

HANDMADE MOVIES  
347 W. Broadway  
New York, NY

TAPE 1 - LAURA EVANS INTERVIEW 3/29/52

TAPE 2 - LIL POWERS INTERVIEW (Mazzulla Collection. Amon Carter Museum

Q: ..by the name of Ford, Barney L. Ford.

LAURA Didn't know him.

Q Didn't know him. Knowa girl by the name of Nora Kirk?

LAURA Well I know a Kirk..I should say so.

Q What do you know..

LAURA Not here.. Nora..

Q In Denver?

LAURA Yes, that was my lady friend.

Q What happened to her?

LAURA Bob..<sup>with</sup> Bill Owens shot her.

Q Were you going to go to China with her?

LAURA Yeah. I was already and she was in the morgue.

Yeah..

Q Bob Owen shot her?

LAURA Bob Owen, his brother-in-law was in the Arcade ~~gambling~~ gambling hall. I can't think of his name right now, and I was at Twenty <sup>nine</sup> ~~o~~ nine Market Street.. and his woman had 20-fifteen next door.

Bob Austin. So Nora and I were ..were going to

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LAURA ..China. I never got to China.

Q Nora was quite a talkative girl wasn't she?

LAURA No..silence..she couldn't read nor write.

Q She knew Harry Hines pretty well, didn't she?

LAURA She she washis woman .. you know I told you about that.

Q Yeah. I remember you telling me..

LAURA She had diamond garter buckles.. roses with 2 <sup>karats</sup> karats in them.. slipper buckles. In her umbrella.. Bracelets..ear-rings and couldn't read a thing..  
 You can imagine how I felt thatnight and here come the detectives in and asked me if I knew Nora.. <sup>I says</sup> yes, I am waiting for her to ..to go to go down to the hotel, oh the Railroad Hotel <sup>and then</sup> ..we were going to ~~St~~ Cheyanne with this man..

Oh ~~the~~ other.. Marquette.. Mar.. <sup>Markham</sup> Malcome..

Q <sup>Markham</sup> Malcome.

LAURA Down on 17th Street. Well he said would you identify her?

I.. <sup>They stole</sup> she sold all her diamonds.

She had them in a small towel.. she had to go to <sup>bid</sup> Big Henry (~~Good~~) <sup>good bye</sup>, to kiss him goodbye.. I didn't have nobody to kiss goodbye.

I wanted to get~~out~~.. I wanted to see the country...

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LAURA: After you had seen Lola Livingston's clothes you know, you <sup>could</sup> ~~can~~ only stay there six months..

You never handle a nickel of your money.. then the government gives it back to you in a little box..

OH, I was just crazy to go. I would of been a globe trotter if I had anybody with me.. Guess its a good thing I didn't..

<sup>in</sup>  
A setting hen..(LAUGH)

Q How well did you know Mattie Silks?

LAURA Oh by being on Market Street.

Q <sup>Did</sup> ~~Did~~ you know her pretty well?

LAURA I never..

Q You don't know whether she had a daughter...

LAURA (PAUSE) I never knew a thing about Miss Mattie.

Well I tell you we didn't.. they didn't visit..

You must remember 19th.. was where ~~the~~ Jenny Rogers and the big houses all were... see that 19 block..

20th is where five or six blocks, and then <sup>cribs</sup> ~~(Quiggs)~~ clean out..and then Chinatown..was there.

Out to..out to 24th.. And we <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ not allowed, ~~out~~ only <sup>out</sup> once a week..

But it was sure pretty.. When they had the <sup>Mountains/Plains</sup> ~~(mountains)~~ playings..

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Q: The mountain <sup>plains</sup> ~~playings~~ festival?

LAURA Yea...every year for one solid week. Well Thursday, called it Gala DAY. Every landlady rigged up ~~we~~ took her girls..and all went <sup>out-</sup> down to the races.

God, I wish you could of seen Market Street.. if that wasn't lined ~~x~~ up.. And they had those <sup>phantoms</sup> (fattings) the great big shell.. <sup>there sit this way</sup> ~~faced it this way~~..and one here..<sup>she</sup> driver way up in front..

God, we would all love to go <sup>out</sup> up to those races.. Didn't tell what we looked like when we got back though.

Sneak away from our landlady.. <sup>you know</sup> (CHIME NOISE)

END OF THIS R TAPE

(DIRECTIONS)..There is another tape ~~gh~~ that was made on the same day.

Reel # 2. On the <sup>th</sup> 29 day of March, 1952 Fred and ~~Jill~~ <sup>Jill</sup> Mazzulla left Denver. Stopped in Florence Colorado.. and took a one hour tape recording of Lillian Powers. That particlular tape is on the other side. of this tape as a dup..or duplicate...from Florence we went out to Salida.. and recorded the conversation that has preceeded ~~w~~ this particular announcement, and as I say we made a second tape. That will be duped on another duplicated ~~d~~ and will probably be placed next to this one in sequence. All in all we have about 16 hours

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DIRECTIONS CONTINUED: of tape recordings <sup>by</sup> of Laura.. and four and a half hours <sup>by</sup> of Lillian Powers.

I also have about six hours of Fern Pedro's tapes, mostly on Laura Evans..

So that we have the Laura Evans story pretty thoroughly done on ~~x~~ <sup>tape</sup>.. In addition I have the photograph file that ~~x~~ belonged to Laura, there are well over a thousand photographs in the file. Some are studio portraits, most of them of course are snap~~shots~~ shots ~~w~~ made with box cameras.

In the early days the girls took a lot of pictures, they gave out a great many pictures to their customers and friends.. it was a means of advertising and a means of getting the men to come back to see them.

I asked Laura if ~~x~~ she ever used tokens or checks of any kind and she said no, that she ~~would~~ <sup>had</sup> never ~~x~~ use them. They have been used of couse in dance halls.. the ~~body~~ <sup>body</sup> house token.

My good friend Doctor Whitely has one made out of solid silver. I have one that was made out of brass, it was used in Denver.. at the Silver Dollar Hotel.

Doctor <sup>Mummy</sup> ~~Mummy~~ tells me that the one he has could of been

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DIRECTIONS CONT. used in Colorado, but he has been told it was used in Nevada.

I also have a brass <sup>bandy</sup> ~~body~~ house token that was used in the Orient. It was from King Farouk's collection, and I procured it from Doctor Whitely ..I gave him fifty \$ dollars for it, he had two of them, he had purchased two at auction from the King Farouk collection. so that Doctor Whitely has a Oriental token.. I have an Oriental token.

Doctor Whitely has a silver one, and I have a brass one. I also have Laura Evan's garters.

They are two rather elaborate garters with 1881 five dollar gold pieces in them..

<sup>That</sup> ~~And~~ join together with a gold chain..and then two pieces of chain, are held together with a little tiny padlock.. and a little tiny key.

Laura told a story that this was the usual engagement.. in a mining camp, that the girl was <sup>given</sup> give this pair of garters by her future husband, and they each had a key to the garters..and did not use the key until they were on their honeymoon..

I told Laura that ~~xx~~ perhaps one garter could be slipped of

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DIRECTION CONT. and she looked at me and said you always spoil everything.

The garters 1881 I believe commemorate the entry of Laura into the dance hall business in Leadville, Colorado.

END OF LAURA EVENS INTERVIEW