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Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

(219) 239-6346

15 Nov. 1985

Dear Jim + Janet,

Here, at long last, is the tape of my mother, Violet Lohrey Allen, singing her songs. There are four songs on the tape - 'The Lakes of Pontchartrain' ('Swamps and Alligators'); one in German about a hunter (ein Jaeger) meeting a girl in the woods; another in German about Napoleon; and finally a version of 'The Butcher Boy'. She provides her own free translation of the two German songs, and before the last song there is some talk - family anecdotes and a recitation of a German rhyme that goes with a game of sorts one plays with small children ('Layla, Layla, Litka').

- I'm very curious to know whether the German songs have been collected from anybody else, or are otherwise →

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identifiable, — or whether these are new to the people who have been working on the collection. Either way, they are I think interesting, but I wonder which way they would be more interesting to me. — My mother learned them from her father, who was born in the 1860's. (She was the last of 12 children). The family had a farm near Rio Creek, a few miles outside of Algoma. We made this recording in 1982 or 1983.

Kate and I enjoyed your visit with us immensely. Please think about staying with us again when ever (1) you need to travel to Ky or other exotic places to the southeast (2) you feel like it. — We continue to chug along. Kate is busy with her classes, and is now also thinking about next semester's work, in addition to present duties.

Best regards —

Richard