

TAPE LOG

October 10, 1980

Collector: Jim Leary  
Informant: Jerry Novak  
Moquah, Wisconsin

Note: On this tape I attempt to get Jerry to sing all of the words to tunes he played on October 7. The numbers given refer to tunes and titles given by Novak on ~~November 7~~ October 7.

1. Slovan Jsem Sung in Bohemian.

I am a Slav and I will keep on being a Slav.  
I will wear black boots, my saber sharpened  
On both sides will cut my way from Hungary into Moravia,  
etc.

2. Ku Praze Sung in Bohemian.

It's a long way to Prague and it's bordered  
By young trees which are planted by my sweetheart.  
And she planted by the way with rosemary and white  
clover,  
Which will symbolize our faithful love.  
(He was going into the Army, y'know).

3. Andulko Safarova " " "

4. Safarova Kone " " "

Discusses the importance of horses, their cost in the old country and the status associated with them. On the Novak's use of horses in Moquah for work and transportation.

5. Nestastny Sararuu Domeceau Sung in Bohemian.

6. Loučeni, Loučeni " " "

Saying goodbye is a hard thing  
When a young man has to part from his sweetheart.  
When we were parting, both of us were wiping  
away our tears.  
With a white handkerchief,

7. Vy Hvezdičky (You Little Stars) " " "

8. Koline " " "

JN goes into background of a battle fought at Koline, relates the song to his father's experiences. Gives information on the composer of the song. Translates song.

9. Už Jedou Vojači Sung in Bohemian

- This song is linked together with number 10:  
10. Jeste jsem Nevyrost " " "

After singing and explaining # 10, Jerry went into a discussion of several ballads he knew; there were others he ~~ex~~ recalled hearing, but could not remember.

A. Hrob Milencu (The Grave of the Sweetheart) (CAZ, #163, p. 202).

A long ballad of lovers who were unable to marry and were united in death.

JN gives a summary of the plot and plays the tune on his harmonica.

End of Tape One in this session.

JN continues with ballads not mentioned in session one.

B. Na Hranicich Mesta Nemeckeho (On the Border of a German City)

Concerns the love of a count for a poor maiden. JN summarizes the plot, verse by verse, from memory. Circumstances prevent the lovers from marrying and they both die and are buried together.

JN plays the tune on his harmonica, then sings in Bohemian.

C. Olbrich A Božena (Olbrich and Bozena--two lovers)

JN goes over the plot verse by verse. A prince sees a beautiful young girl washing clothes by the stream and falls in love with her. They succeed in marrying. JN sings in Bohemian.

D. Stoji Jablón V Sade (Up an Apple Tree in an Orchard)

This is a "love song."

An apple tree stands in a grove.

Underneath, there's a rosebush.

With a sweet song that night,

A nightengale was singing.

How strange that in a small bird,

There is so much singing.

Stranger still that in the heart of a woman,

There is so much love . . .

Plays the tune.

Sings in Bohemian.

JN talks about the songs he likes and remembers. Talks about the old people singing in Moquah.

We return to the list from session one and Jerry continues singing the words for numbers he previously only gave tunes for.

Irene Novak talks briefly about Christmas songs her mother used to sing.

11. Kdaž Jsem Sel V Praze (The Market Place at Prague)

Sings in Bohemian

JN's wife laughs at this one. The song concerns distinguishing proper girls from those who aren't.

12. Sil Jsem Proso (I Planted Millet)

" " "

JN talks about millet porridge he has eaten. We discuss planting millet and Jerry talks about his flail, how to use it, and how to keep time while working with others.

## TAP E THREE BEGINS

JN continues to talk about the use of the flail. Talks about harvesting with a sycthe, threshing, various mowers, horse power.

JN talks about his interest in recording what he knows.

12. Sings Sil Jsem Proso again.

~~13. xxx~~

13. Trencin Trnava (She Baked Bread) Sings in Bohemian

JN describes that the song has a verse for each day of the week, since the woman took that long to bake her bread. He sings all seven, but with some hesitation.

14. Jetelicku Jeteli (Clover Blossom) " " "

My love, if we wish, let us go before the magistrate  
And have the bans read over us . . .

15. Ja Jsem Malý Mysliveček (I'm a Little Gamekeeper) Sings in Bohemian

JN translates beyond the point he had translated in the previous session.

Oh you blackbirds, you sing so beautiful.  
All the girls are cutting, cutting,  
With sickles they were cutting grass.  
And you were looking at them . . .  
All the girls are coming home,  
But my girl is not coming.  
She cut her hand and her hand is bleeding . . .  
(She is eventually taken to the doctor and healed).

JN talks about dancing and singing at local house parties. Mentions about how their singing reminded them of home. Talks about how good musicians could play a song once they heard it sung. On the availability of home brew.

17. Pod Tim<sup>ě</sup> Nasim Okenečkom Sung in Slovak

Under our window there was a frost last night.  
In our well there is now water now.  
I'll take out my ax and go and chop,  
And then we shall have water again.

JN comments on how this is simply a kind of opening formula and soon the song "goes on to something else."

18. Karolina Plays tune on harmonica.

JN can only recall the meaning, not the exact words. The cavalry is going off and a man must join them. He explains how he was lured into going into the cavalry when drunk. His girl, Karolina, was crying.

~~19x~~ The sad parting in this song reminds JN of another tow which he doesn't know all the words! an "Emigrant's Song" or "Viste ho Valaci" Plays the tune.  
Calls to mermaids to show people the way across the sea. JN  
talks about the difficulties of crossing the sea.

19. Boleraz (A Green Juniper Tree) Sung ~~lx~~ in Slovak

The ~~lx~~ mention of a lover as a "grey dove" in this song reminds JN of another song using the same metaphor: "Civa Holu Vičko," or The Little Gray Dove. JN called this a "wadding song." Talks about singing at weddings.

TAPE FOUR IN THE SESSION BEGINS

20. Vy Oci Černé (Your Black Eyes) Sings in Bohemian

YOU black eyes, you are so false,  
When you are looking at me.  
You promised me love, you false lover,  
And I was faithful to you. . .

JN can't recall the entire song.

21. Adamky Nas (Our Little Adam) Plays the tune  
Sings in Bohemian.

Our little Adam, what are you doing?  
Children are going to school  
And k you are just leaving to go to school.  
My Adam, stay in love with me . . .  
Until Spring when the violet is in bloom,  
Then we shall get married.

22. Vy Rezmici (You Butchers) Sings in Bohemian.

23. Kononyry (The Cannoneers) " " "

24. Dudacek (The Bagpiper) " " "

25. Zakukala (The Cuckoo Galled) " " "

30. Ach Neňi (There is Nothing Here) Sings In Bohemian.

40. Pod Tou Nasi Lipou (Under Our Linden Tree) " " "

JN comments on the difficulty of translating from one language to another.  
We talk about Bohemian newspapers to which Jerry has described.  
We talk about lodges and Jerry's connections with the Bohemians in Ashland.

43. Letí, Letí Ptak Sings in Bohemian.

JN talks about the harmonica that he learned to play on.

the session ends