

TAPE INDEX

Andy Rolls
Fall, 1981

Max Peters & Lawrence Hopfensberger
St. Louis, Missouri

[Note: This index is a copy of a cassette copy sent by Rolls to Dorothy Bertolas, the daughter of Max Peters. The sessions were held at Rolls' home, in his basement "music room," when Peters of Milwaukee and Hopfensberger of Abbotsford were visiting.]

"Dirty Jokes" by Lawrence Hopfensberger.

1. Horn in mulé's rear end, farmer is blowing on it. Hired man turns it around when his turn to blow, doesn't want to put his lips where the farmer's were.
2. Girl writes to her dad for money to buy a bicycle, buys a monkey instead. Hair falls out of monkey, she writes dad. He advises her to stop riding the bike.
3. Poem about a truck driver's wife who complains of her husband's impotence.
4. Jokes in German told by Max Peters, includes a few English phrases and concertina sound affects.
5. German women in America signals to indicate cuts of meat. Punchline is in German.
6. Child makes up poem with word "pistol" in it. Mentions home brew and parents who "pißs til two."
7. Farm had black and white cow. Bull surprises cow.
8. Farmer and orchestra leader make a bet about how latter could do with a girl during "lunch." He plays "Red Sails in the Sunset" to signal other better.
9. Man from old country describes American cards: one says "Bingo," others say "Oh, shit."

[TAPE IS SLOWING DOWN HERE]

10. Max sings "a little Swedish song," obscene about backhouse and cockhouse.

11. M sings about a little girl and a doctor, in English.

12. Lindenau.

Remainder of tape is of Max playing assorted tunes.

[END OF CASSETTE ONE, SIDE A]

May 1977, Andy Rolls interviews Max Peters

1. M born 7/8/1895. Helmut born 1/3/1897.

2. Dad was Paul, mother was Anna Hager. Married 1892 Or 1893. 10 or 11 children, 8 lived. 7 boys and one girl, Frieda. Brothers: Max, Wilhelm, Helmut, Arthur, Felix, Erich.

3. Max, Wilhelm, Helmut musicians.

4. Traveled all over the country. Wives traveled with them on short trips.

5. Enjoyed played in a theater in Belleville, Illinois. Dad had discounted their playing but when he heard the audience clap for them, he turned around and told the audience: "Those are my boys." M reckons "best time of my life."

6. Played in a theater in Strasburg, North Dakota. Invited home by Lawrence Welk's parents. L W over radio then out of Yankton, South Dakota.

7. Stopped vaudeville playing for a few years after the Depression.

8. Max reckons he enjoys staying with the Rolls family.

9. Concertina club meets on Illinois St. at Helmut's place in Belleville.

[Rolls is babbling here about the weather.]

The interview concludes and years later, after Max's death, Andy decides to include a few "antidotes" Max had told him.

10. Enroute to Concertina Hall of Fame program, Max tells about youth in Germany. Would hustle money by carrying luggage for train passengers, selling papers, delivering bakery goods. At age 9, spied concertina in shop window and wanted it. One way home heard 10-15 students playing bandonion. Got mother to

buy him the instrument and Max took it to bed with him that night.

11. Max and Bill are playing at a "ritzy place's" dining room in Florida. One man watches them closely, then compliments them the next day. Rolls relates that Max said this was "President Andrew Harding."

[Andy included more of M's music to fill out the tape.]

[CASSETTE ONE, SIDE B ENDS, BEGIN CASSETTE TWO, SIDE A]

Recorded 1979 or 1980.

1. Waltz--Vienna Beauties.
2. Ditto.
3. Rachmaninoff Concerto.
4. Mein Ideal March.
5. Mister Master March.
6. Italian Polka.
7. March or Overture.
8. Schottische.
9. Chopin's Polonaise.
10. Fascination.
11. Mombo Jombo.

[CASSETTE TWO, SIDE A ENDS]

1. March (incomplete).
2. Overture from Strauss's opera Die Fliedermouse.
3. Mid Mood & Crock.
4. Mazurka.
5. Practice melodies.
6. Folktune.
7. Morning Noon and Night.

8. Der Vogel Handler (German folk tune).