

TAPE SUMMARY INDEX

Collected by: Marina L. Herman

- Leader tape cuts into introduction.
- Mic placement poor for collector.
- RL tells MLH to pull up chair to mic.
- Folk Expression
- Joke
- Elitism
1. MH announces tape and outlines interview.
  2. RL asked about what will happen to MATERIAL. MH explains it will be archived and made available to community.
  3. MH asks about RL's background. Came from near Fargo, North Dakota. Schooled in 1-room school. Identifies with Abraham Lincoln. Went to high school in Fargo, to college in Concordia in Moorhead where he met his wife, Delores.
  4. Discussed his choral work director Christenson, then he went on to Augsberg College where he again participated in choirs. Mentioned his mother thought he was a good singer. He thanks her for that gift of music.
  5. Seminary in Rock Island, Illinois for 4 years then on to Unity, Wisconsin, "spent 7 years there in that German community. We had Trinity Church in Unity, Wisconsin and I said of we only had unity in Trinity."
  6. MLH solicited and discussed his background. His paternal grandparents from Norway - Lilhammer; maternal Hagenum grandparents from Sweden. RL said his grandmother either worked in the palace or was somehow connected to it. She "brought something of a royal atmosphere to our family."
  7. Bishop asked RL if he wanted to move to Calumet, "in the middle of Lake Superior." Came up for interview in 1964, and as pastor in 1965. Here longer than he anticipated.
  8. First pastor of merged congregation: Swedish (Carmel Lutheran)  
Finnish (Bethlehem Lutheran)
- MLH relates merger of her congregation.  
Faith Lutheran originally 3 nationalities - Swedes, Finns and Norwegians.
9. RL discussed former Norwegian Church and mentions a contact, Mollie Ulseth, as their organist. Only 8-9 families remain with that "congregation". RL wishes to have the Norwegian Church merge with his.
  10. MLH asks him (RL) what he found when he came to Calumet in 1965. RL relates difficulty and roles of merging congregations as answer.
  11. MLH asks about Swedish and Finnish music traditions.



Swedish church had a pipe organ tradition; the Finnish, a Hammond electric one.

12. MLH solicited about fate of Swedish pipe organ. RL relates it now belongs to their former pastor, Rev. John Simonson. (A phone call interrupts interview).
13. MLH asked about other hymn singing traditions. Pine Street Apostolic Lutheran Church holds Finnish hymn singing tradition; also in traditions and mores.
14. Other Finnish churches in Calumet-Laurium area; 3 Apostolic, 1 National and Faith Lutheran.
15. RL talks about "lay accent" of Apostolic church; non-ordained ministry, home prayer meetings, Wednesday evening Bible Studies. RL relates the lay accent is part of growing tradition in Finland.
16. MLH asked if music is from old country? RL says Apostolic Church has old country music as well as hymns Faith Lutheran congregation would sing. RL says there is a tempo difference in the churches: Apostolic about 3/4 pace of Faith Lutheran.
17. MLH about harmonies being different. RL says he didn't know. Referred to contacts to answer that question.
18. Discussion about other ethnic churches. RL says "it (ethnicity) revolves around the churches because with nationality and people speaking their own language . . ."  
  
RL relates merger of five Catholic Churches in 1966 on Eastern Sunday into 2. MLH asks what nationalities combined. RL unsure; refers MLH to F. Mischica.  
  
Croatian Folk Mass one Sunday a year with accordions.  
  
German Lutheran Church (Laurium) had Ocktoberfest Celebration, which has gone by the boards.
19. In talking about the German Lutheran Church, RL begins to talk about the Hoovers, the husband and wife team who organized dancing for Bicentennial. (Another phone call interruption).
20. RL talks about the organization of Bicentennial era; ideas from Iowa July 4th celebration and a pastor's conference. Local committee of 40 people - youth and adult leaders. Ethnic groups responsible for their month.
21. Ethnic accents included storefront displays, food fair, and major program. Gave example of French month.
22. Three groups wrote booklets on culture. RL relates



that material from Bicentennial is in Coppertown Library (synopsis of events and organizers for each group).

23. Music in Bicentennial: Irish people imported Irish quartet from Ireland; Smithsonian tours of 16 Swedish fiddlers from Dalarna, Sweden; Smithsonian tours of Finnish fiddlers and kentele players. Tapes available from concerts. Yugoslavians brought in duet from Croatian.
24. Kiwani's Club sponsors DuQuense University Tamburitians in Calumet for past 26 years as an annual fall event.
25. MLH asks about local musicians for Bicentennial. RL mentions Hoover dancers. Started with 8-10 people; played for 8 of 12 occasions. Core group of 8-10. Square dance background, wanted to teach dances to their children. Learned from records. Over 100 different ethnic dances.
26. MLH asks about other local musicians in Bicentennial. RL talks about the Lumberjack play started at Suomi College with students, then moved to Calumet with local people from a Finnish adult class and Apostolic Church. Put on in Calumet Theatre.
27. RL says Calumet Theatre was "exquisite...and was the ethnic cultural center for the tours." Anything big that hit America hit Calumet during the 19?? era, that was stage and music. (e.g., John Phillip Sousa, Jenny Lind).
28. RL switched to band music. Sousa in territory often. Talked about Calumet and Hecla (C&H Band) oldest member died recently which provided entertainment for community celebrations, until World War II (1940).
29. MLH asks if any mining bands exist today. RL says a "successor to it" exists in the Community Band (I learned before that his wife is active in the band). Out of Swedish and Finnish tradition, a German Band came to Calumet for Bicentennial. One of their members (19 year old girl) died here, so Calumet people responded with warmth and sympathy to their family. Consequently, German community invited them over there. Community band developed in 1976 as a result of that request. RL stresses again it is a successor to C&H Band.
30. MLH asks how it is a successor - if old members of C&H are in community band. RL says Mr. Ken Brocco has uniform from old band, played in it as well as John Bennetts as teenage boys.
31. RL says Community Band will play at Calumet July 3rd

Side Two of Tape



and Ahmeek July 4th celebrations, "continuing in that tradition." Members from Houghton, Hancock, Calumet, Keweenaw and Laurium.

Folk Expression

32. MLH about community-wide activities. RL talks about Calumet being a "big shot" that now must learn "to be interdependent rather than independent" like the whole world today. MLH relates similar story about Washburn.
33. MLH asks about other types of music. RL says accordion music desired and polkas, too. MLH asks some questions again. RL talks about teens and rock 'n roll; states there hasn't been an effort to preserve music of the past. Mentions Barney Ruhl and his orchestra coming to play dance music occasionally. Ruhl is a native son. RL refers MLH to Frances Mischica to find out more. RL says FM is like Eva Koopikka for his church.
34. RL talks about future. Mentions ecumenical church traditions, in intermingling ethnic traditions. Talks about ecumenical church and prayer services. Feels future will bring "increased taste for each other" (and their music).
35. MLH about other people like EL who sing other types of music than public music, older music and hymns. RL says he's "sure there are, but to name them..."
36. Lake Linden is stronghold of French community.
37. RL refers MLH to Coppertown's Library to put MLH on trails of that type of music. RL suggested chairpersons of Bicentennial groups would know who in their groups to contact. (Another phone call).

Patronization

38. MLH asks about ethnic groups left out of Bicentennial festivals. RL says to his knowledge, no; even included Native America to the south of Calumet (Baraga community).
39. MLH asks what are 2 or 3 largest ethnic populations? Finns are 52% ('70 census). RL hesitates on 2nd largest; thought first Scandinavian then changed to Slovak based on congregation size; then Scandinavians.
40. MLH asks who/what are leading forces behind ethnic activities? RL replies roots and ethnic pride. RL relates story of melting pot as a description of America. Professor preferred fruitcake as the term: different fruit holding their own flavors, common batter and "a lot of nuts".
41. MLH asks who organizes ethnic activities? RL says Chamber of Commerce and churches sponsor ethnic events, that the ethnic flavor is maintained; mentioned grants

given to Suomi College, too. (Senior American Center).

42. MLH said it seemed the church had a strong role in bi-centennial. RL relates that in the church you continued the language, sang the old hymns. RL relates story of young couple naming their child "Mote". Finish for Matthew and how older members of community love it.
43. MLH asks if RL has any questions of MLH. RL responds no. Says he likes/appreciates what we're doing. "Part of the rich history that's up here that just has not begun to be mined yet...Most rich export is not the copper but the people." Otherwise, "we'll go by the boards like the American Indians."
44. MLH says she'll keep him posted about progress. RL mentions Hoover dancers again as contact for community people.
45. RL thanks MLH for interview.