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TAPE CATALOGUEETHNIC HERITAGE
SOUND ARCHIVE & RESOURCE CENTER
NORTHLAND COLLEGE, ASHLAND, WI

Informant: Rudy Kemppa

Ethnic Group: Finnish/record collection

Date: July 25, 1979

Fieldworkers: Sara Poynter
Matthew Gallmann

Mrs. Kemppa--"Mockingbird Hill is a good one. Oh, I just love it!"

Sara and Matt talk about Mockingbird Hill

Rudy mentions "Spring in the Woods of Finland" as the original title of "Life
in the Woods of Finland"Sara, referring to song list she prepared--"There was one song on there, yes,
this one here".Sara--"I didn't get the Finnish name for it and then he (Eino Parkinen) said
it in English"....

Rudy--"Rannanjarvi"

Sara asks Rudy to write it down

Rudy explains as he writes it.

Rudy--"And anything else here?" (On the list)

Sara thinks, a moment of silence

Sara explains how she wrote the list

Rudy--"And that's "Steerman's Waltz" that's "The Wheelman's Waltz".

Discussion of above title

Matt--"Then "Charlie's Waltz," "Kalli Valsi"

Television in the background

Discussion of "Pietro Brothers"

Matt--"Yea, the Pelto brothers told us they had some 78's of the Pietro Brothers
that they learned songs from."

Rudy tells of man from East coast that goes to Finland with orchestra.

Rudy--"His name was Bruno Lakko"

Sara--"There's a couple repeats I think" (In reference to titles on list)

Sara--"Is that the correct spelling of that one?"

Rudy--"Which one?"

Sara--"Mali Ma Mati?"

Rudy--"No, it isn't"

Rudy writes correct spelling of "Mailmen Matti"

Sara--"What does that ("Mailmen Matti") mean do you know?"

Rudy explains meaning of "Mailmen Matti" as "Man of the world"

Rudy--"And this is wrong here "Rivakka" that's "Polka" ("Rivakka Polka")

Silence as Rudy writes

Rudy--"Dishwasher's Polka" that's "John's Accordian Polka"

Rudy--"Radika" that's "Raadikka"

Matt--"Oh, that's a nice song" (In reference to "Raadikko")

Rudy--"Cuckoo Waltz"

Sara--"Doggie in the Window" is a favorite of one of our" (Speaking of Matt Pelto)

Rudy talks of "Doggie in the Window"

Matt--"Is that right the "Sakki Jarven"?"

Rudy--"Yes, this (Speaking of "a" in Sakki) got to have those marks on top.

And so must this a in Jarven."

Rudy--"That's a lake by the name of Sakki.

Rudy--"Sakki Lake Polka", that's the way you would say it in English."

Rudy--"Tiskarin Polka"--"Dishwasher's"--"Jala Jarvan Polka"

Rudy--"This is supposed to be "Wheelsman"

Matt--"Is the Finnish right?"

Rudy--"This isn't Finnish."

Matt--""Deurmanne Waltz?"

Rudy--"Tyyrmanen Valsi--T-Y-Y-R-M-

Sara--""T-Y-Y-M-A-N-N-E?"

Matt--"Yes, this one we didn't know, um, "Ria Raladoose".

Rudy spells it properly--"Riijou Rallatus".

Sara--"Latiko".

Rudy--"It's Raadikko".

Sara--"Do you know that one, "Julian?"

Rudy--"Oh, yes, that's an old-timer."

Silence

Rudy--"I never hear of this one..."

Sara explains she spelt one of them phonetically, "Gassunetta Gaune".

Rudy--"Couldn't they (our informants) write it down or spell it for you?"

Matt and Sara explain the field situation.

Rudy--"Kako Se kukko" that's supposed to be.."

Then Rudy spells it out on paper.

Sara and Rudy talk about "Kaki Se Kukko".

Rudy and Sara talk about "Lumberjack" play and movie in reference to music.

Sara gives some explanation of titles.

Rudy--"I think I have over 100 song books.."

Sara--"Have you heard that one..."At the Spring?"

Rudy--"Yes, that's a "Lahteella".

Matt gets Rudy to spell "Lahteella."

Rudy looks over list and explains some titles. One on the list is "Savoleisten Laulu".

