaspoonful of  
lauder<sup>ann</sup>man and eat pie.

Q: No...

EVANS: And her room was right next to mine, I used to <sup>say</sup>  
~~have a lauder<sup>ann</sup>man (and )~~ it will kill you.. and she liked,

REEL 7

EVANS:(cont.) every time I would eat - what she had today? The brown pie - but anyway, every time I look at that, I think of NOra. That she always liked that kind of pie. And, when we got up on the stand, why, ~~she~~ <sup>for</sup> she ~~we~~ <sup>Yeah, the</sup> ~~have a~~ bullet come here.

She was supposed to put her arm around this way, and shoot herself.

Well I was supple those days. My God you could just.. I could do everything but stand on my head.

Well they had me up there. Yes the judge says to Bob ~~axix~~ Austin, Look what you produced here.

She can take her arm, put it twice around her neck and ~~wh~~ wipe her own ass. Case dismissed! (LAUGH)

I only got five dollars for that.

Q Well you speak of the songs. Have you thought of any other <sup>of 'em</sup> .. if you could remember one of those songs, I would certainly like to hear one.

EVANS: Well one of my favorite songs was "Listen to the Water Mill"..

Q: How did it go?

EVANS Oh, I would give .. anything if I could sing it again. If you could only get that song.. you know,

REEL # 7

EVANS: you just keep a trembling till you go up and then you come on down, and on that piano you know, and they used to make those runs.. "Listen to the Water Mill, all the live long day.." - It was beautiful. You can just imagine you can hear the water.

Q Did ~~you~~ you tell Forbes about the time that you borrowed the the horses from the circus up in Leads-ville.

EVANS: The what?

Q The time you borrowed the horses from the circus. Tell Forbes that, I think he would like to hear that.

EVANS Oh they had <sup>Ringum</sup> Ringum Brothers come to Leadville. That was something unusual. Well of course we all had to go down to (SStringtown) in the (Malta).. and, go to the circus.

Well we had a poor unfortunate girl that had an <sup>(Ivy)</sup> abcess down below, /and she says, I want to go with you.. And so she says, break this thing. Well somebody said, put hot turpentine on it.

Well we put the turpentine and forgot the temperature of it, and <sup>Jesus</sup> Christ we put it on and she jumps out

REEL # 7

EVANS: of bed. WE had to send for the doctor. WEll we didn't know that the thing was boiling. Turpentine too.

WEll I says, come on, we got to go down there to that circus. WEll it was pretty hard for the horses.

But they had the chariot race. I said, oh, I had a pinto pony "Squaw" that I used to go right into the saloons on ~~his~~<sup>her</sup> back and drink. *If*

I didn't want to get off, go<sup>on</sup> in (*Or else she buy?*) buy what I wanted, turn around and ~~walk~~<sup>go</sup> on out.

WEll, so, gee, I says, Clara, wouldn't I love to drive that ~~black~~<sup>from</sup> blacks, up Harrison Avenue.

Oh go on you are crazy. No I am not. I looked around for a bright looking little newsboy, and I gave him a dollar. I says how do you get to the tent? Where they keep those horses. Will they let you go? Sure lady.

*Clara*  
I says come back here, I says, I am not going to do it .. I went, they had a bucket, of beer that was about half gone. I says the bucket looks about half empty. Yes lady it does. Only a dollar to fill it.

EVANS:

Well I said, here is a dollar, go fill it. I said say, how much would you charge me if you let me drive that swell team up Harrison Avenue. Why, do you know how to drive? I said well, ~~drive~~ <sup>try</sup> me out and see. Well those days along Harrison Avenue they had buggies and ~~(phaetons)~~ <sup>(phaetons)</sup> and horses, all tied up and down ~~there~~ <sup>Harrison Avenue</sup> ..you know.

Well I said, I will give you five dollars - will you lady, I said <sup>I only want to go</sup> ~~^~~ as far as Vendome..as far as the Vendome and that is up on Eighth. Fine.

~~I said~~, Clara followed me. Come on Clara. ~~Damn~~ <sup>Pay 'em</sup> five dollars for the ~~(ride)~~ <sup>whites</sup>.

Well, she says alright, I will. Now he says lady we have to go with you. ~~Well~~ <sup>Why</sup> them little chariots, <sup>only weighed</sup> I think 75 pounds. And them four big horses. (Katie ~~Bar~~ <sup>Bar the Door</sup> ).

Well I said, I will be good.

Will you let me? Sure. Well they strapped you in. ~~And~~ <sup>then</sup> they have straps underneath for your feet. WAS I proud when we came out and I said let's go up State Street. ~~Hot~~ Hot dog all those women out there, ~~there~~ <sup>Here</sup> I was, you know, handling those reins but the man had them behind me too..

EVANS: I don't know whatever possessed me, when I turned that corner, Harrison Avenue, I ~~hit~~ <sup>that Cocheyed gong.</sup> ~~the~~ (curb).. You can guess the rest, can't you? The race up Harrison Avenue - well we turned the corner on one wheel. Horses broke away, It's is a wonder we hadn't killed children. And a day like that Leadville was crowded. Well the Mayor, Mayor Nicholson, and you knew of him, didn't you?

