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2 VOICES of the Oral History Project of GLHSNC  
3 973 Market Street, #400  
4 San Francisco, CA 94103  
5 Telephone (415) 777-5455, #1  
6 Interview with Carmelita Nass  
7 Date of Birth: 1925  
8 GLHS OHP 98-13, Miscellaneous Tapes  
9 By Interviewer: Bob Davis, 1 tape  
10 Date: 10/28/96  
11  
12 Audio Tape One of One  
13 Code 1S1:000-099 = Tape One, Counter 000-099  
14 1S1:000-099  
15 BD: This is Monday, the 28th, we're making a recording  
16 at my home. And just so I have all this stuff down,  
17 who are you?  
18 CN: Carmelita Nass.  
19 BD: And we're going to talk about two things I guess,  
20 mostly about Harvey Lee. And then we're going to talk  
21 about any other people, performers or drag queens that  
22 you remember.  
23 CN: Yeah, I hope you're not disappointed because I've  
24 met a lot of drag queens in my time, but they're all  
25 dead except one or two. Three I guess.

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1 Robinson has died. I even got there in 1954,  
2 September, and Papa, well, we called him Papa.  
3 Alfonse, was it Pichon or Picon? Picon. Alfonse Picon,  
4 clarinetist, played the old-style clarinet that was  
5 shaped like a Meersham pipe.  
6 BD: (inaudible)  
7 CN: Well, I got to see and hear him play at Charlotte  
8 Valenti's Paddock Lounge on Bourbon Street. I have to  
9 tell you about Charlotte Valenti. She cracked me up.  
10 When I first got to New Orleans, I weighed about 110  
11 pounds. I'd been very athletic, rode horseback and  
12 played . . .  
13 BD: How old were you then?  
14 CN: Twenty-nine. I hit there in 1954. I was born in  
15 1925. So over the years, being social secretary and  
16 traveling companion to a wealthy oil queen, I gained  
17 weight like crazy. I got up to 215 pounds. But  
18 Charlotte Valenti was a huge woman. She weighed over  
19 330 pounds by the time I was ready to leave New  
20 Orleans. So I'd go in; I hadn't been in years, and  
21 because I weighted 215 . . . now she is so heavy, she  
22 had to be helped up on the stool behind the cash  
23 register by two people every night, two men. And she  
24 screamed Carmelita, you ought to lose weight. You look  
25 awful. I only weighted 215. But anyway, about Harvey.

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1 BD: That's okay.  
2 CN: Poor Harvey Lee's early life was not too great. He  
3 was in, through mail that I found in his boxes that I  
4 sent to Arkansas, Little Rock, to Professor Hodges,  
5 which what you want from her, I'll make a list of  
6 addresses because we misplaced the list we had.  
7 Professor Hodges stepped in when Harvey died and had  
8 to fight his sister, Elizabeth, even though Harvey  
9 left it in his will, left everything to Arkansas  
10 University. There is one which you would be interested  
11 in if you can get Hodges to share it with you. There  
12 is one four-drawer file cabinet that is absolutely  
13 full of files on every drag queen that I think was  
14 ever in service any place in all the years Harvey was  
15 alive.  
16 BD: (inaudible) I hate to interrupt but . . .  
17 CN: Maybe it would help if I put my teeth in. All  
18 right, because I lived in New Orleans for twenty years  
19 and was fortunate enough to meet many of the old-time  
20 jazz men who have since died in the twenty years I've  
21 been out here, that, I'd always been interested in  
22 jazz but, of course, that got me collected-minded. As  
23 far as I know, Danny Barker and Blue Lou are still  
24 alive. Danny was big. In fact, he just did a program  
25 that was on Channel 9 of traditional. Oh, Big Bill

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1 BD: Yeah, about Harvey. You started to say there were  
2 problems there.  
3 CN: Yeah, but as a youngster, going through the  
4 material that I found before I shipped, he had, in  
5 fact through mail in his early years as an  
6 entertainer, he was in the TB Hospital at Saranac, New  
7 York. The only way I found that out, he never told me,  
8 was correspondence that he had with Helen Morgan,  
9 wanted her to help him get into the theater people's  
10 place. And Helen didn't write him back, but her  
11 adopted daughter, Reina, did. And they turned it over  
12 to Helen Morgan's manager, and the hospital wrote him  
13 back and said that they did not take anything but,  
14 they didn't take stage entertainers was the way they  
15 worded it.  
16 BD: Was this the hospital, the retirement home down in  
17 . . .  
18 CN: No, no, this was a TB Hospital on the East Coast  
19 but it wasn't at Saranac. That's what I say, that's  
20 how I found out that Harvey had TB in his early years  
21 as an entertainer. But Harvey wasn't, I'm sorry to  
22 say, I first met Harvey in April, '76 when I came out  
23 here for a vacation. Val DeVere introduced us. We went  
24 to the Japanese . . .  
25 BD: Who? Val Who?

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1 CN: Val DeVere.  
 2 BD: Who's that?  
 3 CN: Well, he was a well-known female impersonator in  
 4 New Orleans and worked at Finocchio's. I should have  
 5 brought a picture of him. Val was talented, he was a  
 6 singer, very much overweight, very fat. He and Russell  
 7 Reed did a number together at Finocchio's for years. I  
 8 think Val came out in 1975 and he worked at  
 9 Finocchio's until about 1979 or '80, and then he moved  
 10 to Los Angeles. And he died October the 10th, 1987,  
 11 heart attack. He was working as a security guard. But  
 12 to get back to Harvey, his sister was very mean. When  
 13 I went down to help him pack, he got frightened after  
 14 the earthquake. And also his sister said, well you're  
 15 getting too old to live there in San Francisco, so  
 16 insisted that he move to Little Rock, Arkansas. And he  
 17 was in a, not a senior home, but there were senior  
 18 apartments like our federal housing here. And he only  
 19 lasted about a year and a half. And he died suddenly  
 20 in the hospital. I've even forgotten what he was in  
 21 the hospital for. But the nurse went in and he was  
 22 fine. She went back twenty minutes later and he was  
 23 dead. And I never did find out what he died from. But  
 24 when I say his sister was mean, the reason Harvey left  
 25 fifteen boxes with me, he took the file cabinet but

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1 left the files, and that's what I shipped to him  
 2 before he died and then the rest of the fifteen boxes,  
 3 I shipped to Professor Hodges.  
 4 BD: The people at the Gay and Lesbian Archives here in  
 5 town at the library, after I talked with (inaudible),  
 6 they got in touch with the University of Arkansas and  
 7 they, I haven't gotten down to look at it, but they  
 8 told me that they would send a complete inventory,  
 9 once everything arrived at Arkansas at the library,  
 10 then they would catalog it.  
 11 CN: Right. Well, like I say, I'll, in fact I can call  
 12 you tomorrow or if you want to call me, I can give you  
 13 Professor Hodges' address over the phone.  
 14 BD: That'd be great.  
 15 CN: I think she's English professor that was going to  
 16 write a book on Harvey. Her students were going to  
 17 write it; she was in charge of it. Unfortunately,  
 18 Harvey was not very well liked by his co-workers or  
 19 friends that he made. Val kind of made me embarrassed  
 20 about my conversation because I didn't mind Val DeVere  
 21 introducing me as his sister which he was about.  
 22 1S1:100-199  
 23 But I didn't get offended at it. But he also, whenever  
 24 he'd introduce me to co-workers or friends, he would  
 25 say this is the female Harvey Lee.

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1 BD: What did he mean by that?  
 2 CN: Well, Harvey would go into such detail, he would  
 3 get on your nerves conversationally. I mean, he  
 4 couldn't say well, my friend and I, George and I met  
 5 last week. He would say, George and I met under the  
 6 clock and it was exactly four minutes after five,  
 7 because I . . .  
 8 BD: You're kidding.  
 9 CN: He was that kind of a conversationalist so, like I  
 10 say, I've become very self-conscious and don't run my  
 11 mouth as bad as I used to.  
 12 BD: Now's the time, let it run, I got plenty of tape.  
 13 CN: But his sister was so mean. I went down and helped  
 14 Harvey pack. He had professional movers and it cost  
 15 him something like six, seven thousand dollars to move  
 16 to Little Rock, even though he sold off many antiques  
 17 and all his costumes. In fact, Mildred Burrell, which  
 18 I didn't put on the address list, might still have  
 19 some of his costumes. She's a colored lady that has a  
 20 Used store on Fillmore, and she lived across the  
 21 street from Harvey.  
 22 BD: Where did he live?  
 23 CN: On Pine Street, no, not Pine, Lyon, just before  
 24 Pine. In fact, his landlord was older than he was and  
 25 the landlord died a couple months after Harvey. So I

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1 guess it was good that he did move to Little Rock. But  
 2 in packing, his sister was so disturbed about Harvey  
 3 being a female impersonator, that in front of the  
 4 movers she screamed, Harvey thinks he's a star. Harvey  
 5 ain't nothing but a has-been. So, like I say, Harvey  
 6 was near tears all the time.  
 7 BD: I think he was.  
 8 CN: But Harvey, as I understand from Carol Wallace who  
 9 is now dead also, Harvey was very, and Harvey told me,  
 10 he was very mistreated when he worked at Finocchio's  
 11 years ago. They would take his long opera length  
 12 gloves and throw them in the garbage can.  
 13 BD: The other performers?  
 14 CN: Other performers, like I say. And even though Val,  
 15 when he met Harvey, who, like I say, he introduced me  
 16 to Harvey in 1976 when I came out. It was very  
 17 enthusiastic. It was the type of thing that Val was  
 18 kind of a con artist. He would say to anybody he met,  
 19 whether it was a movie personality or a female  
 20 impersonator, well I finally met a legend, a living  
 21 legend. And, of course, they would just eat it up,  
 22 which Harvey did. But when I moved out here in '77,  
 23 just a couple months later, his cousin was coming out.  
 24 So I threw a backyard hamburg-wienie roast for him.  
 25 BD: For Val's cousin?

