

TAPE INDEX

Jim Leary
March 5, 1985

Tom Eisenhut
Weissgerber's Gasthaus
Waukesha, WI

1. Collector's announcemnt.
2. Eisenhut means "Iron Hat" in German. T. visited an Eisenhut Hotel in Rothenberg, home area of his distant relatives.
3. B. Milwaukee 4/26/34. Dad born 1901 in Milwaukee, played concertina for awhile then went into automotive and aviation mechanics. Mother a pianist, born in 1902 in Milwaukee.
4. T. began piano accordion at 9 and a half, studied piano and a few other instruments. Played in bands and orchestras. In local 8 of Milwaukee Musicians Union.
4. 21st St. Grade School, North Division High School. T. names band directors, choir directors, orchestra directors of the "fine faculty" at his high school.
5. Took Fine Arts courses at U.W. Whitewater and UWM, 1953-1960, B.A. in Liberal Arts. Went to Wisconsin Conservatory, gave voice recitals, studied with George Graham and a Mrs. Pruessing (sp?), 1958-1965.
6. Taught in various private schools, at Ochs House of Music [this is Pete Ochs' whose band is reissued on Corenthal's label], at Rohr (sp?) Music Company where he had "about four accordion ensembles going," 50-60 students per week.
7. Was also in the Army Reserve and performed with his own orchestra at the Forest Kellar on Juneau Avenue near the Pabst Beer Hall. Played at the Bavarian Inn, the White Coach Inn, Alpine Village, Schwabenhof, JeffersonHall, Stenlers (sp?) in Thiensville.
8. Volunteer Director of Music for Milwaukee Boys Clubs, Music Director of Kettle Moraine Boys School in Plymouth for five years (a "correctional

institute"). Put together bands, choirs, small combos, taught music appreciation.

9. Volunteer director at Central Colony in Madison.
10. Received music certification from Silver Lake College at Manitowac.
11. Two M.A.s from U.W. Whitewater.
12. Plays Tues. & Weds. 7-8:30 at Gasthaus in Waukesha. 5:30-9:00 at Seven Seas in Delafield-Hartford area.
13. Can play with duos, trios, an orchestra, etc. Has a "Lederhosen Group."
14. Lieutenant Colonel in Army Reserve.
15. Played with mandolinist Hans Bobitz (sp?, a German immigrant who now lives in Rochester, N.Y. Hans was director of Milwaukee Mandolin Club. Jim Sambo now director of Milwaukee Zither Club.
16. Worked as a substitute teacher in twelve different school districts. Presently a music teacher in Muskego-Norway-Mukwonago area.
17. Plays Oktoberfest at West Bend Country Club and Black Hawk Country Club in Madison.
18. Names various conductors with whom he's studied and stresses his interest in composition for the accordion.
19. Harry Kosek and the Red River Boys have been students of Tom.
20. Dad had a little orchestra--drums, concertina, trumpet--people from around the block.
21. Mother performed at 5 and 10 cents stores playing new compositions for patrons.
22. Dad and mother read music.
23. Mother's father played "practically every instrument there was . . . string, percussion, brass, woodwinds."
24. Dad's neighborhood orchestra played house parties.
25. Concertina, like mandolin, is played well by some today. Hard to get a

good accordion during the war years, but it seemed to be the thing to have then. T.'s accordion is a Dallape, handmade reeds, double chamber-- a "Super Maestro" condensed into an organette six. Made to T's specifications for his small hand and his musical strolling.

26. Accordion is portable, versatile for playing parts.

27. T quotes director of Milwaukee Catholic Symphony as insisting that it's important to play "cafe music" so that a musician becomes responsive to an audience and takes total responsibility for the music.

28. T plays and sings in a number of languages. Mentions "Santa Lucia," "Du, Du Liegst Mir Im Herzen," also does the "Bird Dance."

29. Didn't speak German as a child, but his parents did. T stresses the importance of "conversational" teaching of a language.

33. T's German tunes from sheet music, books (some of which are "hand-me-downs"). There's also a demand from the audience for certain tunes like "Lichