

Contact: Mary Agnus Starr

Address:

Ethnic Group:

Fieldworker: Matthew Gallmann

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The Helene Stratman Thomas collection was first sent to the Library of Congress. It was put on tape from red-glass discs. Many years later, I think about the 60's, it was sent back to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (S.H.S.W.). The S.H.S.W. copied the records and had their own tapes and the original collection. The Memorial Library has a copy of these tapes also. I don't know if the Memorial Library collection is complete.

Mrs. Starr told me that there is material at the S.H.S.W. archives that Alan Lomax collected in Wisconsin. I didn't find this material catalogued and I guess it probably isn't catalogued. Mrs. Starr told me that they keep changing personnel at the S.H.S.W. and that not everybody knows what is in the archives.

All I found at the archives was the "Ethnic History of Wisconsin Project" and George Talbot was uncertain about this collection. I found four cassette tapes with material recorded by George Spindler around the Menominee Indian reservation. It was drumming and singing by various Indians. It is good material and I think I want a copy for the Northland archives.

I saw the tapes from the "Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs". (WFMC) This organization was founded by Mrs. Starr and others. One tape was just a speech on "Music in Hospitals". I shouldn't say "just" because this is an important case of how music functions in society today. The other two tapes (reel to reel) were potpouri's of different types of materials collected by Mrs. Starr. I photocopied the listings.

She told me that tomorrow she will give me some lyrics to some Polish

songs. She mentioned that she studied the Polish language a little bit.

Mrs. Starr also told me that there is a significant Slovene population in Willard, Wisconsin. I assume that they are mostly farmers. She gave me a little story as to how she found this information. It seems that a good friend of Mary's had a grandmother who came from Europe with a direct ticket to Willard, Wisconsin. Well the grandmother (she was young at the time) stopped off in Pittsburgh, and I guess she fell in love and never made it to Willard.

Mary also told me that the University Extension had some materials that were lost because they ran out of space when they moved to a different building.