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1 CN: No, for Val and his cousin. And I invited Lori  
2 Shannon and Rene, who did the act with the gorilla  
3 costume, and his wife, Jeannie, was a waitress at  
4 Finocchio's. And Rene's mother always went with him  
5 every place, and Rene's brother who had a breakdown  
6 because his fiancée left him and took his money when  
7 he was about to get married, and it left him really a  
8 vegetable in a wheelchair. And he always lived with  
9 Jeannie and Rene, as did Rene's mother,  
10 BD: Now Rene, this is something that's very  
11 interesting to me because I have read in books about  
12 heterosexual professional female impersonators, but  
13 I've never met anybody who's met one.  
14 CN: Well, Rene and Carol Wallace were both, well now  
15 Carol. Carol Wallace used to make this statement to  
16 me. He was my landlord.  
17 BD: Oh really?  
18 CN: Yeah. When I move out here, I stayed on 47th  
19 Avenue, his house, until it was sold, which it was in  
20 Ruth's name and Ruth was about to die. He knew that,  
21 she had a bad heart.  
22 BD: Ruth was his wife?  
23 CN: Yeah. And Carol used to brag, with my men, I'm all  
24 woman. With my woman, my wife, I'm all man. That was  
25 the statement that Carol Wallace used to make. Now if

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1 you've got to be kidding. I mean, Ruth was as old as  
2 my mother and not in too good of a shape being an ex-  
3 madam. But that's the way Ruth met him. She went to  
4 the show and she used to put money in his belt and she  
5 fell madly for him and, like I say, she didn't close  
6 her house but she turned it over to a friend who'd  
7 probably been a lover.  
8 BD: And this was in Portland that they had the house?  
9 CN: Either Portland or Seattle, I understand. I'm not  
10 sure what year they were married. Carol Wallace  
11 bragged that he was a millionaire because he owned  
12 five houses, but he wasn't. He'd just make low down  
13 payments on them. And the reason I know that for a  
14 fact and verify it is because I used to do his books  
15 for his CPA. In other words I would do the books . . .  
16 BD: Is this Carol Wallace?  
17 CN: Well, he didn't look that great when I knew him,  
18 but yes. That's Carol. But what night club was that?  
19 BD: Well, it's very hard . . . that program was  
20 obviously made for use in a general sense.  
21 CN: Right, 'cause it's listed Finocchio's already  
22 sixty weeks.  
23 1S1:200-299  
24 BD: Yes, you can't tell exactly when . . .  
25 CN: Here is it, Tropics Room, Portland, Oregon. I'll

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1 you call that heterosexual, or bisexual, I don't know.  
2 BD: I don't know either. But in Palo Alto (inaudible),  
3 some of the stuff that I remember, I heard it said  
4 that he lived in Daly City.  
5 CN: He owned property in Daly City, in Westlake. He  
6 lived on 46th Avenue when I moved out here.  
7 BD: (inaudible) also said that he had two children, I  
8 believe, who didn't know he was a professional female  
9 impersonator.  
10 CN: That was B.S. They had no children. In fact, Ruth  
11 confided in me how the way she met Carol Wallace was  
12 in Portland, Oregon, or else Seattle, Washington. He  
13 was doing a show there working for one of the clubs.  
14 And she actually, Ruth made no bones about it, Ruth  
15 was a madam and she retired and gave the house to one  
16 of her former lovers. And in fact Val confided to me,  
17 even though I made down payment and deposit on the  
18 apartment in '76 when I was out here, come '77, Carol  
19 Wallace tried to deter me. He said why don't you stay  
20 at the motel? I said I can't, I've got a U-Haul  
21 trailer full of stuff, I can't. That's why I rented  
22 the apartment a year in advance. That's why I paid you  
23 the 215 dollar deposit. Well, he confided to Val, he  
24 said Ruth is so crazy about Carmelita. I'm afraid  
25 she'll take her away from me. That's why, I said oh,

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1 bet that was the early time because, like I say, Ruth  
2 confided me, she was from Texas. In fact she had a  
3 blind sister that was still alive living in Texas in a  
4 housing deal when she died. The reason I know Carol  
5 didn't have any children, with all his property that  
6 he bragged he was a millionaire, was left to a niece  
7 in Chicago, Illinois.  
8 BD: Now who did you say introduced you to Harvey Lee?  
9 CN: Val DeVere.  
10 BD: Val DeVere. Now here this was (inaudible).  
11 CN: Yeah, that's Harvey Lee. In fact, the pictures I  
12 had of Harvey Lee I gave to George. Well, Val didn't  
13 meet Harvey Lee until 1975 when he came out here to  
14 Finocchio's, so it wouldn't be in this.  
15 BD: Yeah, I don't think I have anything about Harvey.  
16 CN: And I don't, I think the only thing I had of Val  
17 DeVere, I gave to Harvey, so it would be in Harvey's  
18 files.  
19 BD: So you, so you met, how did you, you knew Val how?  
20 CN: I knew Val DeVere in New Orleans. He was a female  
21 impersonator there and lived, I lived on St. Peter  
22 Street and worked at Pat O'Brien's and . . .  
23 BD: Now the only club I know in New Orleans was the  
24 My-Oh-My. Is Pat O'Brien's another one?  
25 CN: No, Pat O'Brien's was not a female impersonator

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1 club. It's a piano bar. It's world-famous as being the  
2 biggest drink dispenser place in the world. I mean,  
3 they sell hurricanes and they make them up in five-  
4 gallon jugs.  
5 BD: Oh, my word.  
6 CN: With 181 proof rum and just some candy, I can't  
7 think of the name of the, after working for them ten  
8 years, you'd think I know what the stuff was, the  
9 ingredients, but I don't .  
10 BD: When you lived in New Orleans, did you ever go to  
11 the My-Oh-My?  
12 CN: Oh yes, in fact I hit New Orleans September, 1954,  
13 at age 29. I was there about three weeks so this was  
14 probably October, '54. The My-Oh-My was still out at  
15 Lake Ponchartrain. And right by the dressing room,  
16 there was a balcony overlooking the lake, it hung  
17 right over the lake. Well, the night that Hoyt took me  
18 to the My-Oh-My for the first time. . .  
19 BD: (inaudible).  
20 CN: Hoyt, Hoyt Bass, she was the woman I was traveling  
21 with. Oil queen out of Lumberton, Mississippi. Ah,  
22 Jimmy Calloway was either having a snit or a nervous  
23 breakdown.  
24 BD: He had a lot of snits from what I understand.  
25 CN: Yes, he did. Well, that was the night, that was, I

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1 buy a couple of apartment houses. As far as I know,  
2 Jimmy's still alive in New Orleans.  
3 BD: Oh, really?  
4 CN: Imagine it.  
5 BD: I have his record, his first record.  
6 CN: Yeah, I can give you another, give George another  
7 copy then.  
8 BD: You don't think he's got a couple of them?  
9 CN: Yeah, and I will, now I've got a thirty-three and  
10 a third record of Jimmy doing some wonderful songs, so  
11 I'll make a tape for you. I'll make a tape for you and  
12 one for George.  
13 BD: I'd be delighted. I didn't even know he had an  
14 L.P.  
15 CN: Yes, he did, he did.  
16 BD: I thought it was a 45.  
17 CN: And, like I say, I have a copy of the L.P. which I  
18 need to make a taped copy in case anything ever  
19 happens to it. As far as I know, it's the only thing  
20 in existence, I think. I think Jimmy gave me and my  
21 friend from Houston, Petey Zack, the last two records.  
22 BD: I've been collecting for a while and I've never  
23 heard anything mentioned.  
24 CN: I think I gave George either a Charles Pearce or a  
25 Jim Bailey too, one or the other.

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1 didn't get to meet Jimmy that night because Jimmy was  
2 out on the balcony overlooking the lake, throwing his  
3 gowns and all his wigs in the lake and threatening to  
4 jump over.  
5 BD: Was everyone all upset because . . .  
6 CN: Oh yes, I mean, you know, please don't be  
7 offended. I used the term with my gay friends, the  
8 faggots were hysterical!  
9 BD: (laughs) I love faggots.  
10 CN: But that's the only way to put it, you see, was  
11 everybody all . . . I mean, it canceled the last two  
12 shows of the night. This was about the middle of the,  
13 you know, we got there early. But, now again, over the  
14 years I was a guest at Jimmy's house. In fact, he used  
15 to throw a lot of parties and he said, you know, it's  
16 so wonderful to have you come, Carmelita, because  
17 you're such a normal looking lady. He said you don't  
18 throw snits like the lesbians. You got to, well maybe  
19 you don't know. But in 1950's, the lesbians and the  
20 gay men didn't mix very often. It was very rare that  
21 the lesbians were invited to the gay men's soirees or  
22 parties. I remember one party that, Jimmy's place was  
23 on, not Pretania, but something that started with P  
24 where the domed stadium is now. He sold it for enough,  
25 that piece of property, that one piece of property, to

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1 BD: Yeah, I have the, I know those, but the first  
2 Charles Pearce and Jim Bailey achieved a certain  
3 prominence nationally. And but it's the more obscure  
4 performers, the ones that were still at the My-Oh-My  
5 or the Jewel Box (inaudible) to find out what they  
6 did.  
7 CN: Like I say, now I will give you Phil Causo's name  
8 and address which is not on that list. I don't know if  
9 he'll ever get in touch with you. 'Cause he doesn't  
10 even keep in touch with me, and he was the one that  
11 got Val to move down to Los Angeles. And I knew Phil  
12 from New Orleans. He was the hairdresser to Rita  
13 Alexander, a stripper who was know as The Champagne  
14 Girl. She did back bends and bit a champagne glass off  
15 her breast, which had been enlarged enormously.  
16 BD: I think I've seen that act.  
17 CN: Rita Alexander?  
18 BD: I think I've seen, I think I've seen this woman  
19 with a champagne glass.  
20 CN: Yeah, well that was Rita Alexander. So you want me  
21 to stop?  
22 BD: No, no, no, I was just making some adjustments.  
23 CN: Ah, like I say, unfortunately, Harvey wasn't  
24 liked. The first female impersonators I ever saw was  
25 at the age of twelve and they were all black. I was

