

July 19, 1979 (Thursday)

Informant: John Kazele  
50 Senter Street  
Ahmeek, Michigan

Collectors: Marina Herman  
Joel Glickman

JG and I left Hancock around 6:15. We drove on U.S. 41 north to Ahmeek, then took a left on to Senter Street. The Kazele's house is 5 or 6 blocks down on Senter Street, the second house from the end on the left side of the road. (We were both looking forward to the interview as we felt JK was a good contact and easy to interview).

We drove into the driveway to unload the car. (JK told us to do this at our last meeting, June 21, 1979. As we were unloading the car, both JK and his wife BK came outside to greet us. MLH admired their woodpile, so JK took us over to it to show us his wood-boring auger attached to his truck. (Both JK and BK were pleased with it).

JK setting up chairs for JG and himself.

JK offered to help us carry in the equipment, we thanked him but managed alone. We all came inside and JG and MLH began to set up the equipment. JG gave BK copies of the music we had taped last time. While we were setting up, there was just idle chatter. (Believe JK knew importance of recording all music-related conversation). A few minutes after we turned the tape on; JK picked up his accordion. He played a Croatian polka, "Three to the Left and Three to the Right." He tapped his foot continuously and watched the keyboard as he played. As soon as it was over, JK asked that it be played back. JK said it was fine and stared at at the recorder as he listened. The bird chirped during the playback.

(Tape On)

(Tape Off)

We talked a bit more, then JK sang another Croatian song. JK's foot tapped to the beat, again watching his right hand. JK said he knew some words to the song - MLH asked him to sing them, so JG held the mic for JK. JK smiles. After the song, JK explains what the song means. MLH and JG ask about other types of music. JK spoke of other accordion players and then where he played. While speaking of the wedding dances, JK gestured with his arms a great deal. (He seemed more relaxed this interview). JK spoke for 5 or 6 minutes, then began to play more songs. Throughout this portion of the interview, JK could sing into mic. Between numbers, JG would ask questions about the context and aesthetic of the music.

Early on in the interview, JK's son Joey (JPK) walked into the room. JK encouraged JPK to play along with him. (JK beamed with pride). JPK was shy and hesitant, but began to set up. BK helped. During the first song played, JK and JPK stared. (JPK seemed nervous; JK concentrating). (The guitar was not in tune but JK didn't seem to mind). During the second piece, JK encouraged JPK to stand with his eyes. JPK nods. During the performance, JK stared at keyboard.

Some of JK's music from gub. houses in Cleveland + → from Rudy Lonkovich in Bradley Michigan.

"I Think of you"  
or  
"Na Ti Mislim"

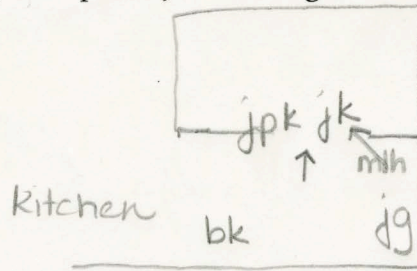
Speaks of playing medleys, playing in taverns.  
"Broom Dance" as an ice-breaker.

"I am an orphan" or "Ja Som Sirota"  
Followed by Finnish "The Orphan Waltz"

(As in previous numbers and interviews) and looks to JPK. (Much pride). JK signals JPK to end piece.

Mentions difference between Finnish (faster) and Croatian (slower) songs.

Tape runs out 2/3 through 3rd piece.



<sup>Am</sup> Finnish (Saturday ~~night~~) + Croatian Hours (Sat. eve) JK listened + then ordered records to learn tunes; picked up multi-ethnic reper to use.

Tape On I-B

"He commercialized red songs that had never been copyrighted. He got people reinvigorated to polka in U.S. Mentions style + tempo. On playing in bars."