Q

*No. Yeah*

EVANS: Mr. Samuel D. Nicholson? Well he was the little mayor at that time. And he come down to the house, if you didn't watch him, he would throw up your dress and he would bite you. Right in there. Well me poor fool, I was a new one. Alright the girls never told me. Oh, he says, a new sweetheart. He bit me. I had to go to the doctor and get it cauterized. So here so help me God, come the police. The ~~man~~ man says lady get out, we will all be arrested. I said we will all be killed if you don't stop them things. Well anyway, <sup>9</sup> come down the street. And Clara says now we are in for it.. I bet we are both arrested. I said, go on down that alley. You don't need to follow

REEL # 7

EVANS: ME. Go on. Well who did I run into but the mayor and the police.

Well I said, my God, the horses ran away with me. I ought to have known better. To hold four horses and you know they were all out of breath <sup>slower</sup> running all over, it is a wonder they didn't drop dead.

So high for them. The police looked up at him. I stood up there. He looked down at me and where my hand was, oh he says officer, forgive her for she knows not what she douche."

I says thank you. I was rubbing the scar on my leg. And I looked up idiotic at him. And he looked down and he saw what I was doing. And <sup>they</sup> he knew damn well that I had plenty of good backing up there in Leadville. Between all them high Moguls and Arthur Nichols he was a big <sup>fellow</sup> beau.

And that was my beau and when I would get mad I would go and beat him up. And I knocked him through the front door of one of the houses down there, and he couldn't get his head out. Big glass doors. And he had his hand through - he has still got the scar. And I got one acrost here. Where we cut



REEL # 7

EVANS: each other ~~cup~~. Help, help he says, that <sup>80 + 80</sup> ~~son of a gun~~ has got me like I am in the stockade.

There he was with one hand, and they had to take the glass ~~off~~ <sup>out</sup>. He was afraid to move for fear the glass cut his throat.

Now that was my beau.

Q What was the fight about - what did you get made at him for?

EVANS Well I thought he was dancing too much with a girl, and I just wanted to tell him time to go home I thought. When he got to the door I hit him and he went through the glass...

Q Didn't break up a beautiful friendship did it?

EVANS NO.

Q He just took it as a matter of course.

EVANS: Laugh about it after..

Q Did you ride your pony into the Ice Palace in Leadville?

EVANS Oh that Ice Palace. That was the most - honest to God I almost cried. I <sup>e</sup> got it in there, I hug and kiss it. <sup>(the photo)</sup> That was the gala day - when was that Ice Palace in Leadville? '95, wasn't it?

Q '95 and '6.

REEL # 7

EVANS: The hottest..the hottest <sup>weather</sup> Leadville ever had. Oh God. Society got mad at the girls because we had had the toboggin suits. YOU know they had toboggan suits.

They are just, they are like, you know.

Well you look like a Teddy Bear that was all. Pull ~~them~~ <sup>button 'em up.</sup> up here ~~by the mountain.~~

Q Did they have skirts?

EVANS: No.

Q Sort of pants like the ski costumes they wear now?

EVANS Well, but they were big. Ruffle around there, kind of elastic - the elastic was around the ankles. and around here. And come up here, big hood over it. And society was gonna tell the sportin' women they couldn't wear them.

I says why in the hell don't you go and tell the manufacturer not to make them. WE have as much right as anybody else if we want to, haven't we?

But the joke of it was they had a masquerade up there at the Ice ~~Palace~~ Palace, well, the costumer would come up every time they would have a masquerade, well poor Brady and I got there too late.

But I had to be a knight, well as long as I had a few

REEL # 7

EVANS: drinks in me, I didn't give a damn whether it was night or day. So, I borrowed two suits of Nick's underwear, ~~from~~<sup>for</sup> my tights, pink silk tights you know, and, the high boots. I had a beautiful velvet, I don't know what you call them - up here, and a big cape you know. The hat with the plume. The big sleeve, all embroidered. Regular ~~kn~~ight suit.

Well Brady's fit her alright, but with all my underwear on, I had knots all over me, but I told them that was muscle. I was a ballet dancer, and that was muscle.

One of them really standing there and the man looked at us, he says I know that little girl but what in the hell is ~~the~~<sup>that</sup> the big one.

Then you know we would run in and the way you had your drinks served, was in teapots. Bottle of beer poured in a teapot, then you got a little cup and saucer, you better not break one of the<sub>1</sub> cups and saucers either.

They would take you - but when I drove~~x~~ the horse in, there, poor broken tailed Charlie, he knocked down some of the exhibits, and kicked the shams, and left

REEL # 7

EVANS: us both up there, ..

Q What was he in a buggy <sup>were</sup> with you?

EVANS In a sleigh.

Q In a sleigh.

EVANS Oh in a sleigh. I said what is the use of driving around, let's drive in. This was a side door. <sup>well</sup> where we drove in, and it frightened the horse. No wonder...he didn't do a thing but just kicked the shafts loose. And then they had the <sup>pillows</sup> ~~pillows~~.. So that is where it supported it don't you see? Clean up to the top, well I had..

Q Maybe four feet square, huh?

EVANS Well whatever they <sup>were</sup> ~~were~~, yeah. They had chickens and fowls and birds. And.. deer..

Q Frozen inside the ice?

EVANS All right inside. Yes. Well the poor horse he gets out. And when he gets to the barn, they thought he had killed us.

Q That he had thrown you out of the sleigh? And you with it.

EVANS: Didn't throw us out..no he just kicked himself loose. And kicked down some of the exhibits.. <sup>shot was in it.</sup> There we were. I said well let's go in and get a little pot of tea.

REEL # 7

EVANS: What in the hell do we want with tea - I says, come on, come on. <sup>she</sup> When I poured it out and it had foam on it, she said, what is this? She was a tough old ~~whore~~ <sup>holly</sup> (holly) - they called her Fighting Clara.

