

[Manetta:] Oh, yeah man! You know I was trying to tell that man last night. The fellows ^{was} playing. Your friend there was asking about Huey Long's number when he was courting his wife. It was the same number that I wrote Dick [Tolbert]. Huey Long's number when he was courting. Now what's that number again.

[Russell:] It was something like "[By] the Light of the Silvery Moon."

[Manetta:] That's it, that's it. (Plays it on piano.) Now, we used to play that for Huey Long, George McCullum['s band].

[Russell:] About when was--

[Manetta:] [in Long's voice] "Oh Mack, Mack, Play my number, 'By the Light of the Silvery Moon.'"

[Collins:] That's what Huey said.

[Manetta:] [When] he first went ^{'round} [with] his wife. That was his theme song, Huey Long. I tried to play that number last night.

[Collins:] Oh, yeah, I had the name "Moonlight" on my mind, and I knew it wasn't "Moonlight." "By the Light of the Silvery Moon."

[Manetta:] And he used to sing it, you know.

[Collins:] ^[Earl or Huey? apparently from Perry] Earl used to sing it.

[Manetta:] Earl used to sing it. Man, he'd be full of whiskey. And another he liked (Plays "Chinatown, My Chinatown" on piano).

[Collins:] (laughs)

[Russell:] When was that, about? I don't even know when he was governor or when he was senator.

[Manetta:] Well, he was governor then, in Baton Rouge, you know. He ~~was~~ governor.

[Collins:] Be about in the thirties, huh?

[Manetta:] Oh, longer than that. Gee, longer than that, man. No, indeed.

(whistles) Way longer. Oh, man, that was round about, round about [19]12 or something.

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[Russell:] Oh, 1912, way back in there. Before the war--

[Manetta:] Oh, gee, they never studied about no trainin' of war then.

[Russell:] Before the first--

[Manetta:] Oh, they was not speaking about that coming in existence then.

[Collins:] Gee, way back, huh?

[unintelligible]

[Manetta:] Never heard no such thing as that. Onliest thing that after when that German band would come around--

[Collins:] ^[Tape spliced here] That was interesting what you were saying there last night about you played in the band for Huey Long. From the train to the City Hall. You paraded right in there.

[Manetta:] Oh, yes, I was connected then around--I used to go around headquarters. ^[Bob Lyons' shoe shine stand] Bob, you know, Old Bob, used to like me. He thought the world of me. Old Bob Lyons. You know Bob Lyons, made me play a advertisement with him.

[Collins:] Well, what instrument did you play in that band, that street band, what instrument?

[Russell:] For the Huey Long's parade.

[Manetta:] Play trumpet or cornet.

[Collins:] You played the cornet, I see.

[Manetta:] I played my cornet, sure, man. Me, Willie Edwards, Joe went with us once, Joe Johnson, you know. Joe used to like that too, you know. And had a little fellow, he made a big funeral. I was surprised when I heard he was dead. He was a little bitty short fellow, he was black. Used to call him Jack. ~~Tell~~ ^{He made} ~~me had~~ a big funeral.

[Russell:] What did he play?

[Manetta:] Used to play the bass drum.

[Russell:] Oh, yeah, I know. [Jim] Mukes or something was his real name, M-U-K-E-S.

[Manetta:] They tell me, when he died, tell me, he had a big funeral.

[Russell:] I didn't know about it. [Tape spliced here.]

[Manetta:] Bob used to run it, you know. Bob, you know, would get loaded, you know. Well, old Jack would run it, you know. Fellow was always 'round there. Musicianers was always 'round there, you know. Oh, man. Headquarters, you know. So--man--there it is. We had to put Da--Old Bob, when he come 'round there. Bob was sober. Bob want that money. Bob say, "Uh-uh, I'm gonna' be bass drummer today." Wouldn't let little Jack beat the bass drum. And Jack couldn't play snare drum good, you know, and man, Huey Long was crazy about Little Jack. Little black comical-looking fellow, you know, little shorty, you know. So we went up there. Got Huey. ^[in Huey's voice] "Where's my boy?" Didn't see little Jack. Saw little Bob here on that bass drum. Say, "I'm here, caP, I'm here, I'm here."

