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DOWN HOME DAIRYLAND

Lawrence "Larry" Drea
Loretto, WI
and
Loren Haugh
Hillsboro, WI
March 9, 1991

Interviewed by James P. Leary
Nagra 4-L recorder
Ampex 632 tape

LARRY DREA

1. Announcement.
2. Born in Loretto, dad ran a tavern from 1937 to 1947, L has run the place ever since. Born in 1917.
3. St. Patrick's Day doings. Years ago place was bulging at the seams on St. Patrick's Day, "quite a few Irish fights," some "good jiggers."
4. Dancing usually started about 3PM after the program at St. Patrick's church nearby. L's Irish cousins from Racine played there for three years. This year Jim Paff (sp?) from Rock Springs is playing.
5. Bob Howard and his sister Bessie were good jig dancers. L's brother Tom quite a jigger, but he quit too. Learned by just taking it up. L's aunt was a jigger. She lived in Milwaukee for a long time.
6. Didn't have live music at the place until 1977. Years ago mostly the jukebox, but some Irish singers locally. Jim Dwyer "could have been on radio," shy when sober, but sang with a few drinks. Sang some Irish songs.
7. When Pat came over from Ireland, everybody in Ireland told him that he could pick money up off the street in Chicago. So he was going down the street, he saw one of these pieces of tin out of a fuse box. He picked it up. He thought he was pretty lucky. He went in the bar and he said, "Give me a drink." He got the beer and he threw the tin on the bar. And the bartender said, "That's only tin." Pat said, "I thought it was only five. Have one yourself." [DHD]
8. Pat and Mike came over from Ireland and they were down around Chicago. They got lost out in the woods. It got dark and the mosquitos--bad. They were after them. And they climbed up in a tree, thought they'd get away from them. Pretty soon the train started coming--no that was a different one. Lightning bugs started to come, started coming out. And Pat says, "Jasus, Mike, look at them now. They're coming with their lanterns looking for us."
9. Pat went out and he-in the woods--and he heard that train coming. So he got out on the track and took off on the dead run. Train come along and the cowcatcher caught him and threw him off on the side. And he came back and was telling Mike about it. Mike says, "Why didn't you take for the woods?" He says, "Jasus Christ, I had a straight track ahead of me and I couldn't keep ahead of him, what would I do in the woods?"
10. L heard these from his dad. He ran a saloon for 15 years in Hill Point to the north. "He knew most of the Irish jokes. Lot of old Irishmen around at that time. They used to all come down to Hill Point." Mike Drea, died in 1947. Dad was a twin, brother was Jim. L's middle name is Mike.
11. Mostly Irish around years ago. Lots of ghost stories.
"It's supposed to be true. My dad's brother-in-law, he was pretty scared of ghosts. And he went--in them days, just horse to travel with--and he went on horseback somewhere and come back. And he'd put the horse in the barn and then run for the house as fast as he could so the ghost wouldn't catch him. So he went in the barn and threw the bridle up on the hook and the horse

collar dropped down over his neck. And he run to the house as hard as he could go. He thought there was a ghost over his neck. That was supposed to be true. I don't know whether it was." [DHD?]

12. Then there was the one about the guy at Cazenovia, at Bunker hill--that's where my dad originated from, around Cazenovia. It's in the paper. They had a party up there. And it was Town Hall. And a fight started. And they said they found the fiddler the next day about seven or eight miles from there. And he still had the window sash around his neck where he jumped through.

13. Lot of fights years ago. No cops. You had to take care of things yourself, "be your own bouncer." A couple of old bachelors, the Benton boys, Leo and John, got along fine when sober, but got feisty when drinking. John says, "I have a notion to slap you." Leo says, "Slap me." John says, "It would be a sin." Leo says, "Commit one." [DHD?]

14. Leary tells joke about people working nights at the brewery.

15. They used to tell about Pat and Mike was at a bar. And they used to come by the church and cemetery coming home. So Pat left first and there was an open grave. And he went up there and he fell into it. So he was up there hollering. Mike was going home and he was walking by the cemetery, and he could hear somebody hollering. So he went up. Pat says, "I'm cold, I'm cold." Mike says, "No damn wonder you're cold, you kicked all the covers off." [Leary offers an alternative punch line.]

16. Some Germans are sitting at the end of the bar.

End of Session with Drea

LOREN HAUGH

17. Announcement. [Haugh's name pronounced "Haw."]

18. L's opening monologue. B. 6/20/52 in Richland County. Parents are Leslie and Carmen Haugh. Father died 6/18/83, band started in August 1983. Started playing trombone in 5th grade. At 8th grade switched to tuba which older brother also played. Liked sound of tuba. Band Director Robert White agreed to the change. 1965 started on tuba, playing ever since. Went to state three years in Class A solo on tuba while in high school. Played in lots of polka bands, including Frank Jay (J?) out of Chicago in 1971, and 1979. Frank was L's inspiration in trying to put a band together when Hillsboro had first Cesky Den in 1983.

