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JL and MLH left Ashland around noon. GD's house was only a 30-minute drive but directions weren't too clear. Eating lunch along the way, we discussed a strategy to try to get GD to sing old Scandinavian songs rather than the religious songs he now sings around the area. We followed Sanborn Avenue out of Ashland to County E. We turned left on E to Hwy. 63. About 1/2 mile down 63, we crossed the Bibon Creek Bridge and made another left almost immediately after it onto a dirt road. The road lead straight back for 2 miles. We stopped at a farmhouse to check if we were on the right track. Having confirmed this, we travelled another mile to a "T" intersection. We made another left there. About 1/4 mile down, we came to GD's house - what he described as a trailer house with a gabled roof.

JL and MLH got the equipment out of the car and walked to the house. The doors to the porch and trailer itself were open. We knocked and GD motioned to come in. He was on the phone in the kitchen. Once off the phone, GD told us his wife was doing the laundry at a neighbors and he was "on his own". (He seemed pleased with this). We proceeded to the living room. We sat down and GD offered he didn't think he'd be much help. GD showed us an old Swedish songbook he had just received from a neighbor, suggesting that it may be useful to us in which case we could keep it. The book was about 4"x5" and red in color. It was entitled "Sjung Suenska Folk", printed in Minneapolis in 1906. He handed the book to MLH and JL to see. MLH asked if she could turn on the tape recorder, explaining it was easier than taking notes, but GD was quite apprehensive about it (scared you might say).

GD went on to talk about Ole Skrattholt who traveled through the area singing ballads and comical songs. GD called him a "great man". JL acknowledged he had heard of him. GD then said we should talk to Clarence Iceberg who lives in Ashland behind East-West Realty. GD assured us that CI knew old Swedish ballads. When JL asked how to spell the name, GD's eyes widened and he stared a bit - as if he were a bit deaf or didn't understand the question. GD did this 3 or 4 times throughout the interview.

GD then got up to show us a Swedish hymnal. It was about 8½x11" and black. It read "Hemlandssanger on the first line in large capital letters, and utgifna" in smaller capital letters below it. It was printed by the Lutheran Augustance Book Concern in 1892 out of Rock Island, Illinois.

GD then spoke of Walter Levine who died two years ago. He apparently knew all the songs and taped a number of them. One of GD's neighbors, Rose Swanson, has the tapes. JL asked if she was related to Fritz Swanson, who MG and JL had interviewed the other day. GD said Rose married Fritz's brother. JL detected that GD didn't want to talk about FS anymore, so JL didn't pursue any questions about FS and his music.

MLH again asked if the tape recorder could be used. JL encouraged but GD still was quite apprehensive. GD then picked up his guitar (a Ventura 6 string, steel strings, caps on the 1st fret) and sang part of a Swedish song called "O Mother of Mine". GD then talked about Swan Gunderson (sp?) who made a tape of that song. SG is now dead, but GD told us to contact Mrs. Vic (Edith) Wallin in Grandview (SG's daughter) for the tapes. SG sang both Swedish and Norwegian music according to GD, and a song called "Burning Ship" which GD believes to be about the Titanic.

GD then sang a novelty song entitled "Oh, Why Can't I Have a Beau?" He sang it without his guitar. His face was quite animated, his voice steady. (He seemed to enjoy the song). GD sang two more songs in a similar manner. "I, For Myself, Don't Often Forget" and "You're Just a Little Too Small". GD spoke of SG again and then called Rose Swanson. GD then got up from his chair in the living room to call RS for us. He explained about the project and that we were "a nice young couple". The conversation was short, but GD arranged for us to see RS sometime soon. GD commented to RS that he was "trying to help them". GD gave us RS's phone number (715) 765-4757. GD then suggested we also get in touch with Connie Renz (in Sanborn) for old Swedish songbooks, too).

