

Marge Bump transcriptions 314T

Charlotte Ponder, April 20, 2020

- A. From whenever he came to Petoskey until whenever he left.
- B. I don't know the answer to this. Once Connie Curtis asked Dutch Pailthorp about some questionable looking girl he had been with. His reply. "[Obs] we have to go with them so we can be good to you good little girls." Or some such light answer. I have no idea about Ernest's sex life—but never heard anything derogatory. Your last sentence is almost right. Kid sister is better.
- C. I never read Three Day Blow. No—we never discussed the story He just wrote he was sorry for it [inserted "or [redacted]"] and some others—and "Everything understood is everything forgiven." He wrote that to me long before 1939. Otherwise no discussions of the story, ever. I am sorry I don't have the letters to refresh my memory about his guarded words of regret. I knew what he meant. The letter was probably written long before 1925.
- D. Ernest knew I lived in Ormond Beach. One winter when Ursula was in Key West she tried to phone me. I was visiting in N. Carolina. Every two or three years E and I had exchanged a letter or two. No special event or letter brought him. He just came out of the blue.
- E. No – but I could have been insensitive. Anything flattering he ever said I brushed aside because I didn't know how to accept it gracefully.
- F. Yes he did. That was not the time I saw him last. This scene I described was in the late summer of 1920. No snow. When he went to Toronto it was with a good-by [sic] kiss and all the usual promises of letters and keeping in touch. I said good by[sic] at home and didn't go to the train with other friends. I never wanted to be one of a crowd. I many times said I saw him cross the yard in the snow. Friends were with him.
- G. No. His connection with Connable was thru Dr Hemingway who was most eager for Ernest to go to work. I believe it may have been thru a third person named Mr. White. Connables didn't live in Petoskey.
- H. Neither Sidney or I read Three Day Blow. S. read The End of Something. He took it lightly and as fiction. He knew me. Sidney talked very little and we seldom discussed any thing. [sic]

- I. Only that he asked me if I would understand if he spoke to me in Spanish. I said no.
- J. Can't remember any thing [sic] more. Only a kind country looking boy who admired my very dead fish. No – I never fished with Ernest alone. Yes – we often talked about fish and fishing. No – he never fished with any girls that I know of.
- K. Can't remember special stories, except about a mix up of uniforms. Very amusing – but all a blur of memory. I saw a picture he had of a girl in uniform and knew she was someone he liked very much.
- L. No – to all of these.
- M. Think it was 1918 or '19 Here is a picture [struck through – “or it could have been 1919”]

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- N. I was at the Bay every year until 1920 for some part of the summer. Ernest came and went – sometimes at the Charles – sometimes at the Dilworths. [note at top “answers on back of page.” See originals at CMU for back side.]
- O. Mother told me about it. Dorothy Connable saw her by chance on a train and told her. I was in Ishpeming, Mich. I sent for the book from Chicago. Read it and returned it quickly. Dorothy said it was disgraceful. I never met Dorothy.
- P. Grandmother died before she saw any of Ernest's stories –I believe. At least she never mentioned them to me.
- Q. Yes – Mother was often with me while the children were babies. Grandmother was my father's mother but they were very close. Mother took care of Grandmother during her last illness.
- R. I believe in 1918 or perhaps '17.
- S. Yes – I think he told me he had a letter of his about the time of my marriage. All family heirlooms have been lost here and there.

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- T. I never saw that side of her. One of my older friends here (now dead) lived near them in Oak Park. She referred to her as “odd.”

- U. I have read very few of Ernest's writings. They offended and disturbed me. I have preferred to read authors I knew he liked. My favorite is The Snows of K –it seems to have a spiritual depth I like.
- V. Pudge had a severe stroke before she was 50. She has made a remarkable recovery—but of course isn't quite the same. She was in Northville [MI] State Hospital for about two years and am sure it is because of this that she recovered so well and could go back to teaching. Yes—I am sure she liked Ernest. Ernest's name for her was Useless. I took care of Pudge's son Paul for a while.
- W. Mother was not hostile to Ernest but I believe told him that I was too young to see so much of one person. She didn't know anything about Ernest's writings. I'm sure she didn't think him a loafer. His business in Petoskey was considered temporary. Ernest did not drink. He seemed young and I have no memory of any mothers being concerned. Mrs. Curtis and others invited him for dinner.

