

TAPE INDEX

March 25, 1981

Collectors: Jim Leary
 Matthew Gallmann
 Informant: Helmer Toyras
 L'Anse, Michigan (Aura)

ETHNIC HERITAGE
 SOUND ARCHIVE & RESOURCE CENTER
 NORTHLAND COLLEGE, ASHLAND, WI

1. Collector's announcement.
2. Helmer's folks from Finland; farmed at Aura.
3. Helmer learned violin in school at L'Anse.
4. Mentions other Finns in the area who played violin; tunes learned from fiddler Fritz Hill, especially.
5. About dances in local Finnish Halls.
6. Helmer born in 1926. Grew up with Finnish music. Played polka music with accordion, violin, and guitar band--"The Highlighters"--in the 1950's.
7. Played at local halls, taverns, weddings. Plenty of Yankovic style music.
8. Before the Highlighters, played in an accordion/fiddle duo.
9. After Highlighters played mostly for himself; attended the Folklife Festival in 1976 where he played Finnish music.
10. Played plenty in the 70's around Bruce Crossing, Michigan with the Haapola brothers: George (fiddle), Ted (4 string banjo), and Albert (guitar). Played while running a tavern in Kenton, Michigan too.
11. Learned Finnish tunes from records and listening to others.
12. Helmer begins to play on the fiddle.
 A Wedding Waltz learned from a Finnish group during the Folklife Festival.
13. Salon Kylan, learned also in D.C. at the festival.
14. Maillman Matti.
15. Kotilan Kulaiset.
16. Unidentified Finnish tune.
17. Helmer sang a little with the Highlighters; often Dean Martin stuff.
18. Orppojan Valssi.
19. Kulkurin Valssi.
20. Helmer does embellishments in the style of piano accordionists influenced by Yankovic.
21. Anttilan Sillala.

22. A Wedding March learned at the Folklife Festival.

(CASSETTE ONE ENDS)

23. Kauhaven Polka and another tune done in a mädley.

24. Life in the Finnish Woods.

25. Lisaa Lolya (More Steam).

26. Holola Polka (from Turpeinen).

27. Has learned Finnish melodies from a songbook, but often plays by ear.

28. Seikki Jarven Polka (Gunny Sack).

29. Helmer's Polka (an old tune that he couldn't recall the title of).

30. Big Foot, composed by Helmer: about UFO'S and monsters.

(REEL ONE ENDS)

31. About BigFoot's composition.

32. Take Me by Helmer, a sentimental number.

33. Helmer has been songwriting for about three years.

34. Another of his compositions, Take a Day Off Today.

(CASSETTE TWO ENDS)

35. Fiddles fragments of Big Foot and Take a Day Off Today.

36. Helmer doesn't like rock music.

37. Kukka Se Sauna Lemitha (Who's Going to Warm the Sauna?)

38. Rattikkoon.

39. Liz Jane; learned at Folklife Festival.

40. Helmer never played for square dances years ago.

41. Fire on the Mountain.

42. Yankovic's Tick Tock Polka: played years ago with the Highlighters.

43. Buffalo Gals, learned in the last 15 years.

44. Country Waltz.

45. Shannon Waltz.

46. Lil Burnt Potato.

47. Listen to the Mocking Bird.

(THE SESSION ENDS)