

TAPE LOG

October 7, 1980

Collector: Jim Leary
 Informant: Jerry and Irene Novak
 Moquah, Wisconsin

Note: The numbers in this log indicate serially the 40 or so songs recorded by Jerry Novak. Accompanying an occasional song ~~reference~~ will a parenthetical reference like the following: (CAZ, #26). This reference indicates that the song ~~appears~~, designated by the number given, in the songbook Cesko-Americky! Zpěvnik (see my description of this volume in my fieldnotes).

1. Slovan Jsem (I am a Slav) (CAZ #19?) Plays the tune.

2. Ku Praze (The Road to Prague) Plays the tune.

JN reckons the two previous songs probably ~~dance~~ songs.

JN talks about coming to U.S. at age seven, in 1902.

Singing in the home and among Bohemians in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and among the Slovaks in Moquah

JN reckons these songs "mostly a hundred years old."

3. Andulko Safarova (Annie the Farmer's Daughter) Plays the tune.
 Here and in other cases, JN's hand is hard to read and I may have misspelled the title.

Annie, the farmer's daughter, you haven't got your geese at home . . .
 JN gives a translation.

JN discusses a song to be sung later about a soldier wearing a white coat.

4. Safarova Koní (Kone) (esp?) (The Farmer's Horses) Plays the tune.

The farmer's horses, they drink pure water,
 Be careful my boyfriend, so they don't kill you.

"You can say that almost all these songs are country songs, the peasants are singing them." The previous song seems to be about a poor young farmer in love with a rich farmer's daughter.

5. Nestastny Safaruu Domeceau (The Farmer's Unhappy Home) Plays tune.

A farm boy passes his girlfriend's gate. She doesn't recognize him and doesn't open the gate. Later she asks forgiveness.

6. Loucení, Loucení (CAZ, # 219) (Parting) Plays tune.

On a young man's difficulty in parting from his sweetheart.

Vy Hvezdicky

7. ~~Malé hvězdy~~ (You Little Stars) Plays tune.

You are so little when I gaze at you/
 You shine on me when I go home at night from my sweetheart.

Talks about playing harmonica with his father, how he can't read notes.
 On his brief education.

8. Koline (Kolin/a city)

Plays tune.

Kolin, you are on a beautiful level plane . . .
 It's a song from a war.

JN heard most of these at first on the accordion. He heard many of these around here (Moquah).

Talks about house parties with dancing in his living room.
 Dances: mostly polkas and waltzes.

9. Už Jedou Vojaci (Returning Soldier)

Plays tune.

On the song's lyric structure, lack of plot,
 many floating verses.

Here comes the soldiers back to Bohemia,
 For each one a father or mother is waiting . . .
 But I am already dead, the flowers are growing
 over my grave.

10. The ~~next~~ song goes on to describe how the soldiers were buried in a big pit and had lime poured on them, and this is what the emperor gives as a reward.Jestejsem NeMrosty (I am not yet Grown Up)

Plays tune.

A child is being rocked in the cradle and already is being told how he will be a soldier, wearing a white coat in the emperor's army.

Sings in Bohemian.

11. Kdaž Jsem Sel ~~V~~ Praze (The Market Place at Prague)

Given as Kdyz jsem sel po Praze in CAZ, p.244.

Plays tune.

At the market place in Prague I met a black gypsy woman,
 And I asked her, "Tell me, black gypsy woman, which girl
 is true."

They used to dance to that quite a bit.

12. Sil Jsem Proso (I Planted Millet) (CAZ, #115).

Plays tune.

I planted millet on my land, but I'm not going to harvest it.
 I love a beautiful girl, but I'm not going to have her.
 To sow and not to reap, to love and not to take. . .
 Then he said he took a walk in the park on a beautiful day,
 And then he saw her in the arms of another man.

Jerry sings the first
 verse in Bohemian, but
 in a version differing
 from the one in the book.

13. Trencin Trnava (She Baked Bread)

Plays tune.

"A humorous one."

A housewife takes all week to bake bread, but when it's finished: On the bottom of the loaf the water ran out, on the top of the loaf a mouse ran out.

It goes on "through seven verses." "Trencin" is a city in Slovakia.

Note: Jerry's Bohemian titles don't always match up

Sings in Bohemian.

with his English ones. The title here actually means Trencin river in Bohemian, but Jerry gives an English title referring to the song's plot.

14. Jetelicku Jeteli (Clover Blossom) (CAZ, # 201).
JN skipped this on his list.

Sung in Bohemian
after number 15.

15. Ja Jsem Malý Myslivec̄ek (I'm a Little Gamekeeper)

Plays tune.

They took care of the woods and the game and whatnot:

I'm a little gamekeeper, I can barely carry my gun.
I put it over my shoulder and I go to the woods.
I came there one morning, the dew was still on,
And I sat under the tree and I listened to the blackbirds . . .
(And then it turns to love, says Jerry).

We used to dance to that too.

On the peasant and anti-military themes of many of the songs. JN talks about his father and grandfather and their lives as peasants.