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- X. Can't remember details. No – this was the only time we were asked. (by boys) We had no regular job – there were paid people for that. We were helpers – not waiters—cleaned-dried dishes. We weren't trusted too far after I made one hideous mistake. Want to hear it?
- Y. This was only the end of the last summer. Mrs Dilworth told us to pay no attention for Ernest's sisters had done the same thing and my cousin did it later. No. Bill didn't say anything—we did it because it seemed fun and different from home where we did nothing.
- Z. I told him I didn't want to go. Don't know why. Drinking was never in my consciousness of things. Am sure E. was glad I didn't want to go. I had no opinion about drinking.
- AA. Can't remember time of year – but probably fall. He wrote me about Martha and mentioned divorce in letters. No he didn't talk about anything specific as I remember except what to name the book. Went over some past memories, looked at Kodak pictures. He talked with Sidney more than with me.
- BB. Yes. No. We all laughed when I told him Mrs Dilworth had said Jr.[?] 'looked like a Hemingway' – and said it was a good thing he had Sid. for a father. The Mains have fair [hair or skin?].

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CC. April – 1923

DD. Once or twice in passing [insert: when I went to see Mrs. Charles.] and once when Carl Edgar was visiting the Charles he and Bill took me to see a play. I had intended going on to a kindergarten school – but married instead. Took regular college courses at W.U.

EE. Went to Fla. In Dec. 1922 – married April 24 1923. Wrote answers to this in letter.

FF. Fact check: Roaring [Rock] struck out and Blowing [Rock, N.C.] inserted

GG. Some sort of an executive consultant with Cuban Co. He has a large territory and makes a good salary with many fringe benefits. Will look it up one day.

HH. (Fact check question, children's schools) girls private school – Graham Eckes [something illegible] Sid ran away from his school in N.C. Bibbs's – Duke University. Georgi's – Mt. Holyoke – Master's Cornell. Sid – Univ. of Florida. Ready for Master's but haven't done theirs.

II. Yes – we kept both houses quite a while. Can't remember dates. Dr. Main retired about [7?] years ago. Dr. Sidney went back to work and we didn't change way of living after crash.

JJ. Dr. Main had hardening of the arteries –Has been in nursing homes about 2-1/2 years. No memory.

KK. He was as religious as any of us. Going to church was something to do—and the social hour pleasant. Yes he was reverent and always gentlemanly. He was trained well at home. He did speak about the Catholic priest in Italy and how good he had been to him. Said it wouldn't be hard to be a Catholic. I said I felt the same way but felt one should stay what they are born. Never knew his beliefs.

LL. We had some past memories together. I knew his family. Tho a child in so many ways, I believe I was quite grown up in understanding. He was comfortable with me and I with him. I think he found me interesting and fun. I believe this was some sort of spiritual feeling of attraction before I had capacity to love.
(*supplement)

MM. No – I am sorry. They didn't touch me deeply enough for memory.

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NN. Tarkington – Kipling – I already liked Dickens but was quite illiterate.

OO. Yes – She didn't go. She felt as I did about it.

PP. I am sure Ernest knew my critical analysis would be worth nothing. He only wanted me to like them. I always said I did – tho I wasn't always sure.

QQ. I think he read in a usual talking voice – and he was probably unsure of himself and what he wrote.

RR. This all wrong – and I believe I banished it.

SS. I didn't take any large pictures – only three by a brownie box camera. Dont remember one pointing a pistol. If it was small, I did.

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TT. I am sure the name and place are all that is real. Perhaps the rest (or part) was what he wanted me to be. Or perhaps he just wanted to be ugly.

UU. In the store, my mother and grandmother retained no equity stock. The name was changed twice I believe. It was McCabe's last. Chas Graham went to the store about (?) 1934 when it seemed about to fold. McCabe got out. Chas Graham never owned stock. I think it was a corporation but never thought about business things.

VV. I only remember that he is no longer living. Could try to stretch memory if important.

WW. Think I answered this. There was no open rift. Graduation was before the incident.

XX. I think it was late 1919. We were not together. I was back in Petoskey.

YY. (supplement) No – that was about chance person who told Mother he admired me. Harvey Van Emery was a friend after Ernest married. After Grandfather died – we were not to inherit as long as [G mother?] lived.

ZZ. Yes – No. I didn't consider Ernest my property or me his. I realized I couldn't compete with older girls. Irene was considered a fine girl.