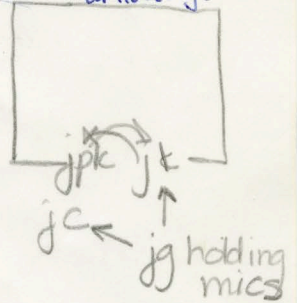
JK talked about Frankie Yankovich. After the song and how he admired him. JK asked BK to show us some albums of leading accordion players today. (Frank Novak, <sup>Cleveland area</sup> Johnny Pecon). BK said she played them while doing housework. (JK then played a old Croatian novelty song. JK explained how hand clapping, foot stomping and scolding gestures go with each verse. (JK seemed to enjoy song). <sup>Play at song at old "Hunky Picnics" on Sundays; heard when he was in teens.</sup> JK mentions playing on porch for neighborhood.

JK's nephew in other room watching. <sup>Red wing</sup> Mentions places where he played. Weddings, audiences. <sup>(2) Medley of Finnish Schottisches incl. "Kalevala"</sup>

JK and JPK continued to play until 8:30 when Julius Chopp (JC) arrived, BK set up a chair for him next to JPK. (MLH decided to change tape). <sup>(3) Tony's Polka</sup> JK tells stories about his accordion playing style + drinking.

Tape On - II-A

JK suggested they play "Moja Decla". They (JC & JK) are singing to each other. Everyone's (JC, JK, JPK) feet are tapping the beat. BK leans to MLH and says "Beautiful". There are big smiles on JC and JK's faces. JK asks to play the tape back. While listening to the tape, MLH pronounces the title and JC is surprised. When MLH says she's Polish and not Croatian JC says, "same country, different people." JC plays quietly along with the playback. JK smiles broadly. JK noted they hadn't played together in one year, but it didn't make a difference.



Tape Off

Tape On

JK and JC then sang, "Kukavica Kuka". JK motioned to JC when there were key changes and when to take the lead. JC then tells JK to go into "F". They sing to each other then decide to sing it again in English.

Tape Off

JC asked to play back the song. JC sings along.

Tape On

JK motioned to JC to choose a song. JC declined so JK chose "Mariana". (All these songs JK played at first interview). JC watches JK for cues. (JK is definitely the lead). After each song, JC wanted to shut off tape recorder so he could talk. JK explained to JC why we wanted then to talk and have it recorded. (JG and MLH look to each with sigh of relief. JK does understand!) JC and JK continued to play 3 more songs. After "Maje

Tape Off Babe Je Pijana" (My Wife is Drunk"), JC asks if tape recorder can be shut off. JC said he was looking for mistakes. JC said he could hear all three instruments. JK said he forgot JC could not play in key of B<sup>b</sup>. BK said you could hear both accordions well.

Tape On JC and JK played 2 more songs when JG asked if he could play "Na Planice" with them. (JK said fine - JG was delighted. JK asks to play the song back.

Tape Off JC said it sounded like a bunch of drunks. BK, MLH and JG began to take pictures of JK, JC and JPK.

Tape On JC, JPK and JK then played "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain".  
Tape Off JK asked to play it back. During playback, JC played along.

Tape On JC, JPK and JK played 8-9 more songs together. During each song, JC and JK looked at each other as they were singing. JK said they should play together more often. At one point, JK said he was used to having his bass player on his left side, so JPK moved. As the evening was winding down, John Jr. requested a song (title?) and JPK requested "Samo Nemoj Ti."

After we shut off the tape recorder and started packing up the equipment, JK said JG and MLH should get a hold of Frank Shaltz, a Slovenian singer in Calumet. JG noted his address and phone number. BK brought everyone drinks-- JC and JK their brandy and JPK, JJr. & MLH pop. JK asked us a few questions about the project and what would happen with the material we collected. MLH explained. JK was satisfied and agreed with the intent of the project. JK said he was a bit nervous at our last interview, but not now. JK said JG and MLH were "regular joes" and complimented us on not pushing him around. JG handed the release form to JK and JPK. JC had placed a wig on his head - so JK introduced him as his friend "Bruno". JG asked "Bruno" that when he sees JC, to have him sign the forms. (Smiles). JC goes into kitchen to sit down and talk with BK. JK then talked about a recent gathering of friends and took delight that the K's were the center of that gathering (a humble pride, though). JK talked about R. Lanseth with much respect, too.

Tape #1 Na Ti Mislim ("I Think of You") - Croatian.