

TAPE INDEX

DOWN HOME DAIRYLAND RADIO PROGRAMS

Americano's Ballroom  
Appleton, WI  
Larry Hliniak, Mishicot  
Karl Hartwich, Orion, Illinois  
Andy Justman, Waupaca  
May 4, 1988

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

1. Announcement.

[Hliniak interview]

2. L from Tisch Mills area, now lives in Mishicot where he learned to play in high school. Formed own group in 1981, played for a wedding in Two Rivers.

3. Tisch Mills is a Czech settlement. Various bands from there or nearby, Stahl's Band years ago, Joe Karman, Don Schlies, Hiliniak, Wojta nearby, Siebold not far away.

\* 4. Mandatory to listen to Gosz on the old 78s, "brainwashed" that his was the band. Gosz very energetic and demanding. Saw Gosz's band playing on seats going round and round at a fair in Luxemburg when he was a young kid.

5. Born November 1953. Mother played piano, dad played some clarinet in high school. Parents pushed him into a music interest, he stayed interested.

\* 6. Band basically Czech or Bohemian style, but likes to work in Polish polka, can switch to bass guitar to liven things up. Sound is sort of like Styczynski, but don't have concertina. Use three trumpets with a lot of tonguing, "which is typical of Polish music." Not a faster beat, but playing more notes.

\* 7. In different areas you have to watch you tempos. 110 beats a minute in L's area: Norman, Kewaunee, Two Rivers. Other areas 120 beats a minute too slow. Waltz tempos just the opposite. Thinks slow polkas started up with the hop waltz.

\* 8. Bohemian music very smooth, melodic, memorable tunes, "nice three way harmony," tuba, saxes, clarinets, seldom with bass guitar or concertina, possibly with piano after Romy Gosz.

\* 9. Gosz played a very shallow mouthpiece, not blatty but punctual. Reckons his old 78s have very smooth tone, during the war years got crazier with the trumpet.

10. L's band plays lots of the same old time Bohemian numbers, but doesn't try to copy, likes to play the tunes their way.

\* 11. Band a young band, L about the oldest guy. At first they couldn't play polkas too well, didn't have the feeling yet, just had the notes. Now they're feeling it and the dancers know it. Feel comes from playing and playing, and



listening to the good bands.

12. L has notes out when playing but doesn't really read them unless it's a new number. Has to watch notes when helping out with another band because the key and arrangement of the tune might be different. Thinks it takes a combination of playing by notes and by ear.

13. L having little hard time jamming this evening because he doesn't know the numbers and the keys are a little different in the Dutchman style. So he lays back and fills in.

[Karl Hartwich interview]

- \* 14. Hartwich a German name, born Moline, Illinois, 1961. Ever since a kid going to Wisconsin dancing to see the Jolly Swiss Boys at least twice a month. About age 12 got a concertina for a Christmas present. Had learned a few tunes on the way home, a few months later sitting in with Jolly Swiss Boys, six months later had his own band, Karl and the Country Dutchmen, now in its 14th year.
15. Syl Liebl has written more tunes than anyone Karl knows of. He ran a 7 piece band. Has had a rough life, lost three kids. Syl Jr. leads the band now.
16. Leary tells Karl about the Swiss Boys/neutral country name.
17. Karl a distant relative of Syl.
18. Syl's style is different, real smooth, hard to explain.
19. Brian and Karl never had a lesson, know what all the notes are. Most guys don't read the notes, just follow the numbers. Brian's Karl's cousin too.
20. Karl and Brian's latest album has mostly members from Karl's band playing.
21. K doesn't know why they have tenor banjo in their bands, but know some good banjo players and puts them to work. Tony Jergenson who plays with Brian really knows what he's doing on banjo.
22. Band name because Karl lived on a farm all his life. Asked Lester Schuft if they could use the Country Dutchmen name. He said it was fine.
23. Jeans/Dutchman hat sort of a uniform. Karl never cared for suits, likes to be comfortable, doesn't care about everybody matching up.
24. Reckons his band essentially after New Ulm Dutchman style, but can't really put a finger on what they do.
- \* 25. Lot of times Karl's band gets pretty loose. They don't use any music to speak of. Have new people listen to a tape to get a tune and a part down. Having a feeling more important. You don't have to play the right note to make it sound good. Hardly ever plays a tune the same way twice. Once in a while blends several tunes that resemble one another.
26. Band usually takes one twenty minute break about 11:30, then plays the last



hour.

- \* 27. Don't know what tune to play until they finish the one before. Karl decides, announces a tune, then starts out. Sometimes musicians left behind, but they catch up.
- 28. A fan comes with cake and requests a tune in honor of someone's birthday. [Maybe a good radio example of musician having to interact with fans.]
- 29. We talk a little about Irving DeWitz. Karl has heard of him but has never met him.

[Andy Justman interview]

- \* 30. Born and raised in Dodge County, WI. Learned clarinet in high school. At 15 or so went to see Six Fat Dutchmen playing. Inspired to play concertina. Went to Hustisford to get lessons from Irving DeWitz. Andy took six or eight lessons, picked up the rest himself. Learned to play clarinet, sax, trumpet, and trombone in school. Does enough piano to write arrangements. Has eight piece band. Has had mostly a polka band for 40 years now, last 6 or 8 years has done big band stuff.
- 31. Grew up in Dodge County, now lives in Waupaca.
- 32. When A growing up band arrangements relatively simple and somewhat blarey. Today most bands much more refined, more sophisticated sound. Back then not near the number of tunes either. A's wife Jenny sells tours abroad, favorite spot Bavarian Germany and Austrian Tirol. Do a lot of tunes from there and do yodels as well. Wife yodels with the band. For twelve years had all four sons in the band, now they're spread out, but oldest son lives in Waupaca, plays bass, sings German and yodels. They play for German Clubs.
- \* 33. Andy grew up in German community, went to German-speaking parochial school, confirmed in Germany. Forgot some, but went to Germany in 1976 and since then it has all come back.
- \* 34. Tourism has been instrumental in causing infusion of new songs into American old time repertoire. People who went on tours want to hear "Das Kufstein Lied" for nostalgic reasons.

[tape runs out, session ends]