[Collins:] He'd have the snare drum.

[Russell:] On snare drum.

[Manetta:] Now the boy that used to play [?] all the time was a boy they called "Cookshop Son." He used to play the snare drum. Bob, he would be busy with his stand, you know. So Bob wanted to make that money. And he shoved ("Cookshop Son" out.

[Russell:] Cookshop?

[Manetta:] "Cookshop Son."

[Russell:] "Cookshop Son."

[Manetta:] He was a nice drum player, he was. Used to play snares, you know. He could beat bass drum on the street--him and Black Benny--and Black Benny [Williams] was another good drummer. You recall Black Benny?

[Russell:] Yeah, yeah. Heard about him.

[Manetta:] We wouldn't bother with Benny. He was too fly, bad, you know. Well, "Cookshop Son" his mother had a sookshop stand right on by Roushak's. You know, stand, sit on the banquette, where you get sandwiches. Mother run it.

[Collins:] Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, like a stall.

[Manetta:] So we'd get enough to eat and all that stuff. Huey, "Bring your old sacks with you, boys."

[Collins:] Your sacks?

[Manetta:] Bring an old sack with 'em. Sure, man, them People at the big old-- at the hotel, you know. Before they--oh, man, them tables--about from here almost in the middle of street. They had everything on there, you know, when Huey was coming in. You know. Gee, had all kinds of meat and turkeys, everything, chickens, everything you could mention. And before they ate, they would eat their oysters--oyster cocktails and whiskey. Man, Huey Long, man, drink whiskey and eat them oysters. And all them big old turkeys, chickens, everything on it loaded on there. Everything you can mention. All kind of smoke *[Smoke meaning moonshine alcohol?]* And man, them big old guys, you know, just taste that, nibbled. And course, when Huey wouldn't come in, they would have other speakers, you know. Big layouts there. All them waiters and things what work there would come possession of all that, you know. But when Huey was there, we'd go get it. That was our stuff.

[Collins:] Huey'd give it to the band, huh?

[Manetta:] Oh, man. Whiskey, gin, all kinds of things. Wine, ooh man! Huey, now, when he'd get loaded, he didn't eat nothing, nothing at all. When he talk, man. We'd play a little number for him. [Unintelligible]

[Collins:] So you'd load up your sacks after?

[Manetta:] Me, I never cared fof that. I say, "Son, you bring two sacks." His mother was so nice, you know. His mother was so nice. She thank me so much. And she say, "Oh, you gives all your stuff to 'Son.'" I say, "Yes, Ma'am." "Oh, I thank you." Man, gave her--man, go home, man, shucks, man, a big old bag. Quart o' liquor and everything, gin, everything, / One of the fellows have a bag. That little fellow, man. Huey want to see him. Tell the waiter, "Put that on Jack's head, that bag. I want to see that bag on your head." Used to like that little Jack. That big thing, that big old bag on Jack's head, man, he get a kick out of that. Little Jack's about that high. Had a big old bag. [Imitating Long's voice] "Go ahead, Jack, go ahead, go ahead." Write him a check then. Didn't make no Private income. No, no.

[Collins:] He'd write a check, did he?

[Manetta:] Oh yeah, oh yeah. Man, never like People writes poetry. He's a man, get on the stand, any stand, speech right out of his mind.

[Collins:] He was a good speaker?

[Manetta:] I say. Old Mayor Behrman, man, his wife would have to write out statement for him, to explain, explain to him. Explain things to him when he was going [to] make a speech.

[Russell:] Behrman's wife wrote the speeches.

[Manetta:] She write, you know, write a speech, tell me just like giving a person lesson.

