

Informants: Tom Rondeau
 Cecilia (Rondeau) Metusic
 Hermine (Rondeau) Paquin

Collectors: Robert Savignac & Matthew Gallmann

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After meeting T.R. early in December, 1978 R.S. and I knew that there was a song tradition within the Rondeau family. We also knew that these people were warm and friendly and wanted to be of friends!

The day we made this tape of T.R., C.M., and H.P. we were invited to dinner with them at H.P.'s place in Centuria. We met C.M., T.R. and T.R.'s wife Ruth Rondeau, who isn't a member of the singing tradition, in Cable. T.R. drove us down to Centuria.

This was the first time we met H.P. who never-the-less greeted us with hugs and kisses. She was very pleased to speak French with R.S.

We got down to some recording early on in the interview and then had dinner. After dinner we recorded some more songs, but everyone was rather lathargic. T.R. and Ruth Rondeau brought dinner down. R.S. made touvtievve (meat pie) and brought that as well. All this good food (and some of H.P.'s homemade wine) caused us to be relaxed and content.

The only details I remember are those that were written down that day...

The Rondeau family had sixteen children, 6 girls, 6 boys and 4 died in infancy. The children spoke French until they went to school. They never learned to read or write French but they speak well.

C.M. remembers her father or grandfather sitting in the rocking chair - singing sad songs to the children. She has memories of tears coming down the singer's face.

C.M. learned many English songs from H.P. after H.P. went to school and learned English. C.M. said that she's probably also learned many songs from her sub-conscience.