

11/4/80 ges/jl 1 sides 1&2

Verner and Naima Sandstrom
(Order of Runeberg)
in their home
614 17th Ave. W.
Ashland, WI 54806
715-682-2569
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Interviewed by:
Jim Leary
Greta Swenson
Northland College
Ashland, WI 54891

Supplementary field notes,
Greta E. Swenson

The Sandstroms were very open and welcoming without knowing what we were all about. Their initial conversation about the Finland Swedes tended to follow "official" lines (dates and names) rather than cultural. They were both active as officers in the Order and were able to travel throughout the United States to attend conventions and meetings of the Order, an activity which stands out in their memories. Within their home are visible several overt signs of ethnicity which also reflect their lifelong communication and back-and-forth contact with Finland. Notable is a flag stand holding the Swedish, Finnish, and U.S. flags; also a painting of the church in Finland where Mr. Sandstrom was confirmed. They subscribe to both a Finnish language and a Swedish language newspaper.

Though their activity in the Order included participation in the dances, they do not seem to be involved much in the music heritage of the group. More animated were the conversations about Christmas foods (lutfisk, etc.) and Mr. Sandstrom's carpentry activities. Both were interested in discussing their hobbies: Mr.'s carpentry and Mrs.'s gardening, canning, crocheting, and knitting. When the conversation turned to these topics, in fact, Mrs. Sandstrom initiated a tour of the house, including a showing of the family photos displayed in the dining room.

Following the end of the side 2 of the tape, Mr. Sandstrom put on a record of dance tunes recorded by a lodge in Seattle, and Mrs. Sandstrom prepared coffee. Discussion over coffee concerned topics of general interest, including the election (interviews took place on election day), and Mrs. Sandstrom's canning and baking activities.