And she saw foam on top of the tea. She thought without a doubt ..but here was a joke..

<sup>Miss M.</sup> ~~This man~~ Brace, did you ever hear of her from Pueblo?

Miss M. Brace.

Q No, never did..

EVANS: But she had a big house up on West (Plum ) Street..

that's where all the houses were there in Pueblo, there is five of them. Alright, but she had a little <sup>doll babe</sup> dog by the name of Pinky.

~~It~~ <sup>he</sup> was a cute little trick you know. He was <sup>her</sup> their lover.

Well, we didn't know (<sup>Pinky</sup> Pagey) ..didn't care much anyway.

Well then we met that Pueblo outfit you ~~we~~ know..

up there. We forgot to come home at~~the~~ the specified time.

If you are away away after eight o'clock you are fined five dollars.

Well I said to hell with the five, I ain't going home.

Stay where we get through. Well M. Brace was visiting

Miss <sup>Lella</sup> Lilla's at the time. Where <sup>Pinky</sup> Peggy used to in the

REEL # 7

EVANS:(cont.) morning <sup>the</sup> they would have to be so much on the dresser for the little doll baby.. and he had quite a <sup>hell</sup> ~~role~~.

Then he took a fancy to me. Well coming on down I introduced him to every saloon..they gave the (<sup>keys</sup> ) walked right in the front door you know..

Oh that was a <sup>heat</sup> trick.

<sup>Pinky</sup> Peggy says, I says, Clara, it is going on eleven o'clock, we better take some of these birds home. And make them buy some wine or something.. to square ourselves.

I didn't care.

<sup>Pinky</sup> Peggy says where do you ladies live? I says One Eighteen West Fifth Street. Why? Is that a disgrace?

Oh no, I thought you were <sup>above</sup> ~~out~~ of the ordinary.. but he says, I will tell you, my woman is down there. Visiting that woman Miss Lillus.

I said what that old gal, is that your woman? He says, shut up. <sup>I</sup> Don't look at her, he says. But oh ~~h~~ she is a provider.

He had a lot of machines out, some kind of new machine.. that they just starting. All right, he says you go in first. And the gang and I will ~~fix fix~~ follow, I says, you better come down - ( <sup>And square us for staying</sup> ~~stand~~ out to

REEL # 7

EVANS(cont.) <sup>and</sup> ~~is~~ entertain you. But I had about 35 or 40 dollars in my sock. Clara is too much of a lady.

But I had a taking way.. ~~xxxx~~ change on the - we didn't wear these nylon socks.. those days, we wore heavy silk. And you couldn't have a runner ~~in~~ in them, ~~or~~ the money wouldn't fall out.

Q Black silk, wasn't it.

EVANS Black..heavy black silk. Big roses embroidered on them.

WE got in - I said <sup>to Emma</sup> -we are going up stairs now and dress there ~~is~~ is a gang coming down. There is? Yes, she says..alright. Here they come.. <sup>Miss Emma</sup> there at the door.

Just like, Miss Lillus's room was just like number ~~xxxx~~ eight. Open the door - why honey. Clara and I on our bellies upstairs in the hall..

Looking down the steps, I says, there is our victim. He has got a few more dollars - I got to get that money off of him.

So, well honey - oh can't I go in there now and <sup>dance</sup> ~~(gams)~~.. Now honey you have been away now all..never mind. I will be good when we get back to ~~R~~ Pueblo.

Well she finally let him come in the parlor.

REEL # 7

EVANS: Well I got the 25 - thats all he had left.. And Miss Emma takes her doll baby <sup>over</sup> ~~up~~ the hotel with her.. My she says, I says what you doing with that old crab? She was about 60 years ~~x~~ old and he about 27. Well he says, I am coming up and see you all again. Well I says, don't bring that thing with you. Oh Miss Lillus, <sup>says</sup> oh ~~you~~ <sup>we had me</sup> are crazy. Why I said the damn fool, I couldn't keep him away from me.. We would dance and we would do the flip. And I nearly broke the poor fools neck too. The way you do it, you both lie down. You see, your head is there - his head is here. Ever seen it done?

Q No.

EVANS: Well then you are together this way..then you take each other's hand..

T ~~en~~ you put your foot up..<sup>if</sup> you catch him right at the back - flip him over on the ..just turn him right over.

Q You mean catch his heel with your heel?

EVANS No you don't need no heel. You just..you lie this way. There is his head. There is yours. <sup>heel</sup>

Q Yeah..



REEL # 7

EVANS: Then you put your foot up like this. Must think I am in Leadville.. You..at the back. And there is a nerve there you strike, it will turn you over like that.  
<sup>Why</sup> Well I ~~took~~ flipped two hundred and fifty pound men like that. You got to flip them over.  
 But I nearly killed poor <sup>Pagey</sup> Pagey. I says go home to Momma. Tomorrow maybe we can get to go to the Ice Palace.. again.

No use of holding you down.. One of ~~the~~ them places, when that was going on. Oh. Make more money holding on <sup>out</sup> ~~than~~ drinks.

Q Well the Ice Palace <sup>melted</sup> ~~moved~~ i didn't it. I mean ..

EVANS Yeah, it became dangerous. All covered with canvass..

Q Now Laura when you did this flip, your head would be here.. and his head would be here. And his feet would be at your head.

EVANS <sup>You lie</sup> ~~Not~~ that way. You see when you do that split, you lie down there.. And I get on the other side of you. Where you got your hands together.