(At this point, MLH and JL finally succeeded in setting up the tape recorder). When GD got off the phone, JL and MLH encouraged GD to sing "You're Just a Little Too Small" again. GD sang it, but eyed the tape recorder 2 or 3 times as he sang. He sat on the edge of his chair, strumming the guitar for accompaniment. GD then sang a religious number,

"Lord of Lord, King of Kings". GD watched JL and MLH as he sang. He played the tune in the key of Ab (capoed the 1st fret). (JL and MLH praised him for the song. MLH asked where he learned the song. GD said he wrote it. (He seemed humble - yet proud). During the performance, he watched JL, MLH and the guitar chords he was forming. His style of playing was simple - thumb pluck on the bottom E string, thumb stroke across the other string. After singing the song JL asked how GD came to compose the song. GD then related a story about a man with cancer that he was about to visit. GD stared out the window as he talked about his friend. He was somber in telling the story and solemn. It appeared to both JL and MLH in retrospect, that GD has found his niche in life - bringing music to the sick, dying and elderly.

GD then sang another song he composed, "The Wonders of the Lord are for You and Me." (The chord patterns are quite simple, again. He doesn't change chords sometimes where there "should" be a chord change as portrayed in the music.) GD sat in the chair while singing these songs, looking up now and then to see if JL and MLH were listening. (MLH felt it was so much a check of listening to GD, but of checking to see if we were listening to the words and their meaning). GD then sang another of his compositions, "Family of God". Again, he thumb-picked the bass note and gave 2 strokes of the chord.

MLH asked if GD knew any old Swedish or Norwegian songs. GD talked about the radio gospel hour and then sang "Behold, the Host of Radiant White". GD sang the song in Norwegian first, then in English.

Tape Off

While MLH was changing the tape, GD got up to show us some instruments in the bedroom. JL followed GD there. After a few minutes, MLH joined them. GD had taken an old (undated) Norwegian harpleck zither his aunt gave to him years ago. GD demonstrated how to play it. It was quite out-of-tune, but he showed us a few chord progressions, anyway. Off the top shelf of his closet, GD pulled out an old autoharp and an old banjo-uke his granddaughter gave him. JL also mentioned to MLH GD had shown him his 100 year old guitar. (GD seemed quite proud of these instruments). We stayed and talked in the bedroom for 10-15 minutes, then walked back into the living room.

Tape Off

GD picked up his guitar, standing away from the tape (as if it may hurt him?) He sang "Please Help Me

I'm Falling For You". It was a comical song and he seemed to enjoy singing it. He walked around quite a bit while singing. GD then sang, "I'm So Afraid of Losing You Again", which he identified as a Charlie Pride song. GD glanced at the tape 2 or 3 times as he was singing the song. The final song GD sang was "On The Cross of Calvary". He sang it in Swedish first, then in English. He called it a religious song. His style of chording was thumb stroke on the bass note, then the index finger plucking the top E string. Thumb stroke across the strings alternated with these individual notes.

After GD sang the last song, a truck drove up and honked the horn for GD. He put his guitar down and said he would have to go. We thanked him for his time and assured him we'd get in touch with Rose Swanson. (GD was happy the machine was off now). After we packed up the equipment, MLH asked GD to sign the release form. GD teased on the form and MLH and GD both sang the chorus line from "Release Me", a country-western tune. GD went into the kitchen to sign it.

We walked out the door together. GD said he'd take us out back to show us his project. He told us he was building an addition to the trailer; a workroom, utility room and a new entrance, because his wife was getting too fat to come in the front door. GD told us it was the first time he had laid cement blocks. He smiled and we all laughed. GD then asked us what nationalities JL and MLH were. After finding out MLH was Polish, he told us a Polish joke. As we walked back towards the car and truck, GD told another joke - a religious Norwegian joke. (GD seemed to enjoy telling jokes and laughing). We thanked him again and waved good-bye. GD drove off with two young boys in the truck to do cement work.

Additional Comments: GD is a man in his 60's. He wore a fishing cap during the interview, which covered his white and balding hair. He wears glasses and stands about 6 feet. He has a medium build and is in good physical shape. He was wearing khaki work clothes when we stopped to see him.