

TAPE INDEX

March 26, 1981

Collectors: Jim Leary
 Matthew Gallmann
 Informants: Charles and Iria Mattson
 Covington, Michigan

ETHNIC HERITAGE
 SOUND ARCHIVE & RESOURCE CENTER
 NORTHLAND COLLEGE, ASHLAND, WI

1. Collector's Announcement.
2. Parents both from Finland. Charles' dad an accordion and fiddle player; G'pa was a violin maker in Finland.
3. Chas. listened to his dad's (Kalle Piirainen) playing and picked it up.
4. Dad mined at Iron River; Chas. now lives with his wife on her folks' homestead built in 1918. (1912 settled)
5. Dad played just for himself; all Finnish numbers. That's about all Chas. plays. Brother, Gus Mattson, an expert pianoaccordion player.
6. Chas. learns by picking up father's acc. and violin; started at 5 or 6 years. Chas. born June 24, 1910, Iron Mountain, Michigan.
7. Never played at dances or house parties; his brother played out.
8. Chas. went to plenty of dances.
9. Wife's brother Tauno Nurmela plays button accordion; other local musicians: Sikkula bros. and Herman Kinnunen on piano accordion.
10. Chas. a retired carpenter. There were years when he didn't play music.
11. Chas. once tried piano accordion, but preferred button box. Still plays harmonica some.
12. Killiken Polka from Veikko Ahvenainen.
13. An unidentified Finnish tune, learned from a man in 1925 while cutting marsh hay in a swamp; the man was humming the tune.
14. Ngulan Talkko Polka.
15. Kaustisen Polka. An "old, old one." Dad played it.
16. Jakas Jarven Polka (Turpeinen). Dad played this.
17. My Little Girl, an English tune.
18. Unnamed waltz, favorite of Iria's late elder brother: a tune "as old as Finland."

(CASSETTE ONE ENDS)

19. Charles on the harmonica. An unidentified tune.
20. A Hot Shot Train Going Through Covington.

MATTSONS (CONTINUED)

21. Wreck of the Old 97.
22. An English tune, The Jolly Coppersmith. Heard from a concertina player at a dance at Michigaumee.
23. Used to have a pump organ at home. Boys played polkas on it. Chas has three sisters, eldest expert on piano and accordion.
24. Chas. made a loom in 1952 for his wife's rag rug work. Made the pattern from an old Finnish loom that was previously used communally.
25. We talk about Iria's rugs and break for coffee.
26. Chas. talks about how his brother in law Tauno changed some keys on his accordion to "suit the Finnish style."

(THE SESSION ENDS)