Talk about Rudy's Finnish radio program when and how he got started.

Rudy talks of news broadcast

Rudy explains he was born in Toivola. His parents were born in Kala, Finland.

Rudy talks about making trips to Scandinavia.

Rudy tells story about his relationship with record companies in Finland.

He mentions "phone centers" in Finland.

Sara--"So where did you buy your first record?"

Rudy talks about Dover Music in Hancock.

Rudy talks about why and when he first started buying records--"Somehow that

(buying records) grew into me."

Rudy goes back to story about his trip to Finland and interaction with owner of the record companies.

Rudy mentions bringing his youngest daughter on trip and relates the story of picking out L.P.'s.

Rudy relates story about another record company owner.

Rudy talks about repertoire of radio program.

Rudy talks about showing Finnish movies in Copper Country.

Rudy talks about setting up jobs for Finnish musicians.

Sara asks about "Lumberjack" play and Rudy talks about "Lumberjack" play.

Sara--"What was the theme song for that?"

Rudy--"For what?"

Sara--"For that play. Did you know the name of the theme song for that?"

Matt--"Yes, someone played it for us the other day."

Mrs. Kemppa--"Am I making too much noise?"

Matt--"Oh, no, that's ok."

Sara--"Oh, go ahead."

Rudy gives words for theme song.

Rudy--"Tukkijoella", that's the name of the song."

End Tape I Side A

Begin Tape I Side B

Rudy--"60 years with the Finnish music, and the singers and the orchestras."

Matt--"Do you play yourself at all?"

Rudy--"No. Only thing that I play is the phonograph, and the radio and the television."

Talk of Rudy's music background.

His father died when he was young.

Rudy mentions playing the mouth organ and violin a "little bit".

Matt inquires about any "traditional musicians that learned from their folks or by ear."

Rudy tells about big restaurant/hotel "K.K.Hall" where there were musicians performing.

Matt asks Rudy about Lauri Kiviranta.

Rudy explains that he knows him personally but he isn't a "trained musician."

Matt tries to explain that that's what we were looking for.

Rudy tells about the Lumberjack musicians (an accordian player and a fiddle player) in South Range that have passed away.

Rudy--"and every year that we have, well we lose more and more of that traditional music".

Rudy and Matt have preservation discussion.

Rudy tells about a tailor that lived in South Range that wrote his own songs.

Rudy--"That fellow that's coming here to check on that" in reference to man visiting from the Finnish radio station.

Rudy--"It (collecting) should have been done 15 years ago."

Rudy tells birthdate, place, occupations, and places he's lived.

Rudy tells about the work experience involving some kind of demonstration of tractors or something.

Rudy tells about his siblings.

Rudy says he's been away from the music business for ten years because of health reasons. "They've been pestering me to go back (to the radio station)".

Rudy explain why he doesn't want the job.

Rudy says he still plays his records for his own enjoyment.

Rudy talks about Viola Turpenen and John Rosendahl.

Rudy tells joke that John Rosendahl told.

Rudy tells about Nikko Yarvindunda.

Rudy talks about people's response to his dialect of Finnish in Finland.

Rudy says he taught all his children Finnish.

Rudy mentions lumbercamps.

Matt inquires about Lumberjack songs.

Rudy--"Oh, yea, but they're not printable."

Rudy tells about the "old-jacks" from Finland.

Sara asks if we could record some of Rudy's records.

Rudy--"On this trip?"

Rudy tells about what mediums of recordings he has.

Matt asks if there has been anything written on Viola Turpenen.

Rudy--"I don't think so."

Rudy talks about Viola Turpenen.

Rudy explains how his work with music hasn't been work but only enjoyment and a pastime.

Rudy tells story of Finnish musicians he met in Finland.

Matt again inquires about traditionalists.

Rudy says he doesn't think that there are many left any more. He explains that he is one of the oldest second generation Finns.

Rudy again says that this should have been done 15 years ago.

Matt says that maybe Laurri Kiviranta could help us out.

Matt and Rudy talk about George Nousianen.

Rudy tries to explain how to get to Laurri Kivinanta's home.

Rudy talks about George Nousianen.

Sara asks about Paradise Hall.

Rudy--"C'mon, shoot".

Rudy leaves next interview open.

Machine off.

End that part of the interview.

End Tape I Side B