

Norwegian-American Folk and Old-Time Music Festival at Nordic Fest, 1971
Arnold Munkel Collection, lcgs2325
Transcript

AUDIOTAPE REEL 1, SIDE A

[July 23]

00:00 Arnold Munkel: We have just returned from La Crosse. It is 10:30 P.M. and the date is July twenty-third, 1971. We purchased a Wollensak tape recorder this evening. We are going to Decorah tomorrow to make our first recordings and hope it will turn out good. It is going to be at the Nordic Fest. We hope to have much enjoyment from our tape recorder in the future. To begin our first tape, I would like to read a little poem which I think is very much food for thought. The title of it is "Home."

*Our home is not the richest, we do not own the best
But everything we do have has stood the living test
Memories we cherish bring pleasure to us all
And every room is well inlayed with love from all the walls*

Here's another little ditty that I think is pretty good.

*My husband isn't perfect, but what could be more devine
Just think- if he were perfect, all our mistakes would be mine*

Here's one for Marion to read so now let's hear this.

Marion Munkel:

*We drove across the United States the scenes are just about [unintelligible]
It was my job to watch the map so all I saw was paper*

Arnold Munkel: Now here's another poem from the girl with the two green thumbs.

Marion Munkel:

*A rose is a nest for insects, an incubator for mice
A filling station for aphids and similar parasites
A home for fungus to feed, release block and mildew show one
That who ever thinks a rose is a rose has never endeavored to grow one*

Arnold Munkel: Well, if I'm going to Decorah tomorrow I gotta go to bed and get a little sleep. But before I do that, I'm gonna read one more poem before I sign off. The title of it is "My get-up-an-go has got up and went."

*How do I know that my youth is all spent
Well my get-up-go has got up and went
But in spite of it all I'm still able to grin
When I think of where my get-up has been*

*Old age is golden, or so I've heard said
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in the cup
My eyes on a table until I wake up*

*As sleep dims my eyes I say to myself
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?
And I'm happy to say as I close the door
My friends are the same, perhaps evermore*

*When I was young my slippers were red
I could kick my up heels right over my head
When I grew older my slippers were blue
But still I could dance the whole night through*

*Now I am old and my slippers are black
I walk to the store and puff on my way back
The reason I know my youth is all spent
My get-up-and-go has got up and went*

*But I really don't mind when I think with a grin
Of all the grand places my get-up has been
Since I've retired my life's competition
I busy myself with complete repetition*

*I get up each morning, dust off my wits
Pick up the paper and read the obits
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed*

Nordic Fest, July 24

Marion Nelson, emcee

Olaf Hendrickson

04:40 "What shall we do?"

06:14 ["Pat Murphy"?]

08:33 "Release me"

09:57 "Forever and ever"

Henry Storhoff, Marian Storhoff

15:25 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

16:56 "Beautiful Savior"

18:22 "What a friend we have in Jesus" (instrumental version- piano and psalmodikan)

19:57 "What a friend we have in Jesus" (psalmodikan with audience singing the hymn)

21:11 "Now thank we all our God" (Lutheran hymn)

Bill Sherburne, Hazel Omodt, Lester Storlie

24:39 Peppy waltz after Bill Sherburne in key of F

27:27 "Gary's polka or "Banjo, old time polka"

30:09 "Quarve waltz" in keys of Bb and Gm

32:54 Sleepy waltz after Bill Sherburne in key of A

36:14 "Rushford waltz after Bill Sherburne in keys of Bb and Eb"

Leonard Tollefsrud, Selmer Ryan, Boyd Anderson, Olaf Hagen, Anna Gil Muller

39:43 "Kväsar valsen" (Emigrant waltz)

41:53 unidentified tune

44:47 "The new house waltz"

46:51 unidentified waltz

49:58 unidentified schottische

51:34 "Howard Bakke waltz"

53:18 unidentified waltz

Rinaldo Ellestad, Selmer Ryan, Obert Dahle

55:13 unidentified waltz

58:13 unidentified tune

59:58 unidentified waltz

62:43 unidentified waltz

64:55 [Munkel whistling]

END AUDIOTAPE REEL 1, SIDE A
BEGIN AUDIOTAPE REEL 1, SIDE B

Hans Hanson, Ellen Blagen

00:00 "Johan på Snippen"
02:24 "Bonde bryllup"
05:42 "Turkey in the straw" with dancer
07:03 "Musevisa"
08:23 "Life in the Finish woods"
09:58 Seksmannsril"

Gunnar Odden, Hardanger fiddle

13:33 unidentified tune
15:56 unidentified tune
18:56 unidentified tune
21:10 "Spring dance"

Judy Larson

25:17 "Baby it must be love"
28:55 "Someone to love me"
32:07 "Buck-Eyed Jim"
34:14 "Three little pigs"
37:01 unidentified children's song

Einar Gran, Obert Dahle

40:11 "Stegen vals" (Stepladder waltz)
42:28 unidentified waltz in key of Bb/F
43:57 Seksmannsril"

Bill Sherburne, Hazel Omodt, Lester Storlie

46:49 Waltz after Bill Sherburne in key of C
48:26 "Ping pong polka"
51:06 unidentified waltz in keys of C, F and Dm
53:34 Gammel dalavals in keys of F and C
56:21 "Pennsylvania polka"

Unidentified, accordion with piano

59:36 unidentified waltz
62:46 "Hilse dem derhjemme" (Greet those at home)

END AUDIOTAPE REEL 1, SIDE B
BEGIN AUDIOTAPE REEL 2, SIDE A

Arnold Munkel: Today is Sunday, July twenty-fifth, 1971 and we've been recording old time music at Decorah, Iowa at the Nordic Fest. We were doing this recording at the Hønsarhus on Water Street. Before we have more music to record, I would like to read a little poem which my mother saved some time ago. My mother was Mrs. Aldridge Munkel. Her name was Clara, and the title of this poem is 'You mustn't quit.'

