

Bruce Bolander interview

1. Crew up on Sam in Hollandale 50 cans
2-3 hired men. Some were new comers from Norway
Spoke Norwegian. Bruce' Mother + father understood
Norwegian. Grandfather spoke Norwegian to Bruce
Bruce picked up as much of the language as he could
a lot of the dialect he was unaware of since everybody
spoke that way then. "Papa" Mother said "Paa"
The potato" instead of potatoes
2. Parents thought of accent as being backward. Wanted
to Americanize as gently as possible. There were people
of the same generation who were more isolated who
spoke Norwegian more
3. Roy Anderson sang "Ole the Holo" and other songs
Bert Vinje was another hired man who sang a lot
4. The Ole figure in the song fits reality. The hired
man is like country: single, hardworking, when they
got paid, might go on a drunk
5. Ole + Lene jokes told in dialect but Bruce says
he can't much of a joke tell
6. Bruce doesn't think about it when he's singing
dialect songs. He falls into natural speech that he
grew up with

7. Scandinavian people enjoy the dialect songs + jokes. They're far enough from their roots that they can joke about it.

8. Norwegian students from Norway at Allen + Aune weren't sure how to take the ~~p~~ dialect humor

9. That type of material was 5-10% of Goose Island Rumbler's repertoire

10. The name Goose Island comes from Gude land meaning Good Land in Norwegian, corrupted to Goose Island. WKU had a group in 1934 with that name. Broke up later reformed 1961 or

11. First heard Yogi Yorgeson version of Mrs. Johansen. George Gilchrist acted ~~up~~ out the role during the song.

12. He put on helmet w/ horns - old skript w/ horns

12- Slim Jim is one of the better dialect singers. Yogi Yorgeson was very popular but not as Scandinavian. Slim Jim really talks that way, not really putting it on. You can't overdo the accent

13. Sometimes he goes into an accent without thinking about it
14. Never saw Slim Jim perform. Their heyday was before his time & they were more up around Minneapolis
15. Can't think of local area dialect performers in Southern Wisconsin. Played with Norwegian musicians around Hollandale. Learned old Norwegian fiddle tunes.
16. Listened to one Ole i Skratthult and Ted Johnson records. Never heard of Olson Sisters. Has a book of their jokes.
17. Took Nickolina from Slim Jim but changed the time to 6/8. He's heard others do it more in 3/4. Probably wasn't done as a dance tune
18. On "No Norwegians in Dickeyville" - That's a good tune Wendy was playing a tune he called the Dickeyville Waltz Bruce said that's a Norwegian waltz, but there's no Norwegians in Dickeyville, laughed about it and made up verses. Never recorded it.
18. Recites a verse.
19. Plays + sings "No Norwegian in Dickeyville"
and 2 Sessions