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1 born in 1925, but they . . .  
 2 BD: Where was that?  
 3 CN: In Belleview, Michigan, outside of Battle Creek  
 4 where the Kellogg's Company is. But my mother went  
 5 with Purple Gangsters.  
 6 IS1:300-399  
 7 And so we were . . . in fact Jimmy Harriston a high-  
 8 yellow colored, but he was their finger man of the  
 9 Purple Gang.  
 10 BD: What does finger man mean?  
 11 CN: It means he checked out and found somebody that  
 12 needed reprimanding, whatever, with a bullet or just  
 13 the hell beat out of them. He was the finger man and  
 14 also he cased things that the Purple Gangsters were  
 15 going to do. So Mom was going with Woody who they  
 16 called Little Indian. There was Little Indian and Big  
 17 Indian. Ah, they were both Italian I think. But  
 18 anyway, Woody and Mom took me to Chicago for the  
 19 weekend and Jimmy Harriston was in the party. And in  
 20 my day, well, like I say, when I was twelve years old,  
 21 I was allowed, maybe it was because we were with  
 22 Purple Gangsters, I don't know, but I was never  
 23 stopped at the door. I mean, I went to the Flame Show  
 24 Bar, I went to every night club with my mother, The  
 25 Duck and Slides, during Prohibition, at the age of

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1 memory . . .  
 2 BD: It doesn't ring a bell, but it doesn't sound  
 3 impossible.  
 4 CN: Well, like I say, the reason we were taken was  
 5 because Jimmy Harrison, the finger man, was a Negro  
 6 and he took the party to The Log Cabin. Now there  
 7 might have been, I might gone to the rest room, I  
 8 mean, in fact after the Flame Show Bar in Detroit, I  
 9 was barred from going to night clubs with Mother for  
 10 about two months because I'd always been told, if a  
 11 fight starts, you run to the ladies' room and lock the  
 12 door. Well, a fight started in the Flame Show Bar and  
 13 I run to the ladies' room and locked the door, but  
 14 unfortunately I locked Mom and her girlfriend out, and  
 15 they were banging on the door to get in and I didn't  
 16 let them in either. So I got barred for a couple of  
 17 months from going night clubbing. But I guess that's  
 18 how I got into, oh, early jazz, early entertainers,  
 19 because I lived with my grandmother until the age of  
 20 seven, my great-grandmother really. And when she died,  
 21 to get me over the trauma, Mom took me to Detroit. Mom  
 22 was working in Detroit. I was living in Belleview with  
 23 my great-grandmother. And in those years, that's where  
 24 Mom was supporting me, herself, Grandma and Grandpa  
 25 and she made extra money. But I don't know whether it

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1 eight. In fact, at the age of eight, I used to deliver  
 2 the gin from Cliff Alexander's on my bicycle, my  
 3 bathtub gin. If I was going, Mom was going with John  
 4 Libby at that time who owned a dress factory in  
 5 Cleveland. And Uncle Jack would come in for the  
 6 weekend, and they were both heavy drinkers in those  
 7 days. So when I would go to the store to get their  
 8 gin, Canadian Club and Seven-Up, and Canadian Ginger  
 9 Ale, Cliff would call Mom and say, can Mickey deliver  
 10 a couple of bottles on your block? And she'd say yeah,  
 11 and ah, oh, I was the richest little character in the  
 12 '30s that you ever saw. I made, and Uncle Jack would  
 13 run short. They didn't have ATM's and weekend banking  
 14 then. So I always had dime banks that held ten  
 15 dollars. And Uncle Jack would borrow my dime banks on  
 16 the weekend and then when he could get to the bank on  
 17 Monday, he'd pay me half again or double sometimes of  
 18 whatever I loaned him. If I loaned him twenty dollars,  
 19 he'd pay me thirty or forty.  
 20 BD: So how much do you remember about the show when  
 21 you were twelve years old?  
 22 CN: Oh, it was, I think it was called The Log Cabin,  
 23 it was in Chicago, and, as I recall, maybe there were  
 24 some whites, but, as I recall, it was all black  
 25 impersonators. Does that ring a bell? I don't know, my

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1 was the Purple Gang or the Silk Stocking Gang. But she  
 2 would come down every weekend to see her baby, and she  
 3 got acquainted. I mean, all the policemen between  
 4 Detroit and Battle Creek thought it was wonderful that  
 5 she was such a good mother visiting her baby every  
 6 week. So Mom had the, they would furnish her with a  
 7 special car, she would bring a load of Canadian  
 8 whiskey to Battle . . .  
 9 BD: The police would furnish her with a special car?  
 10 CN: No, no, her friends. But like I say, because they  
 11 were used to her visiting her baby, the police let her  
 12 through. The place could have been loaded to the  
 13 concrete and they never stopped her. Then going back,  
 14 she would take Cliff Alexander who was the druggist  
 15 making bathtub gin in Battle Creek, she'd take a load  
 16 of bathtub gin back to Detroit. So she was getting . .  
 17 . she'd leave the car in Battle Creek, they'd give her  
 18 another car to drive the fourteen miles to Belleview,  
 19 she'd spend the weekend with me, drive back Sunday  
 20 night to be to work Monday. And she made extra money  
 21 all those years.  
 22 BD: Mm hm. What did you think of the show when you saw  
 23 it? Do you remember anything about it?  
 24 CN: I remember that I thought they were very, I  
 25 thought they were the biggest women I'd ever seen.

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1 Evidently they were all tall and kind of, I don't  
2 know, I don't remember that much, but, like I say, it  
3 was before the age of twelve. But the first female  
4 impersonators I met in My-Oh-My was 1954. And then, of  
5 course, over the years, like I say, I attended parties  
6 at Jimmy's. Now one that's still alive, which I'll  
7 give you the address, is Billy DeVoe. Now he was known  
8 as the Park Avenue Hillbilly.  
9 BD: I don't know Billy DeVoe.  
10 CN: Well, I'll have to see if I can find a picture. I  
11 won't give it to you if it's an 8 by 10, but I'll loan  
12 to George to show you and maybe you can make a copy,  
13 even a Xerox copy. He was an M.C. at the My-Oh-My for  
14 many years. Then he worked at Finocchio's. Let's see,  
15 I came out for vacation in 1967, so Billy was working  
16 at Finocchio's in '67, I know. He is supposed to have  
17 been a prot g of Harvey Lee.  
18 IS1:400-499  
19 But, again, Bobby Udabare (phonetic spelling), which I  
20 wished we'd been in touch before he died two years ago  
21 September, 'cause Bobby knew everybody that was still  
22 alive. Bobby was not a professional impersonator, but  
23 he was fabulous at Mardi Gras. He always did an  
24 impersonation of Calantan, the stripper. And Bobby was  
25 better as Calantan than Calantan was. I mean, he was

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1 he never answered my letter. So, that's what I say.  
2 Poor Harvey was abused and misused and abused.  
3 Now Professor Hodges asked me if Harvey had a lover.  
4 To my knowledge, I'm sure Harvey had his one-night  
5 stands, his share of them. But to my knowledge, nobody  
6 could stand Harvey for more than 24 hours, so I don't  
7 think, I don't think he ever had a live-in or a  
8 permanent relationship of any kind. I could be wrong.  
9 If I ever hear differently, I'll let you know. But  
10 also, Professor Hodges is under the impression,  
11 because there was mail and pictures of Lee Carr. Lee  
12 Carr did the costumes years ago at Finocchio's. Lee  
13 Carr did an act. In fact, his costume and pose was  
14 copied for the Marlene Dietrich movie. Lee Carr did a  
15 dance act like an Indonesian, with the hands. And  
16 there was a big photo of Lee Carr and he spelled it L-  
17 I K-A-R. But he really was Lee Carr, L-E-E C-A-R-R,  
18 out of Chicago. He died about 19-- , yeah, that's him.  
19 You say see this, I wish there were a better picture  
20 of him in the full length.  
21 BD: I have some somewhere.  
22 CN: All right, all right, since you met him, you know  
23 what I'm talking about.  
24 BD: No, I never met him. I have some other photos. I  
25 purchased this program with all the others; I never

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1 perfectly fabulous. And Bobby knew everybody. Well,  
2 Bobby didn't tell me directly 'cause he didn't want to  
3 offend me. but he told this friend Harold. I had given  
4 Harvey Lee Billy DeVoe's address. So both Harvey and  
5 Billy had told me that Harvey was the one that showed  
6 Billy how to do makeup, costumes and everything. Well,  
7 Harvey had a thing of writing long letters to  
8 everybody. It was worse than his double conversation.  
9 It annoyed the hell out of people. And so Billy DeVoe  
10 didn't say anything to me but he complained to Bobby.  
11 I don't know why the hell Carmelita had to give Harvey  
12 my address. He wrote me this long letter and I  
13 certainly am not going to . . . Well, the next thing I  
14 know, Bobby tells Harold and Harold tells me and I  
15 said, oh, I'll have to watch that. I never, I never  
16 admitted to Billy that I'd heard that. But, lo and  
17 behold, Harvey calls up about a week later, madder  
18 than hell. Billy lives in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, which is  
19 about forty miles outside of Tulsa; it's forty-four or  
20 forty-nine. It used to be old Route 66. Well, Sapulpa,  
21 Oklahoma, is shown very clear on the current atlases,  
22 road atlases, road maps. All Harvey had was a very old  
23 one. So he went around screaming to everybody and he  
24 screamed to me, well, you obviously did not give me  
25 the right town and you didn't spell it right, because

