

# Transcript of Tape 3, Track 1, Gen's Last Day

[Frank] You there?

[Ronnie] Yeah.

[Frank] Ok.

[Ronnie] Yup.

[Frank] [Sigh]

[Ronnie] Um, You just want me to repeat ...

[Frank] Well, yeah, I ... if you just ... so that I ... when I'm talking to Joe and ... and Vee I can at least you know inform them ...

[Ronnie] Ok. Um.

[Frank] You were called around 4:30 you said.

[Ronnie] 20 after 4:00. I got in here at 5:00 o'clock.

[Frank] Yeah.

[Ronnie] And uh her breathing and she was ah kinda verbal, not ... I don't mean verbal but there were ... noise. You know?

[Frank] Yeah.

[Ronnie] Her breathing was ... noisy. Uh, it's very shallow right now. Very ... very very peaceful, very at ease.

[Frank] And, you said that ah, when you got there she was ah, kind of trembling, at least her ...

[Ronnie] That was yesterday.

[Frank] Oh, yesterday.

[Ronnie] Yeah

[Frank] Ok.

[Ronnie] Cause I came in yesterday and I couldn't get her at lunchtime.

[Frank] Oh, it was yesterday that you were not able to feed her very much.

[Ronnie] Right. Yesterday ... [undeciphered].

[Frank] Ok. I was thinking it was something you tried to do this morning.

[Ronnie] I came back again at 5:00 o'clock last night ...

[Frank] Uh Huh.

[Ronnie] and um Roy came in and he drove me in cause my back went out on me.

[Frank] Oh, Gee.

[Ronnie] Um. And she did take some custard and she took some of the Ensure. And ah, she had been trembling, her mouth had been trembling and her hands ... but that quieted down I think kind of. I think she might have been a little dehydrated. But they called about 20 after 4:00 this morning.

[Frank] Yeah. They hadn't called you yesterday. You were ...

[Ronnie] No.

[Frank] ... that was your natural trip in there.

[Ronnie] Yup. Yup.

[Frank] Ah.

[Ronnie] I hadn't been in in two days, Frank. I was in Monday. When I went to work on Tuesday I got in the car and my back went out.

[Frank] Oh, boy!

[Ronnie] So I must have been talking to Joe Tuesday night cause he knows about my back.

[Frank] Yeah.

[Ronnie] He called about ... to see how Mom was.

[Frank] Ok.

[Ronnie] And, ah, I had told him how she was on Monday, but I wasn't in Tuesday and Wednesday ... I couldn't ... just couldn't do it.

[Frank] Yeah. Right.

[Ronnie] So I came in yesterday and she looked very different to me. So, um.

[Frank] Ah. You said her pulse was down around 40, they could hardly find it, right?

[Ronnie] No, her blood pressure.

[Frank] Oh, Blood pressure!

[Ronnie] Yeah. Her pulse is high.

[Frank] Oh, ok.

[Ronnie] What they call as 40, I don't know if they multiply that, but normally ... she said ... Bev said it's normally 16. And it's 40. So they may multiply that. I don't know whether they take that by ... you know if that's ... how much of a minute.

[Frank] Yeah, I'm ... I guess I'm confused on that one. You say that ... that her blood pressure is normally 16?

[Ronnie] No, no.

[Frank] Oh, her pulse.

[Ronnie] Her pulse.

[Frank] Oh.

[Ronnie] Whatever part of a minute that is.

[Frank] Yeah, I see. Ok.

[Ronnie] It's normally 16.

[Frank] Oh, I would think they took it for about 15 seconds and multiplied that by 4 probably.

[Ronnie] Yeah, probably. It's 40.

[Frank] Ok.

[Ronnie] And her blood pressure ... they can't ... even get it. Right now.

[Frank] Ok.

[Ronnie] It's so low.

[Frank] And you said her skin is ...

[Ronnie] Her heart is pumping rapidly.

[Frank] yeah ... that's what ... yeah.

[Ronnie] Bev said that normally she can hear Gen's heart and hears this swish/murmur in there. Swish, Swish. She's not hearing it today. But she's very, very peaceful.

[Frank] Ok.

[Ronnie] Which, that's a blessing.

[Frank] Yeah.

[Ronnie] And I guess I just wanted ... all of us .... to join in prayer.

[Frank] Yeah.

[Ronnie] To walk her over.

[Frank] Oh.

[Ronnie] And I've told her over and over that we're all here, that we're all with her. And that we want her to go home. That Daddy's waiting. That they're all waiting there, they're gonna walk in with her.

[Frank] Well ... You recall how she used to dread going in some difficult way ... you know where it was a drawn-out agonizing kind of thing, she always said if she knew she was going that way she'd take the gas pipe or, you know or some other thing.

[Ronnie] Yeah. Yeah.

[Frank] Hmmm.

[Ronnie] No, but I re- ... I want to assure everybody how very peaceful she is.

[Frank] Yeah, yeah.

[Ronnie] And it's ... it's almost like she's just gonna ... quietly stop breathing. And that'll be it.

[Frank] Well, I.

[Ronnie] But I have to tell you what happened to Roy when I was leaving this morning.

[Frank] Uh huh.

[Ronnie] I said that son-of-a-gun ... it's labor day weekend.

[Frank] Yeah?

[Ronnie] And she knows how this will foul everything up! [Laughs]

[Frank] [Laughs]

[Ronnie] Cause in Brooklyn, the union won't work! [Laughs]

[Frank] Yeah. Ah. Well. Ah, Ron, I ... I ... I guess there ... there just wouldn't be any sense in any of us trying to, you know, be there.

[Ronnie] Oh, no, Frank, no. I called Dot, I called Betty at f-, at 4:30. Ah, because Betty had asked me, Please ... because when Daddy died, you know, we had notified ... we had gotten Tony. And apparently he never told her. He let her work all day.

[Frank] Is that right?

[Ronnie] And she was so upset by it. And I promised that if anything ... Momma ever got worse I would call her, so I did.

[Frank] Yeah.

[Ronnie] But she's the only counselor due in today.

[Frank] Oh.

[Ronnie] And she said, Oh, gosh, Ron, I've taken time off because ... you know, this, before.

[Frank] Yeah.

[Ronnie] Ah, and I told her she had to make the decision but that I just wanted to let you know. So, anyway, she went to work. She did call here about 8:00 o'clock. Roy was in here. He came in before he went into work. And he spoke to her and told her, you know, about where it was.

And I called Dot. And Dot said, Oh, Ronnie I would like to come. And I said, well, if there is some way that you can, you know, fine. But I don't know whether she will or she won't.

[Frank] Yeah. I presume you're gonna hang in there, then, hum?

[Ronnie] Oh, Yes. Yeah.

[Frank] Ok, uh. If ... If this should be what you ...

[Ronnie] Yeah.

[Frank] ... you ... everyone seems to expect, then, as I recall, all ... all, uh formal ah performances or rituals are gonna be in Brooklyn, right?

[Ronnie] Right. Oh, yes.

[Frank] Ok.

[Ronnie] Yup.

[Frank] Ok. And Joe was ah ... so this would alert him then to ah ...

[Ronnie] Right. Yeah.

[Frank] Ok.

[Ronnie] Yup. Everybody would be surprised if she rallies from this, Frank.

[Frank] Alright. Ok. I don't know what time Vee goes to work, so ah let me ah ...

[Ronnie] No, Vee's retired.

[Frank] Oh! Geez! I – I guess I ... I was realizing that Jack was gonna retire ...

[Ronnie] Yeah

[Frank] but I thought ... ok, that both of them

[Ronnie] No, she retired.

[Frank] Alright.

[Ronnie] Yeah.

[Frank] Ok.

[Ronnie] So, you know, take your time.

[Frank] Ok.

[Ronnie] And I said to Dot, I'd been reading my tridentine missal, you know, it may be outdated ...

[Frank] Yeah?

[Ronnie] But I'm going through all the saints and I thought today was the 31<sup>st</sup>, which is St. Raymond ...

[Frank] yeah.

[Ronnie] And Roy came in, I asked him what the date was, he said September 1<sup>st</sup>.

[Frank] September 1<sup>st</sup>, right.

[Ronnie] I looked it up, and it's St. Giles, and I don't even know who he is. [Laughs]

[Frank] [Laughs]

[Ronnie] And Dot said I think he's the patron of the orchids ... orchards, down here in Sanford. And I said well that gives him a little more meaning to me.

[Frank] Oh. Well. She might hold out for tomorrow ... or whatever, you don't know ... I mean ... [Laughs]

[Ronnie] [Laughs] Right. That's right!

[Frank] I've got a calendar I guess stuck over in that drawer there which is not quite within my reach at the moment.

[Ronnie] Uh huh. Ok, Frank.

[Frank] Well, alright. I appreciate your call, Ron, and I guess once I talk to Joe and Vee everybody will know then.

[Ronnie] Right. Yes.

[Frank] Yeah. Ok, God love ya.

[Ronnie] Ah, thank you, Frank. You too. Alrighty ... Bye-bye now.

[Frank] Bye ...

[Ronnie] Bye Frank.