

TAPE INDEX

DOWN HOME DAIRYLAND RADIO PROGRAMS

Harry Chaudoir
Rosiere, WI
May 3, 1988

Recorded by Jim Leary
Ampex 632 tape
Nagra 4-L recorder

1. Announcement.
2. It's about Jules and John, two farmers. This is years back. Each had a team of horses and were out in the fields ploughing. And as they were ploughing one of the horses, John's horse dropped. And Jules came over to see what was going on, you know, what happened. And "John" he said, "what happened? Did your horse just drop?" "Yeah," he said, "we'll have to get a vet and see what's going on." So they called, the vet came over, and he asked if they had a hose around there. So they found one and they gave it to the doctor. Doc just put it in the horse's hinder and he started blowing, started blowing, and pretty soon the horse got up, started walking, and was good for the rest of the day. The following day Jules' horse dropped. John came over, ran over, and "Whatever you do," he says, "don't call the vet," he says. "We'll save ourselves that money. We don't have to pay the vet. We can do that ourselves." So they got a hose and John put the hose in the horse's hinder and he started blowing. But no way could he get the horse to get up. Jules says "Give me that thing. You don't know how to blow that thing." So he turns it around. He takes the hose out of the horse's hinder and he puts the other end in. And John says, "What the heck you doing there," he says. "Well," he says, "I'm not going to put my mouth where you put yours."
3. In Walloon or French an animal's mouth is a "gueule," but a human's mouth is "bouche." In local joking talk Belgians use "gueule" to refer to a human's mouth.
4. H recalls all sorts of artful joking colorful talk in Walloon when he was growing up. Also cites Belgian pleasure in arguing among themselves. Recalls relatives building his house years ago and contradicting one another constantly.
5. Many jokes told about John and Jules as stock characters. These names common, as were Francois and Francis, Eduard, Etienne.
6. Born Brussels, WI, area in 1927. Wife b. Rosiere, 1928. Great-grandparents came in 1873. Later. Most Belgians in area came between 1854-1858.
7. H returned to Belgium in 1972, family that bought old place from H's ancestors still owned place.
8. H's parents farmed and did commercial fishing in winter. H has done some farming, will retire soon from 42 years with the Electric Company.
9. Local area largest of Walloon-speaking Belgians in USA. Flemings in Detroit and in Moline, Illinois. Flemings and Walloons have never gotten along too well because of the different languages. In USA Czechs and Germans and Poles and Belgians always got along pretty well.

10. H reckons historically the Walloons better off and Flemings had to come south to work for them, no trend is reversing. Reckons interrelations are better on linguistic border.

11. The father told the boy, "You'd better go wash that cat." He had played with the cat and the cat was full of mud and everything. So the kid was going to wash this cat. So he comes out after awhile. He says, "Did you wash your cat?" "Yup," he says. He says, "Where's the cat?" He says, "Well he's laying over there." "Well he's dead," he says. "Yeah it happened after I put him through the wringer." [Originally heard in Walloon.]

12. H tells a WWI set Walloon version with Jules of the usual "Polack" joke where Heinie says "Is that you, Jules." Jules stands up and is shot at.

13. See when the people came here, during the winter months--in fact my grandfather on my mother's side went to the logging camps to make enough money to go to school in Madison to learn how to make cheese and butter. And that's where this one comes from. It's about a guy that was deadly afraid of bears. He went out up north in the lumber camps. And the guy was going to show him what to do and this and that. He says, "You know, I'm afraid of the bears. Should I have a gun or something?" "No, don't worry about that," the other guy says, "You always do what the bear does, and he won't bother you." So they sent him out and he was cutting wood; he was on his way, that's what it was, he was on his way. He goes over a log and all of a sudden: "RRRRHHH." A bear. He got scared and he watched the bear. The bear started scratching his head, so he started scratching his head. The bear made a somersault, he made a somersault too. So after while the bear sits down and he takes a crap. "That," he says, "I got you beat. I did that awhile ago when I crossed the log."

14. This was heard years ago, told in Walloon when Harry first heard it. Reckons its easy to switch some around. Not so with others.

[end of session]