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DOWN HOME DAIRYLAND RADIO PROGRAMS

"Tuba" Dan Jerabek
of Ripon, WI
Americano's Hall
Appleton, WI
May 4, 1988

Recorded by Jim Leary
Ampex 632 tape
Nagra 4-L recorder

[Note: The recording is unaccountably muddy throughout. I'm not sure why. Dan is a great talker and there are many good quotes here, but I don't know if any of them are clear enough.]

1. Announcement.
2. One of 9 children raised on 40 acre farm near Kewaunee, 6 bros. & 2 sisters. Mother the community barber. Dad wanted to keep the kids on the farm and out of mischief by giving them instruments. Dan stuck with tuba. Jerry on piano, concertina, bass clarinet; Billy on drums and button box; John on cornet; Dan on tuba; Joe on clarinet and sax; Ann on clarinet and sax; then Jim. Played variety shows in two counties. No money, but they could start and end together, old people liked them.
3. D studied French Horn and got an E-flat Sousaphone from music teacher Earl Shane in Kewaunee. Listened to radio broadcasts on Manitowoc and Green Bay stations and played along with radio. At 15 years old a local musician wanted a tuba player and heard Dan had a horn. He got \$8 for playing for a wedding.
4. Has played with over 40 bands over the years, either full time or playing a full four hour gig. Didn't play with Gosz or Plocar, however. Some good bands, some bad.
5. Best band ever worked with is Dick Rodgers. D tries to run his band like Rodgers ran his. Fair, up front, gently reproachful when necessary.
6. Kewaunee has always been a problem for musicians because there were so many great bands in a small area. When wedding or other dance jobs came along, there was a price war. Hard for bands to make much trying to play.
7. Attributes concentration to Bohemians. "They all love music and they all love to show off." They either played or wanted to.
8. D played a few jobs for tiny crowds in Kewaunee when it was extremely cold, but has also played for thousands. His band not in it for the money, but get up when playing for a big crowd.
9. D's band members have great camaraderie. Wife, "Corky", plays the drums. D met her when playing for Rodgers on a double bill with Stycynski at Americanos. Oldest son Danny plays button box, clarinet, sax. Elmer and Tommy Hayes out of the Marshfield/Abbotsford area also in the band; then Jim and Karalyn Fritz, J on trombone/sax/clarinet/piano/vocals and wife on piano/vocals; John Hall and trumpet/sax.

10. Band all rides together on a mini bus.

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11. Every band has its own style. Alfred Vrazel says Dan's style "a little of Gosz, a little of Rodgers, and I don't know what the hell else--but don't stop."

12. Band differs from Rodgers and Gosz, both of whose music they play, in the use of the button accordion. Likes the use of button accordion in old Jerry Mazanec 78s and also in the Nebraska Czech bands. Figures their band the only one using this instrumentation in Wisconsin.