

LAURA EVANS INTERVIEWS

REEL # 6

~~026~~

STORY OF LIL POWERS CALLING LAURA FROM CRIPPLE CREEK

~~025~~

MAN:

She told me about the time she phoned you from Cripple Creek..(Yeah) and asked if you had a place.. and that some girl by the name of Mikey answered the door..and she came in there and sat down..

EVANS

Little..little coat and a hat and a veil^{on}.. she says.. "have you any cribs vacant? " I said yes. One across the corner. Alright, she says I would like to have it. I said fair and ^{very} fine. Well I had the woman go over you know and I thought she cleaned it. Well.. Lillie comes..she goes back and she comes back.Go and she ~~xxx~~ comes back.

So that night, Clara, another girl, wanted to come over. Alright. When she left here and went across the way why I said Jesus that poor ^{old} devil will never make a nickel.

MAN:

(LAUGH)..that's exactly what she said. She remembers it..

EVANS:

And then I went over to ask her - to tell her to come to the phone..I didn't know the woman - she was sitting there all dolled up in white silk. Her hair was down to here. I said where is a ..a lady came in this afternoon, ^{why} I am~~xx~~ here.. I no .. you her~~x~~? I would never known her.

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EVANS: That's the God's honest truth. My Lord.

Q: She told us that on the tape today. Just what you told..

EVANS: She ~~tells~~ ^{told you} the truth.

Q: Just the same you told us..

EVANS Then I had another girl in number five = Eva, and I said Eva, why are you so foolish -there was lots of money here those days you know, I said why don't you take Lillie for an example.

She don't drink - she stays there..she works like a dog. Look at the money she makes. Holy Moses, about a week after ^{in the night} I looked out and I heard somebody.

Here comes Lil over. Biggest nuisance in the world.. ^{when} and she has got her drink~~i~~ in her..oh, but this girl, well she spent sixty or seventy dollars in the house..buying beer a ~~f~~ dollar a bottle. And..kept up poor Eva all night.

Eva says ~~ixwixi~~ how about her? She says, do you think I ought to imitate her?

She says I haven't got that kind of cash. Well, when I was puying this property - see that was a hallway. Right up there, as you come in this room.

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EVANS: Out in the kitchen was a great big closet where you went down in the basement. Well I/owned ^{only} 24 hundred dollars on twenty thousand.

So I said to Faye..Faye..

Q You paid twenty thousand for this property?

EVANS: Yeah.

Q How many lots.. just the two story house..or.. some of the adjoining?

EVANS: The two next door. To here. Where the porch is, then across the street.

Q: Twenty thousand?

EVANS: Twenty thousand.

Q That included the six cribs across the street?

EVANS: Yes, and two on this side. ^{Eight.} Well she says no, I am afraid .. I said alright. I didn't ~~na~~ know Lil had money. I don't know how much she lost in the Ger-man National Bank in Denver - she never did tell ~~me~~.

So, Eva was over here and I says I am going to take this loan away from Faye, I am going to tear that up..oh this room is so ~~n~~ small.. and dark. And the kitchen, Eva says well Lil has got about

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EVANS: 20 or 30 thousand. Oh, I said, is that right? She says yes. Well I didn't ask her but she goes over and tells Lil. Lil don't do a thing that night but go down on sixteen, ^{gets there} ~~that is~~ at eight o'clock in the morning.. Goes up to the bank, brings me 24 hundred dollars, catches 15 that night.. gets in here at five o'clock the next morning. The next day she walked over and she says, there is your 24 hundred. Go pay Faye Weston. She threw me 24 one hundred dollar bills.. Why I said, ~~De~~llie, what does this mean? She says you don't have to be under obligation to that woman, or anybody else. Well it wasn't two hours before I had this thing out. I - there was a lot of people you could engage those days, then when I went up to the agent here, I said I want to get out of debt, oh Faye just raises the devil. Then I paid her a hundred dollars interest on the \$ 24, and I paid it in five months. Paid the 24 in four months. And then the hundred dollar interest in five. And do you know she didn't even want

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EVANS: the deeds. She didn't want ^athe thing..I said, yes, you take my note.

Q Really? *You mean Lillie*

EVANS: NO.. it was ..oh Faye just raised the mischief.. and there is the kind of a friend Lilli Powers is...

Q She is very very prompt in her obligations..

EVANS But she wants you to pay her back..well I did.. That, how long did it take to make 24 hundred dollars? She is a good substantial old gal. (TALKS ABOUT ARTHRITIS)

⁰⁷⁶
(138) ..I didn't know her..only Ella..Ella Wolfton..they called her the "Wolf"..

Q Ella Wolfton.. was she from Cripple Creek?

EVANS: She had a house down on (Myers).. she came up to Leadville and rented the house. Very nice land lady.. Then the militia came up and ordered us all out of town. Yeah, oh Lillie knew all about that country, I didn't.

My experience is right here.

Q *You* Did see the Ice ~~R~~ax Palace in Leadville.

EVANS: What? - have you got the picture?

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Q: Yeah..

EVANS: Did you cut it out? I cut it out to send to you..

Q: Well (Herndon Davis) the man who painted the original gave me the original of that.. I had the (OVERLAP) original.

EVANS: I tell you I had the blues so bad that day, when they showed it to me that Sunday, if I was a woman to cry, I would of cried.

Q Well the man who did that picture is the man who did all the pictures on my wall downstairs.. And then he gave me the original - I have it.

EVANS: Yeah, I cut it out, I have got it in the ..I said I am going to send this to Fred.. maybe he will over look it.

Q: No, and I know the old man who wrote the article. He lives at the Quincy Hotel up there..

EVANS They had the toboggan from the Vendome - ~~they had~~ ^{there} it right at the corner -here is the Vendome. And that would take you clean to the Ice Palace. And back.. Of course that was two dollars. It was nine blocks. So my lady friend and I, I used to always do the driving. We took old broken-tail ~~(a Shurry)~~ ^{Charlie} the horse, you know you could drink all you wanted, your beer out of

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EVANS: teapots. Pour a bottle of beer in a teapot, and you drank it out of teacups..well we drank a little too much.

And I I drove Charlie into the Ice Palace and he got frightened ..kicked down some displays kicked the shams off - back to the stable. Left us standing there..

Q What was that - just a ~~di~~ single horse on a sleigh?

EVANS: He had a little crooked tail..yes. But I could do anything with that horse. (Clarol..)

Feed sup. just a minute

183'

End of R-eel # 6

tro about 190

Note

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This picks up on Reel # 10 p. 55A-57A: Has been transferred after the Fern Pedro interview on Reel 10

4 stories.

- 1) Irish "monkey" miner*
- 2) Ice Palace Masquerade*
- 3) Chariot Race*
- 4) Elks Masque - New Outfit (1910)*