

TAPE INDEX

March 5, 1981

Collector: Jim Leary
 Matthew Gallman
 Informants: Rudy and Edith Hukkala
 Washburn, Wisconsin

ETHNIC HERITAGE
 SOUND ARCHIVE & RESOURCE CENTER
 NORTHLAND COLLEGE, ASHLAND, WI

1. Collector's Announcement.
2. Rudy born in Hancock, Mi. 1905. Moved to South Range at age one.
3. South Range half Finnish, many Italians, some "Cousin Jacks," Germans, Irish, Jews in business.
4. About going to school in South Range.
5. About speaking Finnish and English in the family (dad talked only Finnish).
6. Father was a tailor, also a weaver and furrier. Liked to drink.
7. Rudy left for Chicago in 1926. Lived there for 48 years.
8. Didn't consort with Finnsat first in Chicago, but started going to the Suomi Synod Church (mother had belonged to South Range Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church).
9. Mother was mid-wife, came from Finland at 15 to stay with uncle in Laurium, Mi. Worked as a maid, supposedly learned English from a cookbook.
10. Mother would iron and sing "English" songs. Finnish songs too. Her ~~brother~~ uncle wrote many words for hymns sung in the Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church.
11. Edith tells about poorer peoples' affection for the Apostolic Luth. Church, Rudy joins in with recollections of wild services at South Range with a good lunch to follow.
12. Rudy went to Suomi Synod Ch. in Chicago, began to sing in church choir. This where he first started to sing Finnish songs. Services in Finnish in A.M., English in P.M.
13. When Chicago World's Fair (1933) on, male Finnish singers combined to enter a contest during the Fair. Group continued. Called "Sibelius Male Chorus." Got composer's permission for the name. Sent him cigars at Christmas.
14. Arne Huupa, Chicago Watchmaker and member of the group visits Sibelius during the Helsinki Olympics.

(CASSETTE ONE ENDS)

15. About the programs for choir performances. (We've copied two for the project.
16. Two concerts per year. Winter concert around Finnish Independence Day. Spring concert in May. Eventually one concert per year, but sang for universities, private clubs, etc.

17. Sang accapella mostly. Did some English songs (like "Stout Hearted Men" and the Scottish "When the Blue Bonnets Came Over the Border"). First director Edwin Karhu, did arranging of Finnish songs and some composing.
18. About how many in the group didn't want Marian Anderson to sing as a guest soloist with them. She had a Finnish pianist.
19. Rudy would informally sing barbershiop style with friends, all American songs.
20. About "Maillman Matti" and Finnish verses about fighting with knives. These songs, said Rudy, were called "sled songs" (Reki Lualu) sung while sledding. Would also sing some "nice, sentimental songs" like "Villi Ruusu."
21. "Kaunis Kes Ilta" (Beautiful Evening). Edith recalls hearing this sung in Finnish and English at Co-ops in Superior.
22. A Federation of Finnish American and Canadian American Male choruses established about 1953.

(REEL ONE ENDS)

23. Edith's mother born in Ironwood, came to Marengo about 1900.
24. Father born in Finland, had Marengo farm, then sold it and returned to Finland, then to Brantwood in 1914, then back to Marengo in the early 1920's.
25. Edith's mother was a free thinker, Dad a socialist.
26. Viola Turpeinen remembered at the Minersville Halle near Marengo. 1930's.
27. Edith worked in Superior in late 1930's. Did singing, dancing, and drama at weekend camps.
28. Mother used to ride train from North York to Ashland to peddle fruit and butter.
29. "Kotilan Kulas Tansa" is another song Edith recalls singing in the Marengg area in the 1930's; also "Kulkurin Valssi," and "Orpopojan Valssi" and "Villi Ruusu"
- ~~30~~
30. Edith's mother used to square dance in Highbridge about 1914 with non-Finns.
32. Rudy talks about the eventual demise of the Sibelius chorus, from 50 down to about 18. Now they sing with Estonians.

(CASSETTE TWO ENDS)

32. Edith tells a Toivo and Urho joke about rocks brought by the "lacier."
33. A historical word about the Finns coming to Delaware.

(THE SESSION ENDS)