Q But I mean your head is near his feet?

EVANS Indeed..yeah.

Q T~~hen~~ what do you raise..a hand or a leg?

REEL # 7

EVANS You raise that foot.

Q RAise a foot. And then you come down and lock at the knee.

EVANS No, you catch him right - right there.. Right in there, there is a neerve there.

Q Oh you get him with your hand. You get his foot with your hand.

EVANS No, you put your hands together.

Q Then what is the flip.

EVANS Well you flip.. I wish I had somebody to lie down there..

Q Well now what..you raise your feet.

EVANS Put your foot up like that.. And bing, youhave got to do it awful fast.

Q Now what part - you catch him by the ankle.

EVANS Yeah with the front of your foot..

Q Ohhh, I see.

EVANS See you have got a hold to brace him this way..

Q I see it now.

EVANS You have got your hands this way..

Q Now Laura I have got to flip this tape. Just a minute..

EVANS It hurts him too some time..

REEL # 7

Q I would think it would - a big man, heavy man,

EVANS Well you can catch <sup>him</sup> ~~them~~ quicker than anything..

but you have got to hold your knee rigid. Ever you bend, it is no good. They bend.. see. Just throw them.. don't ~~th~~ hurt them any.

Q Well is the idea - making a bet that you can do it..

that you can ~~fk~~ flip it..

EVANS *Yo how bet you could spit at a crack or you could,*  
(INAUDIBLE).. well ~~it was~~ I bet I will flip you for a

bottle of wine, *or*

Q That was x wrestling Leadville style. Oh

EVANS Oh no, never saw that. They did wrestling - my God hit

them in the <sup>head</sup> ~~hit~~ with a cuspidor. And that was ~~xxxx~~

Clara's <sup>long suit</sup> (long shoe)...

Q Was that better than the bottle?

Would the cuspidor work better than the bottle?

EVANS Maybe you couldn't get a bottle. (LAUGH)

Q: Laura you rode the pony up to one of the mines one time.

You gave me the bustle, do you ~~remember~~ remember?

~~EVANS~~ Yes.

Q I wish you would tell Forbes about that ~~mx~~ bustle.

*Why*  
~~How~~ you went up there and so on..

EVANS OH, the time.the time .. there was a strike.

REEL # 7

EVANS           And all of the high Moguls left Leadville. They weren't going to <sup>stand</sup> stay there and be murdered. They would just as soon murder you as look at you.

So Nichols said you know Laura we have got to ..I have got to have so much money <sup>up at the Maid of Erin Mine</sup> on such and such a day.

Well Nick made a confidant of me, cause he knew I wouldn't say anything. It was none of my business.

Well, and the boys all liked me. Because they would lose their job - and I would say, what mine you working at. So and so.. Alright, I would call up, or else slip up to his cabin at night, had a lovely little three room cabin up on Fourth, on East Fourth Street. One block .. west ..north of Harrison Avenue.

And I would get him back to work.

And I could do that, and he would call me the little mother of them all.

And I was a tough little mother. Well right to the foot of the <sup>Maid of Erin</sup> hill was Tabor's wife. What was her name..Henrietta.

MAN           Augusta.. FIRST wife..

EVANS           Baby Doe, to hell with her.

Q               Augusta was the first wife.

REEL # 7

EVANS:

She had a place right there at the foot of the <sup>Made of Emma</sup> (Mader) Hill. Everything you wanted.

Had a little bar.. six.. <sup>feet</sup> ~~booths~~.. gee I was tickled to death over the bar.. I liked to get there and serve the boys.

They .. she ~~w~~ used to be out there (washing) for the miners. <sup>it was a shame</sup> Augusta yeah. One day one of the boy's said, cut us off a steak Laura. Well I started this way and by the time I got through I was that way.

And I wasn't all the way across the leg.

See instead of coming down this way, I come that way.. The knife flipped I guess. She come in - this end was about that wide, and this end was about that wide, and I wasn't halfway across.

Oh, Laura, me daughter.. you have spoiled me leg.

I said when in the hell did I ever get near your leg.

What are you talking bout?

Oh, look at ~~the~~ me leg of meat. It was so cold up there that's all they could get.. was old <sup>round</sup> ~~rump~~ steak, holy God they would be about that size.

Looked like a Buffalo. Well. I had this money..

I says to Nick. What do you want - he says there's

REEL # 7

EVANS:(cont.) <sup>25</sup> 25 thousand dollars and its got to get up on that  
<sup>Maid of Erin</sup>  
 (Mader) Hill. I ~~x~~ said is that right.

He says yes - oh give me the crap I will take it up.

What do you mean..well I said.. would you trust me.

Now I don't know whether I would of gone up or not.

I think I would of walked home and I would of kept  
 on a going.

Well, he did..for for those days they used to ~~x~~wear  
 cotton tits and paper asses you know. Well..I had  
 good secure bustle.

I says give me your old money. Well, <sup>now you'd</sup> ~~I used to~~ think  
 25 thousand dollars was a hell of a lot of money to  
 carry with you.

Q More than I have ever carried.

EVANS <sup>is by now</sup> ~~Well I know~~ - you get a thousand dollar bill..you get  
 a five hundred dollar bill. You don't see two hundreds  
 anymore do you?

Q I never have no...