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1 collected.  
2 CN: Oh, I see, all right. Well, Lee Carr, Val  
3 introduced me to him. He was very elderly. He owned  
4 property on Washington Avenue which he left, in the  
5 note that I gave George, he left his property to his  
6 sister. He only paid 35 thousand for it in the '30s.  
7 It sold for 360 thousand when he died, on Washington  
8 Avenue.  
9 BD: Here is San Francisco?  
10 CN: Yeah. Well, in fact I'll give you the old address  
11 because it was a colored couple who, he's an engineer  
12 or a CEO of one of the big companies here that bought  
13 it. They were living upstairs renting from Lee when  
14 Lee died in . . . Well, I had the heart surgery in  
15 '85. I think Lee died about 1983-84, and he was in his  
16 eighties 'cause I think he was born about 1907-1905.  
17 He came from Illinois. And his scrapbooks and all his  
18 memorabilia was left to his sister. So you might be  
19 able to get that memorabilia, the sister's address, by  
20 getting in touch with the people that bought the  
21 house.  
22 BD: Okay.  
23 CN: Like I say, Professor Hodges, because it was L-I  
24 K-A-R, called me and said was the Indonesian boy, Li  
25 Kar, Harvey's lover? So that's the reason I'm going

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1 into detail about who Li Kar was and not, again, we  
2 get to names. Chickie Rochet of the My-Oh-My was  
3 actually Forrest Fisher out of Ohio.  
4 1S1:500-599  
5 And Chickie died about 1975, a couple years before I  
6 moved out here. I told you about Billy DeVoe, Jimmy  
7 Calloway, Russell Reed, Lori Shannon, of course,  
8 dropped dead here of heart attack. Al dropped dead of  
9 a heart attack. There was no hanky-panky about dope or  
10 anything. They were just both overweight and died of  
11 neglect of themselves. Again, Val had gone through a  
12 regimen of strict diet, chicken, had lost his weight,  
13 got down to a wonderful slim, slender man, because he  
14 was nuts about the puppeteer, and thought that was  
15 going to be a permanent love affair.  
16 BD: What puppeteer?  
17 CN: The puppeteer, George Buchanan, at Finocchio's.  
18 BD: Oh, I see, I knew of George Buchanan.  
19 CN: Oh, I got his address if he's still alive.  
20 BD: That's okay.  
21 CN: His lover died of AIDS a couple three years . . .  
22 well, let's see. Val died '87, so about 1989 or '90,  
23 George Buchanan's lover died of AIDS, was one of the  
24 early ones. But that fell through so Val started  
25 eating again. And I didn't know it, but Phil Causo

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1 CN: Yes. And again, if Harvey were here, he would  
2 correct you. They are Bolshoi's.  
3 BD: Oh, dear.  
4 CN: You don't call them Russian Wolfhounds; you call  
5 them Bolshoi's.  
6 BD: I'm so concerned about it.  
7 CN: Well, that's what I say, if Harvey were here, he  
8 would correct you, dear. He was very firm about those  
9 things. Oh, I have to tell you this about Harvey, but  
10 Bill Smith confided to me before he died of cancer. He  
11 died just a few months after Harvey, and they were, I  
12 guess, that's the one friend that Harvey still had.  
13 Bill lived at Lake Merced Apartments, the Helmsly  
14 Apartments. And Bill had worked with Harvey at  
15 Chevron. You see had been retired as a female  
16 impersonator for many years, and worked as a secretary  
17 at Chevron Oil. And for some reason, Bill and Harvey  
18 worked nights transcribing dictation and typing  
19 letters. Well, Harvey finally was let go from Chevron,  
20 Bill said, and everybody in the office was hysterical  
21 because they got so tickled over him. It didn't matter  
22 whether it was the president, the CEO or the vice  
23 president, no matter how big the man was, if he was  
24 slightly illiterate in his dictation, whether it was  
25 on tape, or the secretary had done it in shorthand,

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1 told me that Val was over 350 pounds. So that's what  
2 killed him. Now I don't have Phil Causo's address on  
3 that and, like I say, he doesn't even keep in touch  
4 with me since Val died in '87. But if anybody has got,  
5 I know Val made videotapes which he sent to night  
6 clubs. He sent one out here to Finocchio's at Billy  
7 DeVoe's suggestion.  
8 BD: Audition tapes.  
9 CN: Yeah (coughs), pardon me. So if anybody has  
10 information or tapes and pictures on Val, it's Phil  
11 Causo. 'Cause I don't know anybody else that's alive  
12 that . . .  
13 BD: Now what about Harvey's performance? Can you still  
14 . . . you must have seen him perform.  
15 CN: I never saw Harvey perform. Harvey was retired, I  
16 told you, I didn't meet him until 1975.  
17 BD: Had he retired by then?  
18 CN: Yes.  
19 BD: Aha.  
20 CN: I never saw Harvey perform. Now, the pictures of  
21 Harvey's dog, Mickey, I know one time he loaned Mickey  
22 to Hedda Hopper, and she rented another dog to go with  
23 Mickey, to make an entrance at some premier or  
24 something in Hollywood.  
25 BD: And wasn't it a Russian Wolfhound?

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1 Harvey would write the letter and make the correction,  
2 and proceed to write a long letter of reprimand to the  
3 executive telling him how stupid he was and what a  
4 stupid letter it was to write a letter. So Bill says  
5 he really thinks that's what really ended career at  
6 Chevron.  
7 BD: Too many letters, huh?  
8 CN: Yeah.  
9 BD: Well, I've got, of the things that I was given,  
10 like mostly it's a large scrapbook.  
11 1S1:600-699  
12 And a lot of that stuff is photos from after he was  
13 retired from Chevron, and a lot of things are of La  
14 Cage au Faux, the show that was here in town.  
15 CN: He went to 22 or 24 performances. I cannot think  
16 of the man's name, but a friend of it, now again, this  
17 was somebody that had stayed a friend of his for  
18 years, was a dresser for that show. So Harvey got free  
19 tickets, and what he has is, he had gotten everybody's  
20 autograph and Harvey got very pissed off. It's the  
21 only way I can put it because that's the way he said  
22 it. He threw a backstage catered party for one of the  
23 cast after seeing 20 shows. Well, he was very, very  
24 annoyed because, I mean, besides the cast, I mean, you  
25 know, if a buffet table is laid out with hors

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1 d'oeuvres and everything, you don't say Hey, you're  
2 not an actress; you can't have it. I mean, Harvey was  
3 real P.O.d because the stage hands and the workers  
4 helped themselves to the buffet too. I mean, I've  
5 forgotten how much it cost Harvey; he told me several  
6 times and I should remember. But he was real P.O.d, he  
7 said can you imagine? I said, well Harvey, how you  
8 going to say no to, I mean, I'm sure that the cast was  
9 all right about it. Well, they may have been all right  
10 about them eating my food, but I wasn't. That was  
11 Harvey's attitude.  
12 BD: Did he go to a lot of other shows or just?  
13 CN: Oh yes. I'm sorry I threw them out. I had three  
14 big shopping bags of programs. And Harvey wouldn't  
15 take just one program at the show. He would six or  
16 eight programs of every show. Unfortunately they were  
17 taking up space and they didn't want them in Arkansas,  
18 so I had programs from every show from the time Harvey  
19 was in San Francisco. Now, now Alan Bradley Park  
20 (spelled phonetically) has also died. He was a  
21 costumer for Carol Wallace. And Carol did him real bad  
22 just before he died. Alan had been making costumes for  
23 him for years. Carol retired after I got here. He was  
24 still working for him, and Ruth, his wife, was an  
25 alcoholic. And what Finocchio's finally gave up on

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1 CPA.  
2 1S1:700-711  
3 Well, he was going around bragging that he was a  
4 millionaire. He probably was worth, in the five pieces  
5 of property, 150,000 dollars. He'd make a low down  
6 payment, they were so broke that if a renter moved  
7 out, he had two places in Los Angeles. One was a  
8 three-complex, one was a two. If a renter moved out, I  
9 finally, I used to go . . .  
10 End of Side 1, Tape 1 of 1  
11 1S2:000-099  
12 CN: All set?  
13 BD: Yeah, Side Two.  
14 CN: Okay. He would be so broke, if somebody moved out  
15 of one of the apartments, that I got wise and quit  
16 going to the Westin Market when it was time for him to  
17 go to work, because he would always make me, for five  
18 dollars, for cigarettes and Muni fare, if he wasn't  
19 driving. And for some reason, I guess he couldn't  
20 afford to drive the car and park it every night. There  
21 was a period there when he saw . . . and then he  
22 wouldn't want me to tell Ruth because I was supposed  
23 to make the check my rent check, out to Ruth. The  
24 property was in her name. And, again, he, well, he had  
25 a guy come in and bring some illegal parrot in from

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1 Carol, Ruth got drunk and she got mad at Finocchio's.  
2 Now she and Carol both told me this story and so did  
3 Val. Main show, she goes up in front of the desk where  
4 the tourists are just coming in from the bus. She  
5 raves and rants and uses, not only foul language, cuss  
6 them out, but spreads her legs, she was in a dress,  
7 she spreads her legs and proceeds to urinate in front  
8 of everybody.  
9 BD: In the lobby?  
10 CN: Yes. Where you come up the stairs.  
11 BD: I know, where you come up the stairs, yes. And  
12 this was for firing Carol Wallace?  
13 CN: Well, no, but that's why Carol got fired.  
14 BD: Oh, I see.  
15 CN: He had, I mean, she was just P.O.d and she told me  
16 that she got tired. Again, I understand when he first,  
17 in his early years, that they used to entertain at the  
18 house and throw buffets and everything else. And she  
19 got tired of throwing that money away because she knew  
20 that, again, Carol was disliked by his co-workers,  
21 very disliked by his co-workers because, well, I could  
22 say he was phony, he was mean. And what I know of his  
23 phoniness, like I say, I let him impose on me and I  
24 didn't get paid for it. He had five pieces of property  
25 the year I did the tax, prepared the tax forms for his

