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Everett "Butch" Waupoose
Menomonie Reservation, WI
May 13, 1989

Recorded by J.P. Leary
(with Michael Loukinen)
Nagra IV-S

1. Announcement. Site of Gilbert Brunette and June Kitson wedding.
2. Butch, b. Menomonie Res, 1938, Town of Keshena.
3. Nine boys, dad started playing violin and kids took it up. All played by ear. Dad would come home from work, play tunes in the bedroom. Kids would make banjos from old mailboxes and fiddles from square boxes. Would sit by dad and listen to him play. Dad--Alex. Uncle Joe bought the boys a banjo and a guitar. Had to learn the chords. Went to Indian schools in the Dakotas. Local dances for 25 cents on Friday nights out there, dad would play for a big crowd.
[Alex learned music from father and grandfather. Grandfather worked in lumber camps. Lots of French Canadians there. Ditto for Waupoose music. Alex had six brothers and they all played. Great-grandfather, "he only had one name, and he had eight brothers. They came from that Michigan country up there, and they brought a lot of that down with them. So it finally come down to us, this generation, the fourth generation." Butch will play tunes handed down by his dad locally, but people in southern part of the reservation (Butch lives in the northeast part) can't second or chord for "my dad's tunes."
[this is all one quote, very eloquent]
4. B doesn't know the name of tunes he plays. He and his brothers will play a little snatch of a tune to remind one another.
5. Great-grandfather named Wanawat (sp?). Had just the one name. Had B's grandfather and his five brothers. Wanawat was hard of hearing, given the wrong name in Michigan at a reservation where the Menomonie, Potawatomi, and Ojibwa were all together. Wanawat played in the lumber camps.
6. Grandfather was Dave Waupoose, also a fiddler. Would leave reservation in the winter to work as a chopper in the lumber camps. Would come home with his money in the spring and would play tunes learned in the camps. Alex, B's dad, youngest of Dave's boys.
7. Dave went to church on Sunday, generally a social took place afterwards. Dave played for Saturday night square dances. Priest asked Dave to bring his violin, preached about empty church and full dance hall. Smashed Dave's violin. "In this box is where the devil lives. So he took that violin and smashed it all to smithereens." [a great story] Alex would never touch the violin during Lent. B heard this story from his father and from his oldest brother, Gordon, b. 1925.
8. Alex Waupoose, b. 1903, started to fiddle in his teens. Had older brothers who could play. Had 18 children, 9 boys and 9 girls. Kids all played and sang. Had a little party by themselves. Alex fiddled around the reservation and would also go outside the area. Would play for Germans and other ethnics, square dances, sometimes for threshing, for blessing of the crops at Corpus Christi, for 4th of July, for County Fair. [another fine quote] Apart from kids, other locals who seconded for Alex.

9. Good jiggers. Other musicians to spell one another. [great story coming up] Bald headed Indian fiddler chewed by mosquitos, prolonged by lengthy square dance caller. [Some Menomonie talk here] Used to have six sets in the local dance hall. A put porcupine quills to carry the sound in his violin, put a deer bone on the neck. Went to Shawano and found from a music teacher that his adapted five dollar violin sounded better than a \$1500 violin. "Indian medicine in there."
10. A played tunes that he didn't know the name of: Quadrilles, schottisches, hoe down tunes, polkas.
11. B 27/32 Menomonie, the rest is French. Grandfather married a Frechette. B reckons some local people jig or clog. Some ladies "that can really step around."
12. B has played for square dances, weddings. Is a natural lefthander, ditto for brother Ervin. Has had to learn right-handed. Reiterates that he plays mostly with his brothers because other players don't know the changes.
13. B never told that his music was not Indian music, but it has been ten years since he has played for a square dance. Used to play at a nearby converted blacksmith shop that has since burned down. Younger generation not so interested in the old tunes. Brothers have taped their father alone, and with the boys. Alex died in 1972. Indian belief is that someday the old man will take his tunes with them. A little girl erased a bunch of their dad's tunes by accident. Wanted to bury the violin with their dad, but didn't. When mother leaves, though, "the violin leaves too."
14. When Alex and his kids played around the reservation, posters put up: "Alex Waupoose and his bunnies." B doesn't think he has one around
15. B has marked timber on the reservation, forester/cruiser, for over twenty years for the tribal sawmill. Dad did the same.
16. Mia Leary asks B is he can use some of the interview on Down Home Dairyland.
17. Oldest of B's brother called Oscar, after some wrestler. Leroy called Woodchuck. Butch (Everett) called Bushman, cut short to Butch. Two younger brothers are Chopper and Blacksmith. "Those names stuck with us."
18. B has a ball cap beaded by his mother one Christmas. A white man tried to buy the cap from him for \$50. "No, it's made by my mother." Mother 80 now. Never played music, but could dance. "Hangs in there yet." Would make 20 loaves of bread in a week, did all the washing, always had a big garden. Father had a farm, then went into forestry and worked as a logging superintendant.
19. B not a square dance caller. Brother-in-law calls [he died shortly after this interview]. That went back on his side from his father and grandfather. "We can call some tongue twisters." Dancing hasn't been happening for ten years. Has run into some local calls. "'hoop her up and hoop her down, get in the middle and jump all around." Gives a slightly off color call. [a good quote] One local caller would change keys right with fiddle. Another would

sing calls in Menomonie. B only heard this once (caller now deceased).

20. Leary talks about Joe Cloud's squaw dance tune. B remembers tunes the old man made up. "Lot of them they sound Indian, but some sound French Canadian. We can do some of them yet."

21. Leary asks about "Devil Shake the Half Breed."

[The tape runs out before Butch can respond]