

TAPE INDEX

Jim Leary
February 6, 1985

Herman and Nora Kaczor
15 W. Mary St.
Watertown, WI

1. An Avon lady arrives as tape begins.
2. Collector's announcement.
3. H. b. 4/5/01 in W. Prussia. Came to U.S. in 1923. Oldest brother here first. Ocean journey ten days long. (Sound as heater kicks on. An unfortunate consequence of winter recording.)
4. H's family were farm laborers, H served three year apprenticeship as a butcher.
5. Family came to Lake Mills. H worked as a butcher, then at Oscar Meyer's in Madison, in Milwaukee, then back to Oscar's. Heart condition aggravated by going in and out of cooler. Doctor advises to quit packing house.
6. Brother Albert played concertina. H tells of being coaxed to sing German songs by cousins after coming to America. Neighbors here singing and they all come round.
7. H's songs learned at home: "on the dance floor, neighbors. Summertime they always sang at night til ten or eleven.
8. Many songs learned from records, from neighbor boys, "whoever was out for a dance, he brought a song along."
9. Nora born Town of Humbird, between Lebanon and Hustisford, 5/29/04. Family moved to Iron Ridge, Reeseville, then Watertown in 1921.
10. On life in Resseville: Dad traded for coonskins, kept goats. Neighbors largely German. N. went to German Lutheran School, Missouri Synod. Confirmed in German. Also Reformed and Catholic Churches in the town.
11. Dad had tavern, family lived above. Had pool table, penny glass that brother robbed and then was punished.
12. Train coming to town a big event. Mother would bring fruit and market

goods purchased in Watertown.

13. On big fire in 1909, danger of town going. Dad gives away free drinks, people helped themselves to goods in dry goods store.

14. Big Victrola and cylinders in Dad's tavern. Dad quite a singer, would sing songs like "Redwing."

15. Christmas eve custom: kids would recite Christmas verses learned in church before they could open presents.

16. None of the kids played music, but people would sing in the tavern.

Biggest song was "A Watch on the Rhine." N taps out rhythm on table top and sings as H protests; they stress that this was a "bad song" during WWI.

17. H describes butcher shops in Germany. Meat only: beef, pork, lamb. No poultry.

18. H reckons people went round singing in villages back home at New Year's and Christmas, neither can recall this happening here.

19. H describes house parties on Sunday afternoon with gramophone and squeezebox. H's brother Albert a good player. House parties mostly in the summer.

20. H participated in feather stripping as a kid.

21. N mentions quilting frames and mentions Esther Rumler as part of the last local family that "noodled" geese.

22. N reckons they were shivareed when about to go to bed by people at a tavern, then they had to go back to the tavern. H never ran into this in the old country.

23. N talks about marriage of aunt and uncle and how they had mock weddings in the old days with kids dressed in old clothes.

24. "Swiss Boy."

25. They were inspired to hear the previous song by hearing Lawrence Duchow and

his Red Raven Orchestra play it at a dance.

26. About singing in the Sneior Citizens "Kitchen Band" at nursing homes.

27. "Du Kanst Nicht Treusein"/"You Can't Be True Dear."

28. "Ach, Wie Ist's Moeglich Dann."

29. "Ich Weiss Nicht, Was Soll es Bedeuten."

30. Brahm's Lullaby.

[TAPE ONE ENDS]

31. "Ach Du Lieber Augustine."

32. "Mein Hut, Der Hut Drei Ecken."

[THE SESSION ENDS]