19. L wanted an upright recording bass tuba, couldn't find one and asked Frank to help. Found him three to choose, settled on a Houghton, made in WI. L contacted people in the area, some former classmates, to form band. Have had as many as 15, have been at 9 last 3-4 years. Have played at every Cesky Den, play also benefits, anniversaries, weddings.

20. Play mostly locally. Went to Rice Lake once to play for a wedding anniversary.

21. Dad played a baritone horn in high school in late 1930s, graduated in 1940. Grandfather, Paul Haugh, played bass horn, so did brother. Dad's brother Francis still plays accordion, also concertina. None had played in dance bands.

22. L never thought he would get enough people to form a band, pleasantly surprised. Bought equipment from Frank Pesser (sp?) and some music.

23. Frank J. Pesser married a lady from the Hillsboro area. Plays Czech and

German music. Is Czech and speaks and writes Czech. Plays cordovox, can also play saxophone and clarinet.

24. L's band has two trumpets, tenor sax, alto sax, accordion, clarinet, banjo, drums, and bass horn. Someone plays first part, someone else the second, take turns on choruses and repeats. Public has been very supportive. Ordered 100 tapes of first recording. Gone in a week. Ordered 200 more, gone in three months. L has four left, will make second tape April 6 at Hillsboro Community Center.

25. Sound of the band. Not patterned after anyone. "Our own way with music." Plays "by music," not by ear. Banjo player does play by ear, however. Try to piece a song together that someone requests, but prefer to rely on sheet music.

26. Source of arrangements? From Frank J. Frank's bass player couldn't make the trip to Hillsboro years ago, so L would play with him and borrow the school's tuba. L lost his father week after first Cesky Den, but knew L was going to form a band and was happy. L misses his dad.

27. Cesky Den or Czech Day, second Saturday of June, set aside to celebrate in Hillsboro. Craftspeople, speakers, Czech singers from Yuba and Hillsboro area--L's mother is in this group. Different small bands play, main dances on Friday and Saturday nights. Polka mass on Saturday afternoon. Have ethnic food: pork, dumplings, kolache, etc. In 1991 will have three bands, including L's band. Lots of people return to the area for this event. L mentions some relatives.

28. Gets a lot of compliments on sound of the band. No electronic fill-ins, have all the original instruments. Work hard, practice weekly, sometimes more often if a job coming up.

29. Background of band. Joe Amberg, trumpet, and L went to school together. Kay Huffmaster, trumpet, also went to Hillsboro High. Rachel Smith, music major, on clarinet and piano. Donny Worster, music major, trumpet and accordion. Connie Lindeman, alto sax. Martin Novy, tenor sax and vocal. Martin acts as MC to loosen people up. Frankie Haugh, banjo, from a family of musicians. Ralph Roberts, drummer, has played in various bands--high school bands, swing bands, dance bands (Bob White's Joyfull Jammers, from Baraboo, foxtrots). "Somewhat like a big family." Rachel and Kay also fill in on vocals.

30. Features solos on various instruments. Frankie Haugh on "Under the Double Eagle," L on "Minnesota Polka," clarinet on "Clarinet Polka," accordion on "Old Accordionist," trumpets on some other ones. Like to give everyone a chance to shine and to have fun.

31. "City of Yuba Polka" written by Dick Hansberry, originally from Hillsboro area, descendant of Rotts. A teacher in Atlanta area, also played with Atlanta Symphony. [DHD, edit??]

32. "City of Hillsboro March" not yet recorded, also have one by Frank J. Pesser, "Hillsboro Waltz" that will be on their second cassette. Grateful to Frank for letting them play it.

33. Have a couple of Czech vocals. Don and Rachel sing "Ja Rada Tancuja," it took some doing on their part. Martin Novy sings a lot of songs in Czech. "White Horse Polka," "Baruska," "Svestkova Alej."

34. Band will have been together seven years in August. Have own PA, stands with lights, try to look professional. Wear black dress pants, black dress shoes, white shirt with bow tie, and blue vests that glitter. "Give us more

of a dressy appearance."

35. Hillsboro, Yuba pretty much "Czech-orientated," 6-7 band members have Czech backgrounds. Local people give them a lot of support. Like to have a local Czech band. Had a Hillsboro Bohemian Band back in the late 40s and early 50s. Ralph Roberts and Martin Novy belonged to it. They played a lot of old polkas, waltzes, marches.

TAPE RUNS OUT, END OF SESSION