

FRITZ SWANSON'S TAPE WITH OLE LEAR

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Collector: Jim Leary  
Informant: Fritz Swanson  
Sanborn Rd.  
Ashland, Wisconsin

Note: This tape is a copy of one made by Fritz together with another accordion player Ole Lear, around 1975. Ole is dead now, while Fritz, failing in health, can no longer play. Both shine on this tape, although the recording quality isn't great. The scene is a party at Indian Lake.

1. "Koster Vals" (Probably a place name) from Lager and Olson.
2. "Hopp Rulandej" shifting into "Bonde Kallas" (Farmer's Dance).
3. "Finn Polka"
4. "Life in the Finnish Woods."
5. "Hejsen Grabn" (Highstepping)
6. "Kvasar Vals."
7. Elmer Gunderson of Grandview tells two jokes.
  - a. A Chinese cookee in the lumbercamps is always subject to pranks. Finally his tormentors relent. The victim thanks them: "No more pranks, no more pee in the soup."
  - b. Concerns a stuttering cookee on a boat. The cook falls overboard and by the time the cookee can sing out an alarm, the cook is a mile behind.
8. "Finska Valsen."
9. Couple songs mixed together, says Fritz. Can he mean they were just jamming, or did they make a mistake?
10. "Midsommer Vals."
11. "Flicker vid Belmont Ro."
12. "Hesselby Steppin!"
13. Same as eleven.
14. "Koster Vals."
15. "Kvasar Vals." Again, while we listened to this tape, Fritz commented that this was one of the first he ever heard, some seventy years ago. Bill Lind, Fritz's dad and others played the tune and he learned from them.
16. "Spis Kroken Vals" (Stovepoker Waltz).
17. "Bonde Kallas" (Farmer's Dance).
- 18, 19, 20, and 21 are German pieces, played solely by Ole, which Fritz could not identify.

22. Ole plays and sings "Married by the Bible, Divorced by the Law," written by Johnny Rector, Pee Wee Truebitt, Neva Starns, K. Loury, and Cookie Longhorn, 1952. Recorded by Hank Snow. Possibly this song had some personal meaning for Ole. He was, according to Fritz, a hard liver. He "would chew two boxes of snuff and drink a quart of booze in an evening of playing."
23. Ole does a WWII era song that I didn't recognize.
24. Ole closes with a Norwegian song about love for home. Fritz and Angie identified it as the Norwegian National Anthem.

(END OF THE SESSION)