Returns to number 14. It's a wedding song . . .
My little clover, clover, I will take a walk with you
to the courthouse.

THE FIRST TARE OF THE SESSION RUNS OUT

14. Jetelicku Jeteli

Plays tune.

(number 16 has no song with it on JN's list)

17. Pod tim Nasim Okeneckem (Beneath our Window)
This may be #123 in CAZ.

Plays tune.

Apparently JN learned this from his father; it involves a ~~soldier~~ peasant who was tricked into enlisting into the Army for 12 years by soldiers at a tavern. He laments that he will be parting from his sweetheart. JN tells a story of first hearing this song.

Can't recall words.

18. Karolina (a woman's name)

JN skipped this one.

19. Boleraz (A Green Juniper Tree)
"A Slovak Song."

Plays tune.

Come my boyfriend and stay at our place . . .
"a love song."

20. Vy Oci Černe (Your Black Eyes) Plays tune.
 "Your black eyes, how false they are."
 JN digs out his songbook. "There are very few of the songs there that are in that that I know . . ."
 21. JN skips Adamku Nas (Our Adam) (CAZ, # 170).

22. Vy Rezmici (You Butchers) Plays tune.
 You butchers, what is your custom?
 When you buy something, you call out
 "How much for that ox?"
 The words are immaterial because it's a dance; they waltz around and then they clap their hands.
 Kanonry

23. ~~Kanony~~ (The Cannoneers/The Guard) Plays tune.
 (Here I focus both microphones on JN)
 This is an army song about the emperor's guard, a picked group of men.
 They complain the first day I'm on guard,
 the next day I picket, the third day I'm laboring.
 And when I come home and the corporal brings the news,
 I got to exercise.
 Sometimes I don't even have a straw to lie on,
 And when I go to bed I put my pack under my head.

24. Dudáček (The Bagpiper) (CAZ # 255??) Plays tune.
 Is it true or not that a bagpiper is floating down the stream, dead?
 A blue eyed girl said, who will play for us now?
 There's another who will take his place.
 JN discusses bagpipers in the old country.
 Reveals his youth in a town, his father's comments on old village dances and the "aping" of Viennese dances in the town.

25. ZaKukala (The Cuckoo Called) Plays tune.
 This is about a woman who was betrayed:
 A cuckoo called in the woods,
 And my girlfriend cried in her room.
 We discuss Harriet Pawlowska's Merrily We Sing.
 JN talks about the Polish people.
 On the difficulty of making English translations.

26. Padá Rosieka (The Dew Falls) Sings in Bohemian.
 "A children's song," a lullaby.
 Plays tune.
 Talks about his sisters' singing.

27. *Straka Skála* (The Magpie) Plays tune.
 Magpie, skipping around the garden,
 Looking for a grain.
 Maiden, do not do that to my heart.
 Sings in Bohemian.

JN was intrigued by the metaphoric shift:
 "See how they cross over, right that quick."

28. *Milovala Jsem* (I Loved only Once in my Life) Plays tune.
 A woman complains that her boyfriend broke
 her heart.
 Sings in Bohemian.

29. *Prilekla Vrama* (A Crow lit on a Bush) Plays tune.
 Three crows land, one by one, on a bush and
 sing a song for a lad.
 Sings in Bohemian.

30. *Ach Není* (There is Nothing Here) Plays tune.
 (CAZ, # 169?)
 There is nothing here that gives me any joy.
 What gave me joy is down with the water by
 the stream . . .
 Always trying to give me what I do not want,
 They're trying to give me an old woman (i.e. "rich")
 (next, apparently, a woman would sing)
 They're trying to give me to a widower with half a heart,
 One half is with his wife in the ground, the other
 half he can give to me.

Apparently this is a humorous songs of complaint
 in which young people complain about fixed marriages.
 I'm not positive, but I think this wedding
 related song differs from number 30; Jerry entered into
 it without warning and it doesn't appear to be on his
 list.

END OF TAPE TWO, BEGIN TAPE THREE

31. *Listecku Dubbiny* (Little Oak Leaf) Plays Tune.
 Verse not translated
 Sings in Bohemian.

Hradcanke Hodiny (The Clock in Hodiny) Plays tune.
 Sings in Bohemian.

32. *Hodiny?* The chimes say that we should say goodbye,
 But I'm not afraid, when the hour comes,
 We can get married.
 (And the girl says)
 Get married with God's blessing,
 Get a girl who's equal to you.
 You will take the one who's equal to you,
 But a poor girl like me you will forget.

JN talks about house parties, with Phil Johanik playing, at his house
 from the 20's til the early 40's. Plenty singing and dancing.
 On Tom Johanik's band. On Matt Radosevich's Croatian connections.
 On possible Polish contacts in Ashland; JN mentions Joe Lupa who
 was raised on the east side of Ashland.

