

79-025-F
ATL 58-60

Informants: Sara Smilianavich
Mary Nelson
Flora Ohrlich

8/22/79 - Tape Index

Fieldworkers: Richard March
Matthew Gallmann

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1. Talk of ethnicity in general
2. S.S. talks of return trips to the Old Country in '71 and '75
S.S. mentions her husband's parents are from Kostanitsa - close to Zagreb
3. Touching story of reunited sisters in Yugo. after 60 years & family meetings between Yugo./Americans & Yugos.
4. S.S. tells how her dialect was "better" (closer to classic) than their Yugoslav relatives' dialect because when her folks left Yugo. they picked up the dialect from Botchka when they left Likka.
S.S. "We were relatives to the whole village."
"Cum" - godfather
5. Story of "cum" - one man cum to M.N. and to Soga, S.S.'s niece, he was in America but then went back to Yugoslavia
Cum - just like blood relatives
S.S.'s cum, Nicola, lives in Minnesota. Well known to many on the Range. He had 7 sons and 1 daughter. None of them married a Serbian and he felt real bad. "Pa, how he gonna marry a Serbian when you're cum to all of them?"
6. Yugos. surprised at - great linguistic ability) of S.S. and M.N.
culinary folklore)
thought U.S. women were lazy
7. Explain how excited visitor from Yugo. was in American kitchen
8. Description of home in Yugoslavia
 - talk of improvements in Yugoslavia
 - anecdote of bathroom in Yugo.
 - story of dialogue between cousin in Boegrad about closetsF.O. interjects story of her relatives in Italy as she often does.
9. R.M. asks about music interaction between Old & New Country relatives
 - Old Country people surprised that Amer./Serb. maintained traditions
 - bought costumes in '71
 - S.S. and M.N. started playing Tamburas in '73
10. Sang all their lives - remember "musically inclined" young people that played accordions, concertinas, guitars, few tamburas
 - a few of the old timers got the dancing, singing, jokes going
 - test-your-strength using chairs
claw bar - crossed hand have to flip it over
 - M.N. mentions poem books of war heroes, after supper congregate w/boarders, her dad would chant the poems
 - some boarders played music
 - books written in Cryllic - explanations of some of the stories
 - most of the stories sadS.S. felt that boarders were homesick

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- 11. Boarders played Gusles - Spirilas
 - Marko Guyic from Ploca Lika - wanted to make gusle out of Mazolla can - gallon oblong can - delivery groceries - sleigh and horse or wagon and horse
 - "At that time they had delivery boys that brought the groceries to the house. One day they came and took your order and the next day they delivered them, and they delivered them in the summertime by horse and wagon, in the winter time by sleigh and horse.
So, the boarders would get together and say, 'Now when the delivery boy comes, a, keep him occupied a little bit longer.' So, she'd serve him coffee or if the boarders were there, wine or Scllivavite (strong alcohol) or something and talk w/him while one of the boarders would go outside to cut some hair from the horses' tail so they could make the gusles, use this for the strings.
Well, they said that poor delivery boy walked out of our house, he had too much Sclivavites, he didn't realize it was [a stub]. He didn't realize until he got back to the store the poor horse was practically minus the whole tail."
- 12. Gusle - used can for sound box w/whole in it, wood neck w/carved top to get strings on it, attached to tin. Used horse hair for strings - could play it well
Diple -
 - Joe Smilianavich enters room
 - sing a lot of songs w/gusle by memory
- 13. Spirala - use willow while it was green, hollow it out and let it age.
"Laza Lunich was the one. When he'd get a few too many, he lived up on the hill, way, the to , the highest point you know. And he'd sit out on his porch and he'd be playing his, and we'd say well Laza had a few too many today, he play."
 - always played on Christmas or any holiday
 - singing to accompany dancing kolo
 - talk of leader for kolo
- 14. Story of village singing songs when they left Yugo.
- 15. Celebration of Serbian Christmas - "Slava on 19th (of December)
- 16. Description of Christmas celebration
 - parents good Christians
 - Orthodox church and priest in Duluth
 - mention of Polish people in area "they were good on those concertinas"
 Black Fast - nothing that came from an animal
 - Christmas Eve and Lent
 R.M. reemphasies how interesting it is that they conducted religious ceremonies without church guidance
- 17. M.G. asks about B.A.'s. No profitable information

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18. R.M. asks about special occasions
Weddings - celebrate for a week
- priest from Duluth - marry them in home, use crowns
Brief description of weddings
19. Culinary lore of weddings and other holidays.
Folks had garden, cows, chickens
made wine w/grapes from Calif.
" sau.

Tape III A.T.L.

20. R.M. asks about other U.S. relatives
- relatives on the Range - it was an all day trip to Chisholm
- after S.S. generation graduated they began going to cities
Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis
- S.S. mentions going to Milwaukee and seeing Pete Markovich and
"The Balkan Strings"
21. R.M. asks about records
- S.S mentions they had a lot of 78's - "sound scratchy"
- many Yugo. records
22. R.M. asks about Danguba - Tambura was new to the area
23. Recorder picks up conversation as we all look at records
24. J.S. asks us if we want a drink

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