EVANS WEll two hundred dollar bill - or a hundred dollar  
 bill.. Take about that much, you got a thousand  
 dollars haven't you? Divide that by ten..  
 you got ten ~~xxx~~ thousand haven't you..well I said

REEL # 7

EVANS I will be up and see you. So.. I went on <sup>up</sup> there and.. he gave it to me. Well I just sat there and I sewed it in my bustle..it wasn't heavy..

But I had a beautiful grey corduroy ~~xxxx~~ riding habit. When I got to Leadville and found out you could sit astride ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> horse, Jesus I went crazy.. back to St Louis..your dress touch the floor..the ground.. side saddle.

Well, he says, when you going up.. I said well I am going up tomorrow.

Alright I took the money home, and threw it in the hamper and ~~now~~ now I said I don't want to see you anymore.. and don't let anybody know anything about this.

Well I had this little ~~x~~ Squaw pony.. Jumped ditches.. I had her trained.

I got up there and Ma..says..we called her Ma Taber, what you doing up here honey?

She was washing..my God the soap suds running over the .. old wooden tub, you know..wonderful character.

I just worshipped her.

Well she says, what ~~where~~ <sup>are</sup> you going <sup>up do?</sup>..oh I said I just got to go up to the mines, see what ~~txx~~ they are doing.

REEL # 7

EVANS

Some of the miners says, when you going to open up Laura? Well I says, God I don't know.. But I said don't you think I ought to go up and find out...

I wanted an excuse to get up there you see...

Well the boys said, I will tell you what I will do..

I will buy you a drink..

One of them says, I will bet you ten dollars you don't get up there.

Get up - I said ma, put up ten dollars for me.. See it was all arranged in Greek or something, I dont know what kind of language it was.. For me to get up there. You could'not trust the telephone company..

They had a code of their own.. you see. And just one girl.. <sup>under</sup> on the guard..

Anytime they had any messages. They had it fixed so I don't know how. Well, well I said goodbye.. here I am going.

Well - you know asx you go up the top of the hill.. you shoot right straight across - Lord I went there and I was <sup>was - howed</sup> bucking.. on horseback and I used to ~~m~~ just throw my foot over the pummel of the saddle jump off.. <sup>shel</sup> just stop like that.. I had my bustle on tight, and



REEL # 7

EVANS 3<sup>28</sup> And (Short Dad Humes) said, what are you going to piss on my floor?

I ~~x~~ said, save my bustle. And I got out and they starting shooting.. in the air..you know.. the bluff  
The boys say if they hurt you Laura, we will dynamite that <sup>maid of Erin will.</sup> ..oh I said I can take care of myself...

But they had them big old bayonets you know.. oh blunderbuster bayonet...

Swords that long with the top - they were shooting in the ~~xx~~ air.. Well when we got down.. of course I was relieved. And, I said pay me my ten, well I turned right arond and spent it you know.

And I got pretty (full).. well my horse used to bring me down home, I would get off, wrap the ~~xx~~ reins around it.. go on and .. he would go to the stable. It was dangerous to go down Harrison Avenue ~~xx~~ between six or six thirty.

The boys coming down you know on them horses.. all knew their own ~~xx~~ stables. They didn't have no stop ~~xxxxxxx~~ signs those days..

Those horses come a galloping down there.. You bet it was dangerous too.

REEL # 7

EVANS: Well I stayed a little late .. I got home, it was about eight~~x~~ o'clock. The landlady says my God Laura where have you been?

Oh, I ~~said~~ said, just a roaming around. Been up to see Ma in the first place. Uhuh. Arthur has <sup>set</sup> sent me crazy with the telephone. Then I got high ~~power~~ powered, I thought he ~~meant~~ meant you know, I had ran away with the money. I never thought of that - I was too honest. Which I was a fool..

Well anyway - he finally - I talked to him.. well it ended in me going to Denver.. and meeting Mr. Moffat.. ..the millionair's house?

Q Yes.. Remember .. Moffat's though..

EVANS Ain't it a wonder?

Q Yes.

EVANS But you get upstairs in the second story..ain't a damn thing up there. It is all downstairs and in the basement.

Well we went out to Mr. Moffat's home. ANd he gave me a hundred dollar bill. Nick says ~~x~~ yes, didn't know what a typewriter was.. and, I was his typist. Up in Leadville..well oh his house was magnificent..

REEL # 7

EVANS: Right on the corner of ~~gxa~~ Grant. I think it is a filling station now, isn't it. do you know.

Q I don't remember the old Moffat home.

EVANS: Do you know where..

Q No I don't know what is on there..

EVANS It had the sunken garden in front of it. Right on the corner. I was walking around in ~~xxxx~~ there like Alice in Wonderland.

Q But a hundred dollars is what you got for ..all youx got for taking the payroll up there?

EVANS Yeah..and I was so afraid.. I had it in my hand.. and I wanted to smoke a cigarette.. so bad. That, those days it was horses and buggies you know, and so I said, Mr Nick~~els~~, won't you please come on...

END OF TAPE SIDE (REel # 7)

LAURA EVANS - TAPE #7 - TRACK 2 (cont.)

(TONE)

EVANS: ..you know I have an important little particle of business to attend to..alright, we will go, well I had this money I wanted to get <sup>in the back</sup> on the floor of the hack and see how much I had don't you see..and smoke a willy. I wasn't going to let <sup>nick do it for fear</sup> ~~sew~~ he might borrow it from me. <sup>Just as liable to do now</sup> ~~This is~~. HolyGod when I saw that hundred dollar bill, oh, I sewed it, the ~~hats~~ those days used to be lined with heavy silk, I hope I put it in the lining of the hat, I knew nobody would get it there. <sup>Just</sup> ~~And~~ Mr. Moffat was elegant. Nick says he committed suicide.

