

TAPE INDEX

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 Informants: Holy Family Church&s
 Polish Language Class
 Mary Ziolkowski Home
 1001 11th ave W.

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

Note: As my field notes for this event indicate, the taping took place around the dinner table after a feast. While stretches of organized singing took place, there was also a good deal of talk going on. The recording often captures several conversations at once and may be occasionally confusing.

1. Alex and Pete talk about the song "Pytala Sie Panie" (also played by Fel Milanowski) about a young lady asking the doctor when the best time for sex is.
2. "Jeszcze Polska Nie Zginela" (The Polish National Anthem). The sound quality is bad as I didn't have the levels adjusted correctly yet.
3. The table is being cleared. Pete Syminski sings some kind of song as Alex cackles. I couldn't catch the words.
4. Alex jokes about not being able to drive home and how he'll have to stay with some ladies. Pete notes that I have the recorder on.
5. Alex toasts, in Polish, "to your health, but down my gullet." They are drinking coffee with moonshine or rotgut ("coffee royal").
6. A snatch of "Pija Kuba, do Jakuba" from Pete (done also by Fel).
7. Ceil raises the subject of parties at Pufalls. Alex talks about delivering invitations for parties at Pufalls with piano and accordion.
8. Alex talks about the power of local moonshine; people are swishing the pages of song sheets prior to singing.
9. Bernice Barnak (I think) begins humming "Cicha Noc" or "Silent Night."
10. Ceil and others talking about being born with midwives on the East side. Bernice talks about registering people.
 (Faintly, in the left speaker, Bruno and someone are talking about the old Polish hymns.)
11. More confused talking. Janet wonders if I can move the microphones which are in front of her.
12. Pete S. talks about learning to sing "the raw ones" in the Army; meanwhile, Ceil and others are talking about singing in the choir.
13. More confused talking. Bernice talks about jobs she's worked. Pete talks about christening parties in the old days with a little pony of beer; now people just go to the taverns and don't get together. Pete and Alex talk about weddings and trying to break plates with silver dollars.

14. Alex Siedlecki talks about his wedding. They had a party in Bohemian Hall; then at 3:30 am Alex rolled in seven more half barrels: "fill 'em right to the ears." They had "a three day affair" when they'd "drink, dance, and eat; drink, dance and eat." Alex served chicken, veal, and pork in his own new home. First day they'd get married, next day "the Continuation" (they gave the name in Polish), and the third day was another continuation. Some of the wedding parties were "a week." There used to be plenty of singing at the weddings. Alex reserved a half barrel for the crew who'd come to shivaree on the first night.
15. Bruno Synkula warms up his button accordion and all prepare to sing.
(END OF TAPE ONE)
16. "Wsrod Nocnej Ciszy" (In the Still of the Night). They sing it twice as Mary Ziolkowski is trying to get a good recording; the second time they do the second verse.
17. "Gdy Sie Chrystus Rodzi" (Christ is Born). Mary Stelmach and Bernice Barnak go through the melody so that Bruno can get the tune worked out on his accordion. Then the whole group sings it.
18. "Przybieli do Betlejem" (Quickly on to Bethlehem). Mary and Bernice and Alex sing it, Bruno gets the tune, and then the group sings.
19. Now "one of the oldest ones": "Aniol Pasterzom Mowil" (Shepherds Heard the Angels Say).
20. "Dzisiaj w Betlejem" (In Bethlehem).
21. "Aniol Pasterzom Mowil" (done once again, with no accordion).
22. The next song doesn't appear on the group's song sheets, but is in the old Holy Family Polish hymnbook (see the index to the Miłanowski tape). "A Wcoaj Zwieczora" (Yesterday Evening).
23. "Cicha Noc" (Silent Night).
24. Bruno plays "Happy Birthday." Several people in the group have birthdays coming up.
25. "Boże, Coś Polske" (God, Who Held Poland).
26. Next they sing, to the same tune, "Serdeczna Matko" (Beloved Mother); several of the verses performed are not on the song sheet.
27. (END OF TAPE TWO)
27. "Serdeczna Matko" (Beloved Mother) is sung in English this time.
28. "Jeszcze Polska Nie Zginela" (the Polish National Anthem). They discuss whether to sing the song high or low. Alex sings a parody of the song. Finally, they do it right.
29. The "National Anthem" is sung in English.
30. Pete, followed by Mary and Bernice, break into "Wistla Moje,"

- er, in English, "My Vistula" after the river.
31. Bruno breaks into a dance number. Mary and Bernice hum along and others stamp their feet. Alex sings along. The piece is named for General Kosciusko (
 32. Another dance piece by Bruno. A tune he picked up from his mother's singing.
 33. Bruno again on button accordion. (While he plays Alex, now weighing 225 lbs., talks about falling on his stomach when weighing 270). Title ? ?
 34. Bruno plays another but people are talking all the while. Title ? ? ?
 35. Bruno plays the tune that's on the Polish Folklyric album; it's about a woman climbing down a ladder to elope while her sweetie holds the ladder.
 36. Mary and Bernice talk about singing Polish on TV during the Bicentennial. Their accordion player got drunk 'cause he was so nervous and he "copped out."
 37. Pete Syminski and Alex break into song, ?
 38. Alex does his parody of the National Anthem, but Julia tells him to shut up. (All the while, Bruno is fooling around on the accordion in the background).
 39. Mary and Bernice do one of the songs they sang on TV. Title ? ?
 40. All pray the "Hail Mary" in Polish.
 41. Mary, Bernice begin "My Wild Irish Rose," while Alex chimes in with "Polish" for "Irish." Bruno picks up on accordion.
 42. Bruno plays "You Are My Sunshine" and the singers come in.
 43. People begin to leave. Alex and others are cutting up. Bruno plays in the background.
 44. Mary and Bernice begin singing "Old Black Joe," and the comic Alex comes in with "Old Sambo." Learned in school.
 45. Mary and Bernice begin a song with a tune that sounds like "Red Wing," called "Kosciliesmi (sp?)."
 46. The pair burst into "Red Wing."
 47. "Blue Skirt Waltz" (known to Bohemians as "Red Handkerchief Waltz"). Alex sings a snatch and Bruno plays.

(END OF THE SESSION)