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1 Mexico. He insisted on putting down the bird seed and  
2 bird food for those parrots on his income tax as part  
3 of . . . I said Carol, you can't do that. Yes I can,  
4 they're part of my act. I said what are you going to  
5 do if they check up and they come see your act and you  
6 don't have no birds. And then what really teed me off,  
7 he'd bought an expensive shag carpet for their dining  
8 room. And it was four or five hundred dollars; it was  
9 room-size. He charged it to my apartment as  
10 refurbishing my apartment. So I knew that a lot of  
11 other things that I was putting on, he was lying  
12 about. So I refused. I did them the one year and next  
13 year they brought the . . . I said uh uh. I wouldn't  
14 touch them with a ten-foot pole because I won't be  
15 nasty enough to turn you in to the IRS, but I also,  
16 I'm not going to get involved. So I refused to do the  
17 . . . even prepare the, prepare the information for  
18 his CPA. So that's the kind of character Carol Wallace  
19 was. Now I've told you about Chickie Rochet.  
20 BD: Now when you, let me just go back to Harvey for a  
21 minute.  
22 CN: Sure.  
23 BD: Now when you knew Harvey, he was already working  
24 for Chevron?  
25 CN: No, he was even retired from Chevron.

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1 BD: Oh, really?  
 2 CN: Yeah, I didn't meet Harvey until 1976 when I was  
 3 out here for vacation.  
 4 BD: How old was he about then? Make a guess.  
 5 CN: Well, he'd been retired for about five years so I  
 6 take it he was about seventy, in '76. I could be way  
 7 off on that, but I think, or maybe he had just  
 8 retired. But I was under the impression he'd been  
 9 retired for about five years. Like I say, he may have  
 10 wanted to work longer for Chevron but because of his  
 11 nasty letters, he was let go from Chevron.  
 12 BD: Right. So what did he do with his time when you  
 13 knew him, since he wasn't working?  
 14 CN: Oh, well.  
 15 BD: Besides writing long letters to his friends?  
 16 CN: He wrote long letters to his friends, he worked on  
 17 his files. He was always going to write a book. To my  
 18 knowledge he never put a word down. But he went some  
 19 place, he'd dress up and he bought all kinds of  
 20 jackets and slacks and things at the thrift shops. I  
 21 think every female impersonator that I ever met, after  
 22 they retired, shopped at thrift shops, including Val  
 23 and Harvey. And they got some great bargains.  
 24 BD: (inaudible) buy at thrift shops now.  
 25 CN: Like Val, Val bought a suit at the thrift shop

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1 BD: Tell me a little bit more about our relationship,  
 2 your personal relationship, with Harvey. How it ended  
 3 up at your place.  
 4 CN: Well, because Harvey, well, Harvey didn't have  
 5 friends. Oh, I started to tell you about Val DeVere. I  
 6 threw that backyard party. Val says for god sakes,  
 7 don't invite Harvey. That was the attitude of  
 8 everybody.  
 9 BD: Huh! Don't bring Harvey.  
 10 CN: I really, I not only liked Harvey, 'cause I guess  
 11 we do talk alike, but I had great compassion for him,  
 12 I felt sorry for him. I never saw his act.  
 13 BD: Do you think he was a lonely man?  
 14 CN: Oh, yes, yes, definitely, because, like I say, it  
 15 got to the point he'd call me most every night. And I  
 16 finally made an excuse that I was still doing  
 17 consultant, which I was, I was doing consultant work  
 18 for Sunset Book Store. I was pricing their collector  
 19 paperbacks. But when I came out here, I went to work  
 20 managing the Highway House Motel and Apartments on  
 21 Lincoln at Great Highway there. I worked there 27  
 22 months. And then because I wouldn't move into the  
 23 building, I had my four little dogs and I had been  
 24 forewarned by former managers that first time Mr.  
 25 Stern got a hair crossways, you were out on the

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1 that doctors contribute to up on Upper Fillmore I  
 2 think, Presbyterian, all right. Val bought a beautiful  
 3 suit that fit him perfect. That's when he lost the  
 4 weight. And it was a suit that cost 650 dollars. And I  
 5 think he got it for ten or twenty dollars, you know.  
 6 So like I say, they got me, although unfortunately,  
 7 I'm built weird. I've never been able to find anything  
 8 in a thrift shop except a couple of Oriental iron  
 9 pots.  
 10 BD: Yeah, I know. You're not a standard size.  
 11 CN: No, I'm, I've only got a 28-inch . . . by the time  
 12 I buy at a thrift shop and it's so expensive now. I  
 13 got a wonderful cleaners. They do shirt and slacks for  
 14 me, but it's six dollars to shorten the slacks, it's  
 15 six dollars. So I can write Blair Mail Order and get a  
 16 nice pair of slacks for \$19.95, you know. Whereas if  
 17 I, in fact, the last pair of slacks I bought at  
 18 Emporium, it cost me 27 dollars for the slacks and  
 19 then I had to pay six dollars to have them shortened.  
 20 I mean, I shop by mail order instead of thrift shop.  
 21 I'm not against it. I wish I could find things for me.  
 22 What else do you want to ask, 'cause I can't think of  
 23 . . . I mean, I know, as I say, many female  
 24 impersonators from My-Oh-My and everything but I've  
 25 forgotten their names.

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1 street. And I was only paying 215 a month for that  
 2 nice apartment from Carol. Which is the reason Carol  
 3 finally sold it just before Ruth died. She died in  
 4 February and he sold it in December of '83 outright.  
 5 Because he couldn't raise the rent except 12 dollars a  
 6 year. So since I lived there eight years, but I went  
 7 in there at 215, I was only paying 315, you know. And  
 8 he was so P.O.d because, in fact, the woman at the  
 9 Sunset Book Store has since bought my apartment. She  
 10 was willing to buy the place and give me a lifetime  
 11 lease at just a nominal increase. But he wasn't about  
 12 to let anybody have it that would do me a favor. So he  
 13 sold it to Cornavon next door who . . . Cournale,  
 14 Cournale, the real estate people. Curt Cournale, it's  
 15 a big real estate office on Geary.  
 16 BD: Yeah, I think I've seen the place.  
 17 CN: So, like I say, I felt sorry for Harvey and Harvey  
 18 needed help, I mean, he, we kept in touch. He would  
 19 get annoyed with me because I'm not a great  
 20 correspondent letter-wise. And, like I say, his phone  
 21 calls was driving me up the wall so I'd make excuses  
 22 to get off the phone. But Harvey latched onto me, like  
 23 I said, he was such a lonely person. He didn't have  
 24 that many friends.  
 25 1S2:100-199

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1 So when he literally got hysterical at the earthquake,  
2 and he was going to . . . in fact, I went down with by  
3 car because he gave me, oh, it's just a fiberboard  
4 chest, but it's a chest of drawers. Should be six  
5 drawers but there's five; there was one missing. But  
6 he gave me that, he gave me a metal cabinet. He drove  
7 his sister up the wall. Now the books were being  
8 packed in boxes. They were not being left with me.  
9 They were books like these. But he had an extensive  
10 collection. He had some nice stuff, like on Ziegfeld  
11 and a lot of show biz, Fanny Bryce. But what drove the  
12 sister up the wall, which it was foolish and I tried  
13 to intercede and say Harvey, you don't need . . .  
14 Harvey sat there for two days, inventorying, writing  
15 down every book, laying them out, before he'd put it  
16 in the box. The stuff was sealed up and in the  
17 professional truck going with his furnishings, but he  
18 was sure that somebody was going to steal a book from  
19 him.  
20 BD: Oh right, he wanted to make sure every one was  
21 accounted for.  
22 CN: Oh yeah. His sister kept screaming, kept  
23 screaming, that's what I say. She finally in front of  
24 everybody screamed He thinks he's a star. He's nothing  
25 but a has-been. And that was the reason Hodges got in

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1 BD: They weren't in touch with Professor Hodges 'cause  
2 they didn't know where the stuff had gone until I told  
3 them.  
4 CN: Oh, I see, okay. I thought they were . . .  
5 BD: Now they have an inventory. I don't know if  
6 anything else was done, what happened with the stuff.  
7 CN: I don't know.  
8 BD: But fortunately he did make an inventory.  
9 CN: Again, I was supposed to make a tape for Professor  
10 Hodges but I told her everything on the phone. And,  
11 like I say, how many times have I been in the  
12 hospital? This happened, I was in by-pass heart  
13 surgery in '85, I was home three days and an ulcer  
14 erupted. I lost nine pints of blood; you only have  
15 nine pints. They had a heck of a time saving. I've  
16 been in for gall-bladder surgery. I've had three or  
17 four heart attacks. And I just, well in fact, really  
18 until this past year, I got a boom box with cassette  
19 recorders. In fact I now have two. But at the time  
20 that she sent me a 60-minute tape and wanted me to  
21 make a tape like you're making, I didn't have any way  
22 of making a tape.  
23 BD: Maybe I should get in touch with her and offer her  
24 a copy of this tape.  
25 CN: She'd probably appreciate it since. In fact, I

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1 touch with me for some reason. Evidently Harvey had  
2 talked to her as well as leaving the will, because  
3 sister Elizabeth was fighting them on getting Harvey's  
4 stuff. The statement she made while they were packing.  
5 Well, he thinks he's going to be so-and-so. It's going  
6 straight to the city dump when he dies. Harvey tried  
7 to get the library here to take it and they said they  
8 didn't have room for it.  
9 BD: The Gay and Lesbian Archives wanted it but they,  
10 they knew, they didn't know how to reach Harvey Lee.  
11 This is what they told me. They knew he, they knew he  
12 had died, they knew he had moved, they knew his stuff  
13 was gone. And they were trying to figure out, they had  
14 heard vaguely about you. They knew that there was some  
15 woman somewhere in the Sunset who had a bunch of his  
16 things, but they didn't know anything in . . .  
17 CN: How to get in touch with me or my name.  
18 BD: They didn't know your name or anything until I  
19 walked down there and told my friend who works there,  
20 you know, about the things George had given. And that  
21 was the first connection. All of the stuff that I  
22 have, which consists mostly of . . .  
23 CN: Well, again I, excuse me for interrupting, but  
24 you're in touch with Professor Hodges. Didn't she tell  
25 you my name and that?