He didn't die a natural death. That was his one hope ~~that~~ (Moffat tongue).

Just think he was broke when he died.

Q Now he lost practically everything he ever made.

EVANS ..HE <sup>guilt</sup> ~~did~~ the first ~~a~~ National Bank.. right opposite the old (Minnie) Hotel.

And that brick was braght in there wrapped in tissue paper.

They had two guards there watching that brick when they unloaded it to be used. It was full of holes, supposed to be fireproof. And people would steal one for

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EVANS(con) souvenirs..but Nichols said, Laura Evans, (Dad) Moffat committed suicide..those days they didn't know anything about selling bonds.. look how quick Denver picked it up and didn't they?

Q: Laura, what do you know about MOnarch and Whitehorn.

EVANS Monarch? What is Monarch?

Q The town of Monarch..were you ever up there?

EVANS OH HERE? Why there is nothing up there but mines.

Q Were you ever up there?

EVANS Why we didn't have to go, she's got the wrong ..you got it wrong.

WOMAN About the dances were the female women came and..

they would drive up there in their surreys..

EVANS *I was tellin her about Bates here in*  
Salida,,was a great promoter for these mines. And, he would go back to Philadelphia New York, Chicago.. and charter cars and bring these wealthy millionaires out here.

Well one time they had five of them. And they<sup>all</sup> stopped up here at the hotel.

He would bring them down to <sup>the</sup> ~~xxx~~ house youknow, that was the old house <sup>over</sup> there..it looked like hell on the outside but it was alright on the inside..after you

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EVANS(cont.) got them in..well after they had been here a week or ten days.. they had their own special.. he says Laura, the last night the gentlemen are here ..old men white haired.. he says we want to give him a time of their lives.

I said, well what will we do? Well ~~h~~ we talked, he talked it over..says what is the matter ~~i~~ with a masquerade. UP to <sup>the</sup> White Horn?

Now you have been up there haven't you?

Q No.

EVANS Alright, I don't know how many miners was working up there, and it seemed as though they were more interested in White Horn than anywhere else.

Well I said, give a masquerade up there.. we will come.

Well Mr. Lodge had a three seater over here, took 4 horses I think to pull that.. well, ~~we~~ we went, and I had a little girl, <sup>Leffa</sup> (Leffa) Jack, she was the cutest thing you ever laid your eyes ~~on~~ on. She represented PUCK. And she was a dead ringer.. she had that big (sash)..she ~~in~~ those days they wore tights for everything.and little grass skirt..well we got up there

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EVANS:(cot) alright, and we went up to where the dance was...well I dressed as a man.

And it is good thing..it wasn't in those days like it is now. I had a suit made..well we got up there and oh we were introduced..and the ladies, I don't know how many, what the population of White HOrn was. HOly Moses the ladies sat round there like Wall flowers.. Little (Lefa) she was only about four feet tall..and was she a dancer. Club dancer, anything. Well of course the ~~gixx~~ boys preferred the girls didn't they..that knew how to dance.

Well this went on for about an hour.. I looked around and said say don't ~~xx~~ you think we have worn our welcome out ?

Look at them young girls sitting there, I said they look like wallflowers.

We are going down where we belong. ~~Isaid~~ to hell with this..decent business up here..it doesn't suit us.

Alright Laura. Well. We saw one old man and you know they couldn't dance but the girls had more fun with them..then another ..then we went down.. well there

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EVANS:(cont.) was a fella there by the name of Poison. Very wealthy man, but he was a cripple.

When he ~~he~~ was here at Salida he hated me..but there was four saloons up there.

Well we looked at all of them. See I had four girls with me. We looked at all of ~~them~~ them, and I said, oh Marie, that was <sup>the</sup> girl he was in love with down here..she would go up to the hotel and stay there about a half anhour ..give her fifty or sixty dollars.. She would rub him you know.

Well, I put my head in the door and says, <sup>Howdy!</sup> (Harry) he was sitting up at this end of the bar, <sup>looked down</sup> who be <sup>there?</sup> there?  
Oh, I said a friend of yours from Salida.

Oh you lascivious bitch. I said that's me. I got four bea<sup>ts</sup> ~~ts~~ here.. can't you come in? <sup>says</sup> I said let's (bury) <sup>the hatchet</sup> ..come on won't you?

Sure.. we ~~l~~ by the time we got through old Poison was out in the middle of the floor too.

Sitting down.. looked around here was one musician gone. Another musician down there. They just pushed a billion tables away - did we dance and them poor old devils, 60 and 70 years old, getting out there



REEL # 7

EVANS:(cont) dancing and you know.. <sup>now they do</sup> one foot back..and the girls well.

I looked around and Lefa was<sup>on</sup> the bar doing a hula hula with the grass skirt between all ~~h~~ the glasses.. I come home with nearly six hundred ~~xxx~~ dollars.

The miners just went crazy. You see, they wanted the women. And the old men too, then they had the Post Office - the Post Master said he had a ~~xx gxxx~~ great time the next ~~x~~ day returning different articles, cuff buttons that would fall out or.. lead pencils.. didn't have <sup>(carbon)</sup> ~~ball~~ pens those days.

And, watch charm.. <sup>hooks</sup> (hooks) well those old men bid us goodbye and we said we never had such a good time in our lives. But it was comical.

One woman would come in..grab some poor brother, get out of here.

