

Contact: Reverend Joseph Jenkins  
Address: Cable, Wisconsin  
Ethnic Group:  
Fieldworkers: Jim Leary  
Matthew Gallmann  
Janet Gilmore  
Date: Wednesday, February 14, 1979

Jim Leary, Janet Gilmore and myself drove down to Cable. Jim gave a lecture at the community center on "Folklore of the North". It was a good lecture and at the end he gave a plug for the NEA project. He mentioned that if anyone had some information on old time music in the area they should talk to me.

A man named Reverend Joseph Jenkins came up to me after the lecture and tried to think of some names of musicians. He told me that he came to Cable in the 1920's. He used to play the "banjo uke" (tenor banjo?) for dances. He said they had a fiddle and string bass as well. Then he mentioned that a woman named Mrs. Holly used to run dances. They would take an upright piano around on a horse drawn sled from house to house. Everyone would share their house at one time or another.

Then we began to talk with a woman by the last name of Knapp. She remembered having dances in the Lions Hall on the top floor. I think they had piano played by Mrs. Holly. When I asked Mrs. Knapp what type of dances they did she moved her arms through the air and said, "we just did anything we really didn't do much." As I got to talking with the Reverend and his wife and Mrs. Knapp they told me about some people that might be helpful. They mentioned one man that played concertina and belonged to a Polish family. Mrs. Knapp said that this man and some other Polish kids used to dance the Polish dances at school events. This man is still alive but apparently sick and confined to his home.

Reverend Jenkins seems to know all of the people in Cable. He is a musician himself. He plays third violin with the Chequamegon Symphonette. He is a short man of about 5 feet 3 or 4 inches. He is going bald.

I heard that he was in his eighties but he looks much younger than that. He looks like he's in his fifties or sixties. He is very helpful and said that he would introduce me to some folks in Cable that could help me out as far as contacts.