



SUSPECT 11°TES

1920'S SLANG

Absent treatment: Dance with a timid partner

Applesauce: Nonsense!

Bearcat: A fiery woman

Bee's knees: Fantastic

Big cheese: An important person



Bird: A (usually odd) person

Bootlegging: Selling illegal alcohol

Bump off: Murder

Chunk of lead: Dull, unattractive

Dough: Money

HILDA HIGGINS

PROFESSION: Ruby Pearl Billion's Number One Fan

FAVORITE SAYING: Ruby Pearl, you're here!

FAVORITE SMELL: Ruby Pearl

FAVORITE COLOR: Ruby

I can't believe I'm here to see Ruby Pearl, in the flesh! She's such a doll, and she's only inches from my face. Her voice is brilliant. I've memorized every Ruby Pearl record. I have a stuffed Ruby Pearl plush toy. I have Ruby Pearl bedding. I have one of Ruby Pearl's shoes.

Frankie's Fix is fantastic! My mom doesn't let me drink, and neither does the government, but that's okay with me. I *am* only eleven and a half. I'll have time to get rummy drunk when I'm twelve.

I'm keeping an eye out for any coppers. Last time they saw me this close to Ruby, they arrested me.



HILDA HIGGINS

HOW YOU KNEW THE DEAD FELLOW: Blake Billions was Ruby Pearl's husband. He was also blackmailing me.

I'm sad that Blake Billions is dead, I guess? But I'm relieved Ruby Pearl didn't get murdered. Now that her husband Blake is gone, though, her heart must be broken in two. She needs a new love of her life. She could marry my mom and come live in our house, if she wanted. I wouldn't mind.

Blake was blackmailing me on account of the time I was arrested by the police for "stalking" Ruby. I only wanted to make sure that Ruby was sleeping well at night, every night, from outside her bedroom window.

Walter Belle showed me all his nifty scout merit badges. He's got ones for camping, bugling, plumbing, basketry, murder. I've thought about joining the scouts, but I don't need The Man telling me how to live my life.

I was squirreled away under the bar when I heard Frankie and copper Maxine Powers sealing the deal on their mutual moonshine business. When I grow up, I want to be a mob boss.

WHAT YOU DRINK TO FORGET: Orange juice



HILDA HIGGINS

Tonight has been the bee's knees! I watched Ruby Pearl perform and I got to drink as much orange juice as I wanted.

Last week, Dr. Sarah Riley cured me of a deadly strain of cooties with an advanced immunization termed circle circle dot dot, now you have a cooties shot. Then she gave me a lollipop. It was raspberry, my favorite! Then she told me she's killed 10 patients, 8 accidentally. I've decided I don't want to be a mob boss anymore, I want to be a doctor.

When I grow up, I'm going to be a big cheese. Right now my mom doesn't let me have anything dangerous. She only let me start sharpening my pencils yesterday. My mom does pay for my blackmail though, so that's swell.

When I was sneaking into Frankie's Fix through the kitchen window in the back, I tripped over a pocket knife that still has its tag from the Sears Roebuck Catalogue. I took it so I can impress the eighth graders at school tomorrow.