33. Uz Je Mala Cvilka ~~One~~ (It's a Short Time 'Til Morning) Plays tune.

Walk out with me my dear (a man is about to go in the Army)
 I would like to go with you if my mother would let me
 have what my heart desires. Sings in
 (The man will ask the woman's parents if he can marry her; Bohemian.
 if not, he will join the army.)

34. Boleslav^e Plays tune.

About a city in Bohemia where men signed up for the army.
 Do Not cry, Boleslav^e is a beautiful city, Sings in Bohemian.
 Do Not cry for me, my dear.
 (Then she says)
 How can I not cry for you when I see them
 Put the uniforms on you.

35. Zahucely Hory (The Mountain Echoed) (CAZ, # 285) Plays tune.

The ~~woods~~ resounded and the mountains did,
 Where are my youthful days?
 Just like a stone you throw in the water:
 A stone ~~will~~ turn in the water, but my youth
 will never come back.

JN sings only the first two verses given in the book.

36. My ~~same~~ Sedlaci (We are Peasants) Plays tune.

We are peasants in our village like dogs.
 If ?, the village would be full of dogs.

37. Vypuceli Listecki (Little Budding Leaves) Plays tune.

Little leaves budding on the beech tree,
 On your limb a pair of turtledoves are singing.

38. Louka Zelena (On the Green Meadow) Plays tune.

He who ~~wants~~ a girl must go after her when
 the moon is shining.
 The meadow is green and not cut, and the flowers
 are growing on it.
 (Repeat first verse)

39. Modre Ocin (Blue Eyes) Plays tune.

Blue eyes, why do you cry when you cannot be mine?
 You cannot be, you must not be, and vainly you will
 cry for me.
 My mother was very poor and she suffered much for me.
 My father was also very poor and he loved blue eyes.

40. Pod Tou Na ~~Si~~ Lipou (Under our Linden Tree) Plays tune.

Under our linden tree, on a little bench,
 My sweetheart and I used to sit.
 The birds were singing and the leaves were shivering
 When I kissed her on her cheeks.

41. Neni Lepsi Jako Zjara  Plays tune
 Nothing nicer than in the spring. Sings in Bohemian.
 The grass is always green,
 the grove is also in bloom,
 the lad is leading around his girlfriend.
 The girl is crying because she has to go to the convent.
 I don't like the convent because there are no boyfriends
 there
 And I like to dance and I like the boys.

Mentions that his mother sang too.

42. Čárvana Ruzicko (My Red Rosebud) (CAZ, # 104). Plays tune.
 Little rosebud, why don't you blossom out. Sings in Bohemian.
 Because you, my boyfriend, do not come to our place.
 If I would come to your place, you would cry more,
 And you would be rubbing your eyes with that little
 red handkerchief.

43. Leti, Leti Ptak! (A Bird Flies Over the Grove) Plays tune.
 A bird flies over the grove, calling to my sweetheart.
 Johnhy's calling his sweetheart to come out.
 She didn't come out she sent a messenger to tell him
 that she is too busy.

This is in CAZ, #217.

THE END OF JN'S SINGING

We talk about how he remembers songs.

On the Moquah Dancers (Here I will begining numbering topics anew).

1. How the group got started, their relationship with the Dept. of Rural Sociology in Madison, their early dances, their first program, Jerry's role as the Director or organizer.
 Appearances in Ashland.
2. Costumes mostly Slovak. (Here Irene Novak joins the conversation.) Some of the costumes (Maliska and Joe Johanik) were original, some were made here based on earlier patterns, beautiful embroidery. Irene talks about making costumes. We look at the pictures of dancers in the history of Moquah.
3. Irene (nee Lunda) was born in Moravia. Her family came to Oklahoma to coal mine. Discussion of her family. They come to Moquah after reading an ad in a Bohemian paper.
4. On the source of the group's dances. "The old people taught the young ones." Discussion of the csardoz and how it is danced.
5. Jerry and Irene mention those who remain of the original dance group and how they ought to revive their performances. Tom and Elmer Johanik are mentioned prominently.
6. On the old people's dances: the waltz, the polka, and special dances. Discussion of the Butcher's dance and Annie in the Cabbage patch.

7. On Phil Johankk's accordion playing, his smooth style.
8. Irene says European music is either religious, military, or naughty.
9. On weddings. Different customs because people came from different villages. Irene recalls some specific events. On stripping parties, and the songs and stories told then.
10. Jerry talks about his job at 14 in the packing house in Cedar Rapids.

END OF TAPE FOUR

11. The dance group didn't emerge from a Sokol. Each ~~genuine~~ person contributed what they knew.
12. Irene tells a story about her mother and another woman arguing about whose costumes were prettiest. Every fox praises its own tail.
13. On the cessation of the original Moquah dances. On the Dramatic Club and Tom Johnanik's involvement. On the 4-H club's dances.
14. Discussion of handkerchief dance, Annie in the Cabbage Patch, and the Shepherd's dance.
15. Discussion of food at holiday times. Moquah Pioneer Days.
16. Discussion of local haystacks.

THE INTERVIEW ENDS