*When things go wrong as they sometimes will
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile but you have to sigh
When care is pressing you down a bit
Rest, if you must, but never quit*

*Life is queer with its twists and turns
As every one of us sometimes learns
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won if he'd stuck it out
Stick to your task when the pace seems slow
You may succeed with one more blow*

*Success is failure turned inside out
The silver tints of the clouds of doubt
And you never can tell how close you are
It may be near when it seems afar
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit
It's when things seem worse that you mustn't quit*

Now I want to read a couple of poems about a rose, but before that I want to read a little poem entitled "To my spouse." That's- her name is Marion, that's the one with the two green thumbs.

*I see a home and a garden fair
A fireplace and an easy chair*

*I see our love like an endless stream
And you beside me in this dream*

*The future is for us, my love
By the grace of one above
And we shall know joy sublime
From now until the end of time*

“The rose.”

*Just over the way some roses bloom
In lovely colors rare
They send to us their sweet perfume
That fills the summer air*

*The roses bloom in perfect form
Each day they play a part
They gladden every passerby
And cheer some lonely hearts*

*When autumn comes their petals fall
I think I hear them say
We'll rest 'til winter's over
Then bloom again someday*

The music is about ready to start again so we'll cut this short for now about roses. And Marion says, “Don't grumble. Be thankful that roses have thorns and thorns have roses.”

[Munkel whistling]

Nordic Fest, July 26

05:02 STAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Torleiv Bolstad, Hardanger fiddle

06:44 unidentified waltz

09:56 unidentified tune

13:36 unidentified waltz

Hans Aschim

- 16:48 Norway national anthem [“Ja, vi elsker”]
18:03 “Put your little foot” and “Golden
slippers”
19:54 unidentified waltz
21:50 unidentified tune
23:24 unidentified waltz
25:23 unidentified tune
27:22 unidentified song
28:13 unidentified waltz
30:32 unidentified waltz

32:15 “Red Wing”

Frank O’Brien, Ellen Blagen

- 34:09 unidentified waltz in keys of F and Bb
36:30 unidentified polka in key of F
37:54 unidentified jig in key of Bb
39:29 “Turkey in the straw”
40:55 unidentified waltz in key of Bb
43:09 “Ålanningen polka” in keys of Bb and F

Judy Larson

- 47:19 “Baby it must be love”
50:38 unidentified blues

Otto Gran, Mrs. Arnold Olson

- 55:05 “Prinsevalsen” in key of D
56:32 unidentified schottische in key of A
58:00 Possibly “Wabash Cannonball in key of Bb
59:18 unidentified jig in key of A
61:23 unidentified tune in key of A
62:29 unidentified waltz in key of A

64:19 Munkel whistling

END AUDIOTAPE REEL 2, SIDE A
BEGIN AUDIOTAPE REEL 2, SIDE B

Leonard Finseth, Mrs. Arnold Olson

00:32 Waltz after Leonard Finseth in key of A
02:21 Schottische from Gudbrandsdalen in key of D
04:17 unidentified waltz on key of D
06:53 unidentified reinlender in key of A
09:18 Scandinavian waltz in key of D

Orville Fossum, Halvor Halvorson, Mrs. Arnold Olson

11:53 unidentified waltz in key of D
14:14 unidentified schottische in key of D
16:01 unidentified waltz in keys of D and A
18:46 “Ragtime Annie” in key of D
20:48 “Casey’s old time waltz” in key of D

Hexom

23:25 “Someone spiked the punch at Lina’s wedding”

Mrs. Storhoff, Mrs. Nordsving

25:58 jokes

Ellen Blagen

36:54 pantomime to recorded humorous song
39:20 pantomime to recorded humorous song

Mrs. Stoen

42:05 wedding jokes

Curt Moen

51:18 story about St. Patricks Day
53:35 unidentified polka in key of F
54:46 “Sleepy waltz”

Melba Blegen, Ellen Blagen

57:00 “Charlie Olson’s hoppwaltz” in key of F
58:15 “Bert Faldet’s waltz”
59:27 unidentified polka in key of F

Curt Moen

60:08 joke in Norwegian

60:53 “Turkey in the straw”

61:49 AM: This has been a very enjoyable two days at the Nordic Fest, and if time and our health permits, we will be back next year I hope. We’ve had a lot of laughs along with this good entertainment.

*A laugh is just like music, it freshens all the day
It tips the peaks of life with light, and drives the clouds away
The soul grows glad that hears it and feels its courage strong
A laugh is just like sunshine for cheering folks along*

*The shortest path to your own happiness is the roundabout way of making
others happy first*

We have been sitting here quite a while, and now that the program is over, we realize that we are getting hungry. So I suppose as old timers we’ll have to take care of that situation. An old timer is one who remembers when a pie was put on the windowsill to cool instead of to thaw. An empty stomach won’t let a person rest until he puts something into it. Too bad this is not true of an empty head. A contented person is one who has everything his neighbor has, and we have all been neighbors here and have all received our share of the entertainment. Everyone has to be Norwegian for a few days during the Nordic Fest, even those that are [unintelligible].

Seems like some from all nationalities like some kinds of Norwegian food. My favorites are lutefisk and lefse. And I like rømmegrøt made quite thick, but my wife says that is not the correct way. But I think I am entitled to be a little different because I am a half-breed.

When people go to their homes now they will go in all directions, and some will stay in right here in Decorah. And we can remember that all roads lead to Decorah.

By the time most people get to green pastures they are too old to climb over the fence. So let’s all stay young with old time music.

[Munkel whistling]