

TAPE INDEX/DOWN HOME DAIRYLAND

Lenore Berg
Barron, Wisconsin
May 27, 1989

Recorded by James P. Leary
Nagra 4-L (mono)

1. Announcement.
2. Grandfather played bass horn in a Barron Community Band, also played button accordion. Father played violin some and was a good singer. Seven sisters and brothers, all but one musical. They favored country, Lenore preferred old time.
3. Never heard grandfather play button accordion, Ingwald Hanson. Norwegian.
4. Leary asks about Vivian Brevak of Barksdale, Wisconsin, playing in the Cameron area in the 1930s. Lenore can't recall her.
5. Dad, Casper Greenwald, born in Torpa, Norway. Picked up music on his own. Didn't sing out, but at home would sing Norwegian songs which Lenore learned. She can speak a little Norwegian and goes to a Norwegian language class. Went over there in 1980 and met some relatives.
6. L born in Barron in 1929.
7. Erik Berg had an old time band that was going since the late 1920s. L attracted to his old time music. Played some accordion at home and piano with Berg's band. When he died in 1960, L began playing accordion in public. Has been going ever since.
8. Started playing piano in a dance band with Bob Wells of Rice Lake who had a music store and a band. Wells lent L an accordion and she learned to play it. Husband, Carl, also played accordion.
9. Started Rhythms Badgers with Wesley Olson on guitar, Horace Hodgson, drums, Lenore, accordion. Played local places, furthest they went was Silver Bay. Generally played twice a week. In 1970 got organ attachment and rhythm box, has been playing a lot by herself ever since.
10. Started playing piano with Erik Berg around 1950-1951. Truman Iverson on drums, Erik on accordion. Erik a Swede, played lots of Swedish numbers and were popular in the Frederic area. Erik from Sweden originally, L married his brother, Karl. Karl and another brother, Gust, all played piano accordion. All moved to Barron area in late 1920s. Used to show movies and give an accordion concert in the Dakotas and in Minnesota.
11. L has recordings of band playing over the radio in 1958. Her husband held a microphone in front of a radio speaker and recorded onto a reel tape recorder.
12. Played for regular dances. Got good crowds. People danced much more in those days. Crowd not exclusively Scandinavian. Would play some hambos. Today L plays at the Red Rooster near New Richmond where there is a good hambo dancer.
13. About being a woman band leader: The two guys played what I wanted. We

had no problems.

14. Because L's husband had played accordion and liked music and liked to dance, he enjoyed going along with the band. It worked out pretty well. [Good quote but the sound is a little distant.]

15. Was impressed by Pietro Deiro. Also visited some Swedish people in the Boston area and was inspired by an accordion player, Oskar Carlson. Admires Myron Floren and Dick Contino. Never heard of Viola Turpeinen.

[brief pause followed by tunes]

16. L introduces Oskar Carlson's waltz [good quote?].

17. Learns Springtime in the Rockies and Livet et Finnskogen by ear on the family pump organ. Has had a few lessons, but plays mostly by ear.

18. Picked up Scandinavian tune books through Overby's Music Store in Rice Lake, and from hand copied notebooks of Swedish tunes by her husband and brother-in-law. Always adds own personal touches to whatever tunes she plays. Also does a lot of fills to make a full sound when playing by herself. Some players mix different tunes together.

19. Oskar Carlson Waltz. [good, with prior intro]

20. Inga Waltz.

21. Hipp og Hop, a hambo. [good]

22. Fjelbruden, Mountain Bride.

[tape runs out, session ends]