Take him home - he didn't want to go home. He wanted to stay down there with us poor fools. (LAUGH)

Looked for ~~he~~, had four~~h~~ horses you see, and looked for the ~~x~~ driver..

That night, I said now<sup>w</sup> I went to see the horses were taken

REEL § 7

EVANS:(cont.) care of.. and <sup>9</sup>made Mr. Lodge give me their kind of oats they used to use down there, to feed them up there.

Well you see the horses were accustomed to sitting down. And sliding down that hill. Well the boys were certainly nice to us.

They got us down the hill alright. Hell they came back and then the horses, I guess, natural instinct they ~~skx~~ scooted too. But they made us walk. Afraid ~~xxxxxx~~ that the thing would upset..

But those men they certainly - well that was a night of nights wasn't it? Ned, it wasn't <sup>two</sup> too hours before the dance was all shot to the devil. UP the (Geisan) part... I said get out of here..I said.. (LAUGHS)

Q Well that six hundred dollars in one night .. would you say that's the most you ever made in one ~~ig~~ night?

EVANS: Well that was just <sup>now + then</sup> ~~(our)~~ men..that was ~~the~~ <sup>for</sup> ~~in~~ four girls though.

Q And you couldn't average anything like..over any length of time? You got one man in Denver didn't you and got six thousand dollars in six nights.. and sent him back home?

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EVANS: Sure. The bank went and told his wife and I says I am glad you got the damn fool, I was getting tired of him..(LAUGH)

Q: I wish you would tell Forbes that story, Laura.

EVANS: No that was all he..poor old devil, he was a good fella. Little bit of a scrawny thing. No<sup>N</sup>Larry, no I am not ready yet..well I guess I will have to be. I struck it in Cripple Creek.. Come over Darling, let's go to Denver.

*pressed it up (meaning the man)*  
WELL I ~~xxx~~ had rested upp..took it down to Babcox.

That was pretty..

Q Hat store, wasn't it?

EVANS It is not there anymore...

Q No.

EVANS: Well - I said we got to have some money. How much do we want.<sup>1</sup> *oh just kiddin him you know* Oh, check for a thousand. I got a dress too..uhuh..

~~ixtxx~~ It~~x~~ was~~x~~ like dressing up a monkey. The more you put on him, the worse he looked. (LAUGHS)

And he thought that I was enjoying I was laughing because he looked so ridiculous. Oh I bought him a silk night shirt..two..shirts..oh, everything I could.

Well, ~~k~~ each day I would make him, I kept him drunk all

REEL # 7

EVANS:cont           the time..write out a check. What do we want now, Laurie? OH we want a horse and buggy, I said. I think we wanted the hotel before he got through. And, so the wife goes to the..and the banker goes to the wife - and Dave <sup>Devine</sup> Devine knew him, knew him well, well, the last check that crossed the way, First National Bank, was (stopped).

I said sweetheart, you have run out of <sup>hon</sup> money. No I haven't Laura. Yes, but I said we are going to run out of something else. You are going back to Cripple Creek, <sup>or</sup> Victor. I am going to Salida.

I said your wife is beginning to get interested..

oh.. what in the devil does she bother with us...

well, I wanted to get up here, don't you see, <sup>and</sup> ~~stuck~~ <sup>see I</sup>  
<sup>flash the</sup> ~~(save)~~ ~~some~~ money. You/had it on me..

But those days a hundred dollar bill they weren't suspicious of you.

Or a five ~~m~~ hundred dollar bill. And, so, I ~~x~~ had ~~takedown~~, we agreed..then you know he came as far as Florence with me, see that..then got off at Florence and took the train, went on up to Cripple Creek.. from there to Victor.

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EVANS:(cont) And was I glad when I got rid of that monkey.. He looked like a little monkey.

I would call up the barber and give the barber five dollars to shave him..and fix his hair. and manicure his beautiful little nails. (What's that).

WOMAN Just plain water.

EVANS What <sup>in the hell</sup> are you giving me that for? *I'm not.*

WMAN: Well you be getting dry. *directly*

EVANS You think I am preaching - I got ~~x~~ whiskey here <sup>*no wonder*</sup> ~~on you know.~~  
when I am talking.

Q Still like it huh?

EVANS Never did like it. The doctor prescribed the cockeyed stuff. That is an egg nog. <sup>*then*</sup> ~~And~~ any time Miss Elizabeth wants to go home early - I don't want her to stay here all night.

She puts an extra teaspoonful in but.. I am fooling her, I am sipping this, I am not drinking it down..

Q LAURA, when did you first meet Speedy?

EVANS Who..

Q ..first meet Speedy?

EVANS Oh the poor little fella..here. Down <sup>*to Doc O'Daniels Salas*</sup> ~~(Doctor) DANIELS~~..

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EVANS: The Saloon..

Q What year was that Laura?

EVANS Oh Christ I don't know. I never thought about years.

Months..days.. I was too big a damn fool..I remember the sixth day of April though.. 1952. SEe it.. (LAUGH)

Right there looking at you. Oh Lordy.

Q How long you going to have to keep that cast on?

EVANS He says till the first of June, I got a notion it is going to beat that all to hell.. this is coming off in three more weeks.. first time he says six weeks.. the first of June is six weeks and 13 days over..I.. did you ever see vinegar in Latin? Huh?

Q No.

EVANS WEll vinegar is what you put on this.. dissolves it.. and then you put the (sall) on~~x~~ ..they had a bottle of it. About that high. That~~x~~ large around. Little cork,<sup>in</sup> neck of it, and a ~~springe~~ <sup>Syringe</sup> about that long.

