

TAPE INDEX

Milton Bruni Home Tape
Early March 1985

Milton Bruni
Iron Ridge, WI

[Note: This is a cassette that Mr. Bruni made for the project following Jim Leary's meeting with him the previous week. The sound quality is pretty rough with plenty of machine noise, but the information conveyed is very interesting.]
Numbers 1-5 are performances from ca. 1964 by the Hartford City Band's Polka Band. They were tape recorded by Milton Bruni.

1. Unspecified tune.
2. " " [M. interjects the Walter ?, another Swiss, is playing baritone horn.]
3. Unspecified tune.
4. " " .
5. A pair of big band numbers in quick succession.
6. Milton reckons he'll try to get some Swiss recordings on when his record player is fixed.
7. A Swiss number.
8. Swiss vocal chorus with yodeling in a classical mode.
9. An accordion dance piece--polka.
10. More in the vein of # 8.
11. Accordion and yodelers [M. interjects that his parents knew many of these songs by heart.]
12. A peppy accordion polka.
13. Alp horns? followed by yodeling.
14. A choral number similar in style to #'s 8&10.

[side A ends]

15. M. mentions a German Dance Orchestra Collection published by Vitak-Elsnic in

Chicago [probably the same publication from the mid-1930s that Kenneth Platz used] that was used by the Art Sohre Orchestra. First number is a German march [hereafter M. names many tunes in the V-E publication and included on a list of "sets" that the band used for their public performances; unfortunately I am not sufficiently adept at German to set down some of the German titles M. provides, but I will try to indicate where they occur.] The march is "Schelwig-Holstein," but you could play it "as a wild polka." The Sohre Band usually did it as an encore after "Good Night Ladies."

16. Mentions other German Tunes in the V-E book. [Here, especially, German titles are given, but often I only provide the English translation.] "I Am So Tired," "The Hamburger Waltz," "Harmony Schottische," "Katschke (sp?) Polka," "The Happy Musician," "Schuhplattler Dance," "Finger Dance," "Herr Schmidt," "Lott is Todt," "You're Crazy My Child," "Jaeger March," "Tiroler Waltz," "Greetings From Minneapolis," "Katrina Polka," "Melody Schottische," "Why So Fast?"--a galop, "We Will See Each Other in Our Homeland."

17. Mentions schottisches: "Mountain Bell," "O Sussana," "Holzauction" (a particularly popular number).

18. Mentions the modern "Tiger Rag," along with "Vienna Life," "Tales From the Vienna Woods," "Hofbrau Medley Waltz" [Du, Du; Lauterbach; Herr Schmidt; Ach Du Lieber Augustine], "Blue Danube," "Star Dust," "Dardanella" (a fox trot), "Nobody's Sweetheart Now."

19. Mentions playing "God Bless America," "National Anthem," and some soldier song during WWII.

20. More "modern" numbers: "Dinah," "Margie," "Let a Smile Be Your Umbrella," "I Can't Give You Anything But Love Baby," "Jealous," "Sheik of Araby," "Be Honest With Me," "For Me and My Gal," "Sweet As Apple Cider," "Oh, You Beautiful Doll," "String of Broken Pearls."

21. Later in war years did a "very good . . . Romy Gosz number . . . 'Dakota Waltz'." Mentions also "Saturday Night Waltz," "A Night in May."

22. Mentions presence of many Serbians in the Mayville area where there were iron mines. Reckons there are graves there with Yugoslav printing.

23. More of the band's numbers: "Cottage Under the Mountain," "Clarinet Laendler #'s 1, 2, 11,& 15," "Muskrat Ramble," "Wang Wang Blues," "Angry" (a foxtrot), "I Only Want a Buddy Not a Sweetheart," "Red Wing," "Sweetheart for Strangers," "Shine on Harvest Moon."

24. Back to "polka stuff": "Little Dancer Schottische" [whoops says M., not oa polka], "Spring Time Polka" (with a Czech subtitle), "California Polka," a Czech title that Leary couldn't decipher from M.'s pronunciation, "Adrian Polka" (a RomyGosz number), "Jenny Lind Polka," "Village Tavern Polka" (the tune that's used for "She's Too Fat Polka"), "Helena P.," "Morning Star P.," "Emilia P.," "Laughing P.," "Barbara P.," "Rock & Rye P.," "Bartender P.," "Josephine P.," "Lindenau P.," "In a Green Grove P.," "Prsi, Prsi," "Cherry Picker P.," "La La La P.," "Beer Barrel P.," "Red Beer (Pivo Cerveny?) P.," "Tinker Polka," "Blue Eyes P." ("Modre Oci"), "Pretzels & Beer P.," "Unida P.," "Pennsylvania P.," "Gay Time P.," "On Our Porch P.," "Picnic in the Woods P." (a Romy Gosz number), "Barn Swallow P." (M. played this with the Weiss Harmonizers), "Tummy Ache P.," "Beer Bucket P.," "Evergreen P.," "Mayflower P.," "Forge in the Forest Polka" (M. mentions an "Eastern European" subtitle).

25. Waltzes: "The Band Played On," "Innocents Waltz," "Cuckoo Waltz," "Red Handkerchief Waltz" (Cerveny Satacek), "Blue Eyes Waltz," "Tavern W.," "Homecoming Lonesome W.," "Circling Pigeons W.," "Dove W.," "Beautiful Youth W." (a German one says M.), "Sweet Violets W."

26. M. interjects that his brother did vocals for the Sohre Orchestra and as an excellent singer.

27. Waltzes (cont.): "First Love W.," "Isabella & Mariechen W.," "La Paloma," "Huntsman's W.," "Beautiful Ohio," "Mexicali Rose," "That Naughty Waltz," "Perfect Day," "My Buddy" ("that got played a lot, it was wartime," says M.).

28. M. signs off.

29. M. returns again.

30. About a Swiss cheesemaker near Iron Ridge who was an attendant at M.'s parents' wedding--Emil Jennie. Two Germans, second and third generation, got into a law suit about a dog. Jennie testified in his broken English. Judge asked how long he'd been in the country. "Three mo" Farmers, however, needed an interpreter. Judge got so mad at them he threw the case out of court.

31. M. talks about German-American Bund in Milwaukee during WWII and its activities. Reckons German government in WWI positive that German-Americans wouldn't shoot at German soldiers. "They found out different."

42. The Hartford City Band continues. M. interjects references to Polish, Swiss, and German musicians within the band.

[Tape Ends]