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1 goofed up so bad, the only, I just found her address  
2 again when I gave it to George.  
3 BD: Well, that's good. I can make that happen.  
4 CN: Yeah, contact her, 'cause as far as I know, even  
5 though the University back there, as far as I know,  
6 she was in charge of it.  
7 BD: I don't, I don't know who they've spoken to. I'll  
8 just have to ask at the Archives.  
9 CN: Like I say, I was going to give George a copy  
10 which I will give him a copy, but if you'll call me  
11 tomorrow at your convenience.  
12 BD: Tomorrow's a busy day but I'll call you this week.  
13 CN: Yeah, well, like I say, any time, day or night,  
14 'cause I'm up all night playing tapes and jazz  
15 records. And if I'm sleeping, I can go back to sleep  
16 in five minutes, so I really, I get up. Like I say, I  
17 usually get up at noon to three o'clock, and I'm up  
18 all night. I usually to go bed five, six o'clock in  
19 the morning.  
20 BD: Well, we'll be in touch again.  
21 CN: Yeah, like I say, I'll give you the addresses  
22 right over the phone of those people.  
23 BD: That's good.  
24 CN: Dale Leslie did a strip act as a female  
25 impersonator at the My-Oh-My. Dale has cataracts both

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1 eyes. He was part Seminole Indian and as far as I  
2 know, Dale is alive living on a reservation in  
3 Florida, Seminole Reservation. Sandy Rogers, are you  
4 familiar with him?  
5 BD: No.  
6 CN: Sandy was a very beautiful blond person, wig, but  
7 let the hair grow, did a strip act. Sandy lives some  
8 place in Kentucky. As I say, Bobby Udibare, who I was  
9 always in touch with, just a couple weeks before he  
10 died. He was a bar tender at the Opera House when he  
11 died two years ago. Bobby and I both worked for Carno  
12 and Carissi, the Mafia kingpins in New Orleans. Nick  
13 Carno is supposed to be the number two, I mean, Frank  
14 Gracie is supposed to be the number two man under  
15 Marcello's. I worked for Pete Marcello. They were  
16 always nice to me. The only thing that I'd do, I have  
17 a funny item. Years ago when I was working, well,  
18 which would be between 1958. I walked out on the Oil  
19 Queen job New Years Eve '58, and I moved to Houston  
20 Christmas Eve 1960. So it was between those years.  
21 Well, they sent Marcello, Carlos Marcello, to Italy,  
22 deported him, the federal. Well, I was working at the  
23 Show Bar for Connell Gracie at the time. I wasn't  
24 working for Pete Marcello. But it was the hilarious  
25 item of New Orleans because two federal men

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1 Carlos being back already. Carlos beat the federal men  
2 back, you know.  
3 BD: Well, he probably didn't want a vacation in Italy.  
4 I guess those other guys might have. Okay, hold on a  
5 second.  
6 CN: Bobby called, he got Sandy Rogers' phone number,  
7 Bobby called down there. Now we don't know whether  
8 Sandy really knows about it or whether it's Sandy's  
9 family that's being bitchy like Harvey. Some woman  
10 answered the phone and she told Bobby no, she wouldn't  
11 call Sandy to the phone because he was out of that  
12 mess, and he didn't want to hear from none of you  
13 people anymore.  
14 BD: When was this?  
15 CN: Well, let's see, Bobby's been dead, about three  
16 years ago. Akers O'Reilly was another female  
17 impersonator from New Orleans. Akers died in, well  
18 since I've been out here, but the early years, so I  
19 got here in '77. I'd say Akers O'Reilly died about  
20 1980 in the Veterans' Hospital in New York.  
21 BD: So it sounds like, you, from working in the clubs  
22 yourself in New Orleans, you knew a lot of people  
23 there more than you knew here.  
24 CN: Oh yes, yeah.  
25 BD: So you think you ought to get things together?

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1 accompanied Carlos Marcello to Italy, deporting him.  
2 The Tony Spaghetti House was right next to the Show  
3 Bar where I was floor manager. Well, Tony's had  
4 stuffed crab that I liked. I'm not a big seafood eater  
5 but I loved their stuffed crab. So did Carlos  
6 Marcello.  
7 1S2:200-299  
8 But anyway, the two federal men waited and got their  
9 plane and they came back to New Orleans and  
10 everything. To cut a long story short, Carlos beat  
11 them back to New Orleans, because Carlos not only had  
12 the plane taking him to South America, but there was a  
13 shrimp boat waiting there for him to bring him up to  
14 the bayous. And the reason I know Carlos got back,  
15 they threw a party out at Carlos' house. He lived out  
16 on Chef Montour, not Chef Montour, but Airline Highway  
17 going to the airport. Carlos, one of his nephews, I  
18 think it was, 'cause Carlos wanted to adopt Ronnie who  
19 is still alive and a very good friend of mine, Ronnie  
20 Breaux - he's Pete Marcello's illegitimate son. And  
21 Carlos wanted to, but Carlos has got son, Vincent  
22 Somebody. Anyway, the reason I knew Carlos got back in  
23 town, I went over for my stuffed crab on my break, and  
24 here comes these huge trays of stuffed crabs being  
25 delivered to Carlos Marcello's place to celebrate

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1 CN: Yeah.  
2 BD: What kind of, you were managing down there?  
3 CN: I was floor manager. That's a fancy name for bee  
4 drinker (phonetic) for two years. You had to be, I  
5 mean, I've still got the, again, I was so naive. I  
6 know better now, but when Jose, the night manager, was  
7 going with Blaze Starr and they would go out for  
8 coffee and be gone for the night. And, of course, as  
9 floor manager, I was the manager of the club. In other  
10 words, the strip acts. As bee drinker, I was so square  
11 looking and everything. In those days, the businessmen  
12 were allowed to charge everything, the IRS, you know,  
13 there was discount. So they'd come in and they'd hit  
14 the front door and they'd say now we've read in  
15 Confidential, we don't want no show people to bother  
16 us. We're not here to buy drinks. And they'd walk by  
17 and they'd see me sitting there in my skirt and jacket  
18 and blouse and they'd rush right over and they'd say  
19 to me . . . Stormy's mother was the bar maid, and  
20 they'd say we'd like to buy her a drink. And she'd say  
21 oh, I'm sorry. That's Carmelita, the manager. Well,  
22 we'd like to buy her a drink, I mean, I was hard to  
23 get. Well, the minute that I'd give in and let them  
24 buy me a drink, it would be three or four, always  
25 three or four guys in the party. Well, you had one

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1 stripper on stage, one going off stage and one getting  
2 ready to go on stage. So if I'd broke the party at  
3 three and called Miss Texas and Stormy and got three  
4 on the party, I'd order drinks while they were  
5 transporting between stage calls. And the girls loved  
6 me because I made them money. Like we got, on a large  
7 champagne, we got ten dollars a bottle commission. On  
8 a small split, we got five dollars a bottle. And the  
9 drinks cost the customer two-fifty. We got a dollar on  
10 every drink.

11 BD: Was it real alcohol?

12 CN: Well, in my case it was because now, some of the  
13 champagne was. And some of the champagne was made with  
14 Seven-Up and a little sugar. But the waiter was very  
15 good at popping it so you wasted it real good. But in  
16 my case, it probably has a lot to do with my bad  
17 stomach. I insisted on drinking B&B. That was a small  
18 cognac and I couldn't, again, I never pulled the stunt  
19 that some of the strippers did. We had a couple of  
20 strippers that could drink anybody under the table  
21 because they'd go back and upchuck. With me, I just  
22 had a tuna salad sandwich and a couple cups of coffee  
23 before I, when I went to work at 8 o'clock. And, like  
24 I say, drinking real B&B. Of course I had two years  
25 there that you would have thought I was alcoholic.

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1 had a wonderful mother.  
2 1S2:300-399  
3 When I walked out on the job with the Oil Queen, and  
4 Toni Wells had said well, you can take an apartment  
5 with me, I called Mother and I said look, you know,  
6 send me 300 dollars to eat on and pay my share of the  
7 apartment for the first month. Mom sent me 300  
8 dollars. I still, to the day she died, well, I had  
9 sent her 250 dollars a month direct from the company  
10 as I was traveling companion to the Oil Queen. They  
11 sent it direct from Basby-Kahn Company. Well, then I  
12 had to cut to like 45-50 dollars a week so I was only  
13 sending her 200 a month. But 'til the day she died in  
14 1963, whenever she'd get P.O.d at me, she'd say you  
15 borrowed 300 dollars and you never paid it back.

16 BD: They never forget, they never forget.

17 CN: Mothers are wonderful.

18 BD: I just, you've given me a lot of information and I  
19 would think that, you know, what I'd have to do  
20 actually at this point is sit down, listen to it.