I looked at it.. and I says for Christ's sake, what is that? It was in Latin. And it was vinegar.

Well I said, you could of fooled me..that's the way they did, don't you see. And they just saturated it here with vinegar..then they started with that ..it is a wheel,

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EVANS (cont) Jesus Christ, it goes a million revolutions.. I said, <sup>Say!</sup> drop that thing..ain't there some other ~~way~~ way you know how? God it start<sup>to</sup>. you know, and ~~he~~ little old lady was .. wasn't very steady..

But finally we got it off.. Not with the wheel. Oh she brought several other different funny looking things and ..miss have patience. Just whack it off with a little safety razor blade. And that vinegar just absorbs it.

There is enough of it.

~~Okay~~ <sup>O Katie!</sup>..that ain't unhandy.

I have to beg everybody ~~to~~ make me cigarettes. But I am practicing..see. I got it..before I couldn't do that.. but I got it so the twain will meet, you know.

Q Won't be long beofre you get out of that ~~cast~~ cast and can use that hand.

EVANS # Three weeks longer..(Whistles)

Q Smoke tailor~~mades~~..

EVANS I am afraid I am going..then I got to be down in Pueblo two days afterwards..the 22nd. When I fell I hemorrhaged this eye..And I think the hemorrhage came out the night before last. The funniest thing happened in my head.

REEL # 7

EVANS: Why don't you turn that thing off..this don't..

Q It is just about over...Got a half minute on it...

EVANS I thought everything was falling out of my head..  
I guess it passed away.

Q .you got a blood clot or something when you fell?

EVANS I said Jesus Christ what few brains I got left coming  
out through my nose.

END OF SECOND HOUR OF RECORDING MADE ON APRIL 27, ~~1952~~ 1952

064' AT SALIDA COLORADO. BY THE LAST OF THE GREAT  
MADAMS LAURA EVANS. LAURA DIED ON THE FOURTH DAY OF  
APRIL 1953..and WAS BURIED APRIL 10, 1953, at SALIDA  
COLORADO.

~~THE~~ THE DENVER POST IN THE APRIL TENTH ISSUE GAVE  
LAURA ABOUT A HALF A PAGE FOR HER OBITUARY..IT WAS  
~~WRITTEN~~ WRITTEN BY EARL (PALMER) - I SUPPLIED HIM WITH  
MOST OF THE MATERIAL.

I WILL READ ONLY THE LAST PARAGRAPH FROM THE OBITUARY:

"LAURA BELONGED TO ANOTHER ERA. HER PARLOR WITH  
ITS BIG CANOPIED FOUR POSTER BED HER LIFESIZE DOLLS,  
THE LAMPS WITH THE BEAD FRINGE AND ALL OF THE OTHER  
ROCOCO ITEMS AND THE DECOR WERE MORE IN KEEPING WITH



THIS WOMAN OF AN OLDER WEST.

RIGHT UP TO THE ~~XXX~~ END EVEN TO HER LAST CIGARETTE ROLLED BY HAND, LAURA REMAINED AN UNREGENERATE MAGLA. "

LAURA'S PET EXPRESSIONS WERE 'I AM A RACE HORSE IN A JACKASS STALL' AND 'A CHILD IS BORN.'

AS YOU HAVE PROBABLY GATHERED FROM HER TAPES SHE WAS A BRILLIANT CONVERSATIONALIST. SHE WAS IN MY OPINION ABOUT 92 YEARS OLD WHEN SHE DIED.

SHE WOULD NEVER REVEAL HER BIRTHPLACE OR THE ~~XX~~ DATE OF HER BIRTH. I HAVE CHECKED RATHER CAREFULLY IN THE 15 OR 16 HOURS OF RECORDINGS THAT I HAVE ON LAURA, AND I FIND THAT THE ONLY INACCURACY IS THE QUESTION OF HER AGE.

I THINK SHE ~~D~~ LOST TEN YEARS SOMEWHERE ~~N~~ HER AGE..I ALSO HAVE ~~XXXXX~~ EVIDENCE THAT WOMEN OF HER PROFESSION OFTEN LOST TEN YEARS OF THEIR AGE, PERHAPS FOR BUSINESS REASONS.

NOW I WILL ADD BRIEFLY THE STORY ABOUT SILVER HEELS THAT LAURA TOLD ME ..SILVER HEELS JEFFE WORKED FOR LAURA DURING THE FLU EPIDEMIC, WORLD WAR ONE..

THE LINE WAS CLOSED ~~N~~ DOWN FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, GIRLS

REEL # 7

COULDN'T WORK. DOCTOR (KAFELAND) CALLED UPON LAURA AND HER GIRLS FOR NURSING HELP AND JESSE RESPONDED ..JESSE WAS PUT TO WORK TAKING CARE OF THE WIFE OF A BAPTIST MINISTER.

THIS MINISTER HAD STARTED A CAMPAIGN TO PUT THE GIRLS OUT OF BUSINESS.

WHEN THE MINISTER'S WIFE LEFT THE HOSPITAL THE ~~MMX~~ MINISTER THANKED JESSE AND SAID, HEAVEN MUST OF SENT YOU. JESSE THANKED THE MINISTER.

LAURA SAID I WOULD OF TOLD THE SON OF A BITCH I JUST FLEW UP FROM FRONT STREET. THAT IS A TRUE STORY.

END OF FRED'S READING AND TELLING OF LAURA.

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