[Collins:] But not for Huey, huh?

[Manetta:] Huh?

[Collins:] But not for Huey. Huey'd--

[Russell:] Huey made it up, huh?

[Manetta:] Oh, Huey was a smart man.

[Collins:] He'd speak with any notes--

[Manetta:] And they say he went to school in Alexandria, say. He went to school barefeet, and he went high as third grade. Then he got to growing up. They sent him then to finish out school--his schooling. And he went to college. Now he say, 'nounced. He 'nounced in the hotel, he 'nounced--speak on the radio and everything. And Huey had more sense in his little finger--in his little toe than Roosevelt had in his whole body. And he'd say like that. Speak them things out like that. He'd say, "Me, all my schooling was third grade. And I went to college for respect my people." In other words, he didn't pay no attention to college and all that. Long as you have third grade that man knowed something. Yes, sir. Get up there and talk, man. Shucks, man. He was loaded with liquor. He come off the train, man, we'd be by the depot. Everybody getting off the train. Man, there was like bodyguard fellows with him. Even big shot fellows. Man. (Scats "Chinatown, My Chinatown.") And man, he come marching down. Get his men. Had his men with him. March all the way from the station to the Roosevelt.

[Russell:] Swinging along with them, huh? Right along with them?

[Manetta:] Oh, yeah, he was Grand Marshal.

[Russell:] Oh, he, oh, Huey would be out in front.

[Manetta:] Yeah, he was Grand Marshal.

[Collins:] Oh, I see, he'd lead the band.

[Manetta:] Yeah, man, people used to clap and everything.

[Collins:] (laughs)

[Manetta:] Man, man, man, we play that number, man, all the way from there to the Roosevelt.

[Russell:] Which station [did he] come in? Union--

[Manetta:] Union Station.

[Russell:] Union Station. Illinois Central or something.

[Manetta:] Uh-huh.

[Collins:] Gee, that's quite a ways to walk.

[Russell:] Oh, not so far.

[Manetta:] He didn't mind that.

[Collins:] It's not so far, I mean, for Huey it would be eight or ten blocks.

[Manetta:] Hot summer time, man, that little fellow at the hotel, little done fellow there, called him Sidney, come around Bob--looking around by the headquarters. [Imitating Sidney's voice] "Bob, get the band, get the band, get the band. Huey's coming in tonight." Lot of the boys be there, you know. Sometimes I'd be over the river, you know [in New Orleans, not Algiers]. I'd catch the Louisiana Avenue car, man, come home get my horn, you know, I want to get back there in time, man. Now you see, I used to get a kick out of that.

Sure, always \$17. Parade all day long around the streets, man, for \$5.

[Unintelligible] Parade and all that business all day long.

[Russell:] Yeah.

[Collins:] Seventeen dollars then would be worth a lot of money.

[Manetta:] Yeah, man, the kidk we'd get out of it, you know, refreshment and all that, you know I used to like to hear him talk and all that, too. Yeah, up on Plum Street on Sunday nights, Hampton [?] Reynolds, Hampton [?] Reynolds' headquarters. Big shots. Throw a big dance there. McCullum would get it a lot of times, you know. George McCullum. Be off somewhere. Bob.

[Russell:] Huey lived up on Plum Street?

[Manetta:] Well, at the Hampton [?] Reynolds house. It's on Plum. Would give him complimentary.

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[Russell:] Oh.

[Manetta:] There was a nice man, Hampton [?] Reynolds. Great friend of Huey Long and great friend of--he was [on] the boards, their number two board of the war, the number one World War and all that. Well, he's the--he had--oh--he's the one got all the streets--he was over all the street paving.

[Collins:] Oh, yeah.

[Russell:] Oh, yeah.

[Manetta:] Hampton Reynolds, he was big Jew tall Jew fellow. Yeah, he was a nice man, too. Yeah, one of Huey's buddies. Go up there with Bob. All those white fraternity houses the same way,