21 CN: Then you might have some questions.

22 BD: Then I might have questions, and kind of look up  
23 some names and some things.

24 CN: Yeah, like I say, Akers O'Reilly and (pause) oh,  
25 Ray Bourbon!

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1 Fortunately I didn't have a . . . I never liked liquor  
2 of any kind, even though I grew up in the Prohibition  
3 days and everything. I never cared for it. So when I  
4 got, well, I guess it was strippers befriending me  
5 when I walked out on the Oil Queen job, that got me  
6 the job in the club. In fact I walked up and down  
7 Bourbon Street about a week because I'd always driven  
8 convertibles and lived so high, and I had a mother to  
9 support in Michigan. But because I'd always lived so  
10 high on the hog and so on, I'd go in and beg for a job  
11 and they'd laugh in my face and they'd say oh,  
12 Carmelita, you mean you want to buy a piece of the  
13 club. So finally I took an apartment with Toni Wells,  
14 the Girl with the Million Dollar Legs.

15 BD: Mm hm, okay.

16 CN: And Toni convinced Pete Fardo and his mistress,  
17 Ramona, to give me a job. No, she's really.

18 BD: You needed the job.

19 CN: She's flat-ass broke, she walked out, she had, I  
20 had won a large sum of money in Vegas in '57. I'd sent  
21 it to Mom, bought her a new car, paid off a 5,000  
22 dollar mortgage on the property, another 5,000 on the  
23 two lots on the corner.

24 BD: I guess that's a lot of, that's a good win.

25 CN: Well, yeah, I sent her 15,000 dollars. But I also

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1 BD: Do you know Ray Bourbon?  
2 CN: Oh, Ray was one of the earliest ones I met. I had  
3 Ray, didn't I give you records of Ray Bourbon, 45  
4 rpm's?  
5 BD: I don't have 45's; I've got 33's of Ray. I got a  
6 lot of those.  
7 CN: Oh, I didn't find them yet. All right, I've got to  
8 find the 45's. I did Ray's whole act on 45's. I was  
9 Lance's Record Company.

10 BD: Hold it, wait, you did his act on 45's, what do  
11 you mean?

12 CN: Well, he wanted to get, he had a contract with,  
13 the guys' name was Greenblatt, or Green something in  
14 New York 'cause he was going to sue me. And I said sue  
15 and be damned.

16 BD: Is this the record label, you mean?

17 CN: Yeah. On the 33's whatever.

18 BD: UTC was it.

19 CN: Right, okay. Ray wanted to get on juke boxes. So  
20 Hoyt, the Oil Queen, and I formed Lance's Record  
21 Company and signed Ray and his whole act is on 45  
22 rpm's. I'll have to find them and send you an album.  
23 There's an album and two singles.

24 BD: Really?

25 CN: Yeah.

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1 BD: I've got . . .  
 2 CN: That would be 1957.  
 3 BD: Okay, what I know about Ray Bourbon and his  
 4 records, there's ten on UTC. Then there's one 33 that  
 5 was done live at, live at the Jewel Box Revue which,  
 6 according to Poochie Roberts, was done and Ray never  
 7 received a dime from it.  
 8 CN: Ray never received a dime on anything.  
 9 BD: Not a good businessman?  
 10 CN: From UTC either. And I, we didn't connect on  
 11 distribution. We made the records and shelled out the  
 12 money and everything but we could never get  
 13 distribution.  
 14 BD: Was it because of the material, the nature of the  
 15 material?  
 16 CN: Because of UTC blocking us.  
 17 BD: I see.  
 18 CN: So anyway, yeah, Ray, Ray, just before he was  
 19 arrested, well, I went in to way they call Mom's after  
 20 work. I was working at Pat O'Brien's, and I hear this  
 21 raucous laugh and this man with his back to me says I  
 22 know that voice; that's Carmelita Nass. And I looked  
 23 and it was Ray. Ray was so down on his luck, he was  
 24 traveling in an old beat-up Chevrolet with the back  
 25 seat out, and he had several dogs traveling with him.

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1 unfortunately Chickie Rochet, he had been staying with  
 2 Chickie, but he'd run up a 300 dollar phone bill on  
 3 Chickie. Chickie didn't get in touch with me and warn  
 4 me, so when Ray finally left, I had a 360 dollar phone  
 5 bill because he was desperately calling anybody he'd  
 6 ever worked with in show business, including people  
 7 from the New York stage and Miami and all that,  
 8 begging them for money because this guy had told him  
 9 either you pay me - and it was several hundred dollars  
 10 - either you pay me or the dogs go to, not the pound,  
 11 but for experiments.  
 12 BD: Laboratories.  
 13 1S2:400-499  
 14 CN: Labs. Which he finally did. Ray, in my apartment,  
 15 had a little old .22 Ira Johnson nickel-plated gun on  
 16 the coffee table. It was so rattley. I used to be a  
 17 gun collector. I said Ray, if you ever shoot that,  
 18 you're going to blow your hand off. Well, I got, to  
 19 begin with, when Ray finally left, he would write me  
 20 post cards, but to protect me - he thought he was  
 21 protecting me - he would write to Juanita and no last  
 22 name, at my 819 St. Peter address. So, when he goes to  
 23 Kansas where the Jewel Box Revue was, he gets some  
 24 young stud conned into going out and shooting this  
 25 guy, for some reason, I guess he had given my address

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1 But he had stopped in Texas, he had about twenty-two  
 2 dogs that he'd left with this guy. Remind me to get  
 3 back to the original dog thing before '57, before . .  
 4 . no, this would be 19--, it was just before he was  
 5 arrested. Anyway, Ray, I left because I was working  
 6 nights, 8 to 4, and 8 to 5 at Pat O'Brien's. Ray was  
 7 parked with the car over at French Market. So I said  
 8 Ray, go ahead, go in and cook, I mean, I furnished him  
 9 cheese and . . . he was, again, dying of cancer and he  
 10 was on a strict diet. I thought he'd just lost the  
 11 weight from just eating chicken. That's all he ate;  
 12 he'd become vegetarian and only ate chicken, wouldn't  
 13 eat meat because of being a dog lover. But anyway, I  
 14 would let Ray stay at the apartment and then he would  
 15 leave when I came home from work in the morning. But .  
 16 .  
 17 BD: And this was in the late '50s?  
 18 CN: This would be, it would had to be late '50s, it  
 19 would be, I didn't go to work at Pat O'Brien's until  
 20 1967. This would be mid '60s.  
 21 BD: Mid '60s, and you're still in New Orleans?  
 22 CN: Oh yeah, I didn't leave New Orleans until '77.  
 23 BD: Okay.  
 24 CN: And he had come to New Orleans across Texas from  
 25 L.A. and he had left these dogs at this farm. Well,

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1 or the wife traced my phone through the . . .  
 2 BD: What guy?  
 3 CN: The guy that he shot, had shot. Anyway, the next  
 4 thing that I know, fortunately I was well-liked in New  
 5 Orleans. The police knew who I was because I'd always  
 6 been working for the top people in the French Quarter.  
 7 I get this call from Sergeant Coker. He said  
 8 Carmelita, when it's convenient, will you please come  
 9 by the station and make a statement. Because Ray had  
 10 made those phone calls, telling the guy he was going  
 11 to kill him, from my house, I was involved.  
 12 BD: Oh, my!  
 13 CN: So then after they did arrest Ray and he went to  
 14 jail, he used to call me in the wee hours of the  
 15 morning after I would get in, he knew I got through  
 16 work at Pat O'Brien's at 4 a.m. except on weekends it  
 17 was 5 a.m. So he'd call me and, again, I felt sorry  
 18 for him so I'd accept collect calls. Well, to call, he  
 19 had to go outside of the prison to a pay phone. One  
 20 night he goes outside to call me in the wee hours  
 21 after 4 a.m. my time, the guard forgot he was out  
 22 there and locked him out of the prison. He had a hell  
 23 of a time getting back in. He knocked and he banged  
 24 and he hollered and everything. I think, I think, I'm  
 25 not sure, but somebody said that made publicity, that

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1 there was a write-up about it. But it really happened,  
 2 it really happened. He was calling me and the guard  
 3 forgot that he okayed letting him out and, you know,  
 4 let him, and he had to fight like heck to get back  
 5 into prison.  
 6 BD: So, gosh.  
 7 CN: Well, to begin, on Ray Bourbon before that, let's  
 8 see.  
 9 BD: When did you know Ray Bourbon?  
 10 CN: Well, I'm trying to think. I was still with the  
 11 Oil Queen. I met in 1954. He worked on Bourbon Street  
 12 in drag. It was 1957 that Hoyt and I made the record  
 13 company, and it was then that he was parked out by  
 14 Slidell, Louisiana, with a trailer full of dogs then.  
 15 And they took him to jail from Bourbon Street one  
 16 night and I was ill with the flu. That's when I had  
 17 one of those flu shots that I dread taking at all  
 18 'cause I'm allergic. Here was all these dogs shut up  
 19 in this trailer in the heat in the mid-summer and Ray  
 20 was in jail. I couldn't get out there, so Hoyt took it  
 21 upon herself, that's the Oil Queen, to call the pound,  
 22 you know, there was an S.P.C.A., it might have been  
 23 S.P.C.A. I don't know, but Louisiana. They go out, of  
 24 course, the dogs had been locked up for 2-3 days in  
 25 that terrible heat without water or feed. When they

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1 only worked for the lower salary, he practically had  
 2 to pay them to let him on stage.  
 3 1S2:500-599  
 4 BD: Is it just because of bad management or people  
 5 didn't like his act?  
 6 CN: Nobody managed him; Ray managed himself.  
 7 BD: Well, that's what I mean.  
 8 CN: Yeah (laughs).  
 9 BD: But then, wasn't he that popular?  
 10 CN: Well, he may have been popular before my time, but  
 11 in 1954 it was old hat.  
 12 BD: Ah, even in '54 it was old. And listening to the  
 13 tapes, the records would sound really old now.  
 14 CN: Yeah, well, like I say, I met him in 1954 for the  
 15 first time, after the My-Oh-My episode. He wasn't  
 16 working the My-Oh-My, he was working in the Quarter.  
 17 Then when the My-Oh-My burned down, they moved the  
 18 show to Pete Herman's, the Boxer, on Dauphine Street.  
 19 I only attended one show there, it was so bad. Yeah,  
 20 Ray Bourbon, like I say, I had him under contract.  
 21 BD: What do you mean under contract, for the records?  
 22 CN: For the records, yeah.  
 23 BD: And did you record the records live or did you  
 24 take him into a studio?  
 25 CN: We went into, it isn't Matassa's or something like

