

Informant: John Kezele  
Collector: Joel Glickman  
Others present: Marina Herman, Barbara Kezele (John's wife)  
location: Informant's home, 50 Senter St., Ahmeek, MI  
date: June 21, 1979, time: 6:50-9:45 P.M.

Marina and I were tired but slap-happy this evening on the way to this interview from McLain State Park camp grounds. We had toured the Arcadia Copper Mine, worked on notes and tape summaries, and prepared a dinner in cold windy weather that day.

House fairly large old two story. Bleek exterior but warm and homy inside.

Interview was an absolute high for us. John is a gentle, bright, quiet, personable man. Tall, age 60-65. Fine musician, piano accordion. Incredible repertoire. Articulate with Croatian and Slovenian lang. Songs of both cultures. Gave us good accurate translations of titles and paraphrases of lyrics. Taped almost the entire interview. Tape+summary will be more detailed than these notes, re. songs, conversation.

J. seemed prepared to be interviewed and to play. He seemed to enjoy it all and loves to make music.

J. and B. married late in life, 42 for him, and have two sons 18 and 16 of whom they are very proud and with whom they are very close. B. was with us throughout and is personable, pleasant, quiet but not shy. Seemed to enjoy John's music and proud of his ability. His accordion, Bonvicini, Denver, Colo. is a beautiful, fine, big sounding instrument. See tape and summ. for story of its purchase.

After taping, told us oldest son was visiting in Detroit, first time away from home. Son called while we were there. He said he was lonesome for them and home. J. spoke to us of the closeness of the family and family's closeness to church. Sons still alter boys at Ahmeek Catholic Church "Sacred Heart", active in Church. With an appology for "bragging" how they were active, helpful and key in the church community. c. (often) "first to be called when anything is needed."

There are photos on the walls of his wife at c. 35-40, himself in uniform, corporal stripes, their younger son in hockey uniform-studio photo, with superimposed action photo with hockey stick. Smaller chained- framed family photos: Photo of elder son in shirt and tie. Religious art in music room-parlor (off living room)

John had on slacks, white, short sl. shirt, tie which he hung over chair before playing.

Said he did a lot of interviewing in his work, traveling for Sate of MI employment security office. This might account partly for his superlative and patient response to our interview situation, especially with providing spellings for Foreign lang. titles.

Mrs. K. wore slacks, blouse, has short well kept grayish hair. His hair, short, white.

J. signed releases with no reluctance.

I feel J. is finest possible source of Croatian and Slovenian dance trad. current in U.S.

Interview ended on a very pos. note. B. said she looked forward to our next visit.

