

May 17, 1979, 9:50 P.M.

Field notes

Collector: Joel Glickman
Informant: Tommy Marincel

Went this evening with Fred Lieberman, our consultant this week, to interview Tommy Marincel who lives a few miles south of Ashland: south on Sanborn Ave and west on Highway 118, first house on the right.

We arrived at a few minutes after 7:00. A warm gusty evening and humid with a storm brewing, lightning flashing. It is a large new ranch style home, white, with a large probably professionally done sign on front lawn reading, "Marincel." Mrs. Marincel and son, Tom Jr. were working in the big double garage as we drove up. Got a friendly greeting from them and from big friendly collie, Bimbe. When we entered house via kitchen door, Tommy was on phone with Matt Radesavich, the friend he had mentioned as being a musician who could help us. He told him his company had arrived and with some mischief that he'd send us over after a while. Mrs. and Tom, Jr. sat in dining area, immediate to us as we talked with Tommy in living room.

Tommy got quickly to the point with, e., "So you want to know about this old time music?" He was anxious to show us his instruments and play a little. First, the "danguba", (small tambura or prim) with full frets and four strings tuned at unison or 8ve. He commented on its similarity to the dulcimers. He couldn't remember the name other than "begins with a d" but had heard them or one at Northland, as played by MacEachrons at the folk festival. He played a few short melodies, one particularly beautiful and of interest to me in three parts which he confirmed was an old Croatia melody. He then brought out and uncased his button accordion and it was the nicest looking inst. of its kind I had seen and perhaps the nicest and mellowest sounding as well. (To be photographed, next interview) He purchased it in 1939 for \$19. and has been offered \$3000. for it. He is a good story teller and told a story of its purchase. Brother and he conspired by putting brother's money down, and later dealer quoted balance to father as the full price, which seemed a real bargain and the ruse was successful. The name and information on the ornate metal plate affixed to inst. is:

Anton Mervar
Accordion Manufacturer
And Music Store
6921 St. Clair Ave. Cleveland, Ohio

He played a Croatia waltz at about this point, and two neighbor girls, one being Kathy Jagonich, a music teacher I know well, came in from baseball to shower at Marincels as their place has no indoor plumbing. Marincels may be a neighborhood hub or headq. of sorts. They remained and conversed with us a while. Dr. Lieberman said he would really like to get some of the songs on tape and Tommy consented. We had talked a little earlier about taping and the uses of the tapes. He expressed positive feelings at a couple of points about educational potential. I brought in the equipment and once he had warmed up a little and we had adjusted levels we started recording as he sat on a stool and let tape play through selections and conversation.

Wife and son interested in proceedings. Son offered the use of his cassette equip, better than what we have probably. He will help in this regard at subsequent interview(s). Tom Jr., besides playing elec. bass with father occais., has rock band currently in need of musician(s). I referred some to him and promised to do what I could in this regard in near future. His dad had showed us his guitars earlier, fine equip., both Gibsons, one double-necked. Tommy (Sr.) said they were "poor on instruments." meaning they had spent a lot of money on them. I empathized for good reason.

Good voice on singing when asked, good thoughtful translation paraphrase when asked.

his made in Milwaukee

More on economics: two Toms try to plan jobs (music) to occur on different evenings. Tommy Sr. plays freq. at Molls (Zar's Melody Bar).

We were served strawberry ice cream while taping and after taping played back and chatted simultaneously.

Said he would like to tape again after brushing up on the old songs. I told him we would check with him from time to time and come back when he was ready. I informed him that project extends through summer months.

Before taping, he had recalled a number of things about earlier years in the area such as log houses, covered wagons, picnics, ethnic make-up of vicinity. I told him we would like to collect some of these recollections as well.

After playback he played piano accord. a little; well known German tune or two and one of the Croation polkas he had done on button acc. He adapted, e.g. ornaments to the new inst. on this.

Wife knows Croation. All three enthusiastic about project and involvement, or so it seems. They know parents' home villages in Croatia. Will tape on next interview. One is near Italian border, Mrs' parents.

Tommy Sr. is tall good natured, sensitive, intelligent, has noticable limp, perhaps from injury. We established I should phone him evenings at home, so as not to interfere with work or irritate post master.