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1 opened the trailer door, the dogs ran out and the  
 2 trailer was parked in a deal like this. You had the  
 3 highway going to Biloxi and the highway going to  
 4 Hattiesburg, Mississippi. There was twenty-some odd  
 5 dogs, I think it was 21 or 23, come screaming out  
 6 hysterical, you know, no water and run out onto the  
 7 highway. So at that time when he did get out of jail,  
 8 he said Carmelita why did you call them and have my -  
 9 he said half the dogs were killed, maimed, they had to  
 10 be . . . I said, Ray, I didn't have anything to do  
 11 with it. I was sick in bed, Hoyt took up that, so he  
 12 swore then that he was going to have Hoyt killed. He  
 13 never did get around to it.  
 14 But again, he literally, those dogs, he insisted that  
 15 he picked them up as strays, but I know that some of  
 16 those dogs were stolen. I mean, you don't have 21  
 17 strays from Los Angeles to here, do you?  
 18 BD: I don't know, if he saw a dog that he liked and  
 19 picked it up.  
 20 CN: I think so. He never admitted it to me but that's,  
 21 that's my personal opinion.  
 22 BD: What kind of a person was Ray Bourbon?  
 23 CN: A liar and would connive and do anything to get  
 24 what he wanted, and he was a loser. He never got paid  
 25 half the . . . when he worked on Bourbon Street, he not

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1 that, a studio on Dumain Street. In fact I think,  
 2 Cozumel, Cozumel is the name of the studio, Cozumel's,  
 3 it was on Dumain. And we not only took him in there,  
 4 but we had to join ASCAP, we had to join the union, we  
 5 had union, they were all Negro but they were all union  
 6 musicians. The woman piano player was Jeannette  
 7 Kimbell and we had, oh, the bass player. I can't call  
 8 their names now. Probably their names are listed on  
 9 there. And I don't know where copies of my old  
 10 contract is. I got forty boxes that need to be  
 11 unpacked that got junk in them.  
 12 BD: How many records did you make with him?  
 13 CN: I think in the album, there's three instead of two  
 14 in the set. And then there is a single outside of the  
 15 album.  
 16 BD: Okay. So there's one LP in one album and one  
 17 single?  
 18 CN: No, no, they were 45 rpm's  
 19 BD: Forty-fives. When you say an album, you mean like  
 20 (inaudible).  
 21 CN: Yeah, 45 album.  
 22 BD: Right, in boxes or in a little book-like thing.  
 23 CN: Yeah, a book, a book. I'll have to dig and dig and  
 24 I'll give it to George so he can, since he sees you  
 25 more than I do and I don't have transportation. I

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1 mean, you're welcome to visit me any time you want to  
 2 get to the Sunset. But otherwise George is in touch  
 3 with you so when I find them, I'll give them to  
 4 George.  
 5 BD: Okay.  
 6 CN: I'll tell you what I do have now. I have to find  
 7 it, but I've been wondering who to give it to. I  
 8 offered to give it to George and he said he didn't  
 9 want it. I have got the master tape where we did Ray  
 10 Bourbon's record. It's about this big around.  
 11 BD: Yeah, yeah, a 12-inch tape.  
 12 CN: Yeah, I think it's even bigger than 12-inch, I  
 13 think it's about 14 inches. It's a studio tape, the  
 14 master tape, that we sent to Hollywood to have the  
 15 records cut. And I've been wondering who to give it  
 16 to. I'll give it to you.  
 17 BD: Well, thank you. I'll transfer, I'll have it  
 18 transferred to a better medium.  
 19 CN: Well, again, you see the thing of it is . . .  
 20 BD: That's amazing.  
 21 CN: . . . I've got an old Sony reel-to-reel tape  
 22 machine. But that big a tape, you've got to have the  
 23 arm extension to play the studio tape onto regular  
 24 size 6-inch reel. So when I find it, I'll give it to  
 25 George to bring to you. I don't care whether you keep

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1 BD: Well, we'll find out when you dig up the box. On  
 2 that's good, thank you for thinking of Ray Bourbon.  
 3 See, I wouldn't have thought to ask.  
 4 CN: I didn't think about Ray because it's been so many  
 5 years.  
 6 BD: I should have realized thinking of New Orleans, I  
 7 should have realized, I should have thought of Ray  
 8 Bourbon. I knew that he worked there.  
 9 CN: Well now, again, I do have, I do have this to say.  
 10 Ray Bourbon, in his last years, you know, claimed to  
 11 have had the sex change?  
 12 BD: Right.  
 13 CN: No, no, no. Ray confided to me that he still had  
 14 to stand up in my bathroom.  
 15 BD: Aha. You know, I've heard, I've heard that that  
 16 was just . . .  
 17 CN: That was phony. As I say, Ray would do anything to  
 18 . . .  
 19 BD: Get attention.  
 20 CN: Yeah. So, like I say, I know for, I didn't  
 21 actually see the genitals, but, but since Ray was in  
 22 my bathroom and I was there and, you know, I said god,  
 23 you're noisy. He said well, Honey, I didn't have the  
 24 sex change. That was how it came up. It sounded like a  
 25 horse going 'cause I used to ride horseback. And I

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1 it or whether you give it to the Archives.  
 2 BD: I know more about audio than they do 'cause that's  
 3 what I teach. So I'll take care of it, I'll give them  
 4 a good copy.  
 5 CN: Well, like I say, you can, you can, I think you'd  
 6 enjoy having this, 'cause, again, you know, we didn't  
 7 make those four records in one cut. I mean, you got,  
 8 it's the same stuff that's on your 33 and a third;  
 9 it's the same material. But we had to do it two or  
 10 three times to make each record.  
 11 BD: So it's all the different tapes and everything.  
 12 CN: Yeah, yeah, so I think you'd enjoy it, and I've  
 13 been wondering what to do with it 'cause George says  
 14 he couldn't use it.  
 15 BD: It's the whole session then.  
 16 CN: That cost us several hundred dollars for the use  
 17 of the studio for an afternoon.  
 18 BD: That's what it cost in those days. In these days  
 19 it's more like, it can be that per hour.  
 20 1S2:600-699  
 21 CN: Yeah. That was an afternoon session like, ah, one  
 22 of the Bourbons was the drummer, 'cause Seed, 'cause  
 23 Seed Adams was the bassist, and I can't think who the  
 24 other people. Like I say, I know Jeannette Kimbell was  
 25 the piano player.

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1 said my god, Ray, you sound like a horse. He said  
 2 well, Honey, I didn't really have the sex change.  
 3 That's how I know, like I say, I didn't see with my  
 4 own eyes, but I'd take Ray's word for it since he  
 5 confided in me.  
 6 BD: Right. Well, I think he confided in other people  
 7 too. It seems to me I've read that, that that was just  
 8 a publicity stunt, which he attributed to, 'cause I  
 9 think, he attributed it was something an agent asked  
 10 him for, suggest that he do this. Sounds, from what  
 11 you said, he probably came up with the idea himself.  
 12 CN: Yeah, he did and, but like I say, Ray did, really  
 13 did in prison die of cancer. I mean, he was emaciated  
 14 when I saw him that last time when he ran up my phone  
 15 bill. If I ever find the phone bill, I'll give you  
 16 that.  
 17 BD: (laughs) Now there's a very strange memento.  
 18 CN: Yeah well, like I say, mementos I have, I told  
 19 George on the way over what people don't realize, in  
 20 the '50s, it was not only bad on the guys, but what we  
 21 referred to, if you weren't femme or butch, we  
 22 referred to them as diesel dyke lesbians. And in the  
 23 '50s, the girls that worked a bar maids or anything,  
 24 if they were in like the hiking shoes that they clomp  
 25 around in on the street every day now, if they were in

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<p>1 hiking shoes and men's trousers with the fly the wrong  2 way, they were arrested for cross-dressing.  3 BD: This was in New Orleans?  4 CN: In New Orleans in the '50s, like I say, I paid 90  5 dollars a number of times to bail people out. Never  6 got it back. That's how, I told him, I used to go to  7 Judge Babylon's night court because he was a drunken  8 easy-going judge on the gays. But they didn't even  9 bother to take them to the First District and book  10 them in those days. They would just take them to Judge  11 Babylon's night court. The only thing, and I don't  12 know who Candy Lee offended. Candy Lee was a famous  13 bar tender in New Orleans when I was there, at Tony  14 Basino's. They literally run Candy Lee out of town for  15 being raucous.  16 BD: But a lot of this stuff, they're going to, the Gay  17 and Lesbian, GLHS, Gay and Lesbian Historical Society  18 of Northern California, the woman, Lyndall, is going  19 to be getting in touch with George and I guess with  20 you. They want to do a life story, recording like this  21 one, of, you know.  22 1S2:700-720  23 CN: Well, like I say, give them a copy of this tape  24 'cause I can't tell them a thing that I haven't told  25 you.</p>	<p>1 BD: They'll probably find, they have other things to  2 add.  3 CN: Well yeah, and they can ask me questions and I'll  4 be happy . .  5 BD: I will give them a copy.  6 CN: I'll be happy to answer all their questions.  7 BD: I will be giving them a copy of this.  8 CN: The Ray Bourbon poster?  9 BD: Yeah, I wanted them to have it for their  10 collection.  11 CN: Well, I don't remember giving you a Ray Bourbon  12 poster.  13 BD: Somebody did, I've got one. Yeah you did, it was  14 in bad shape. It was back in the back.  15 End of tape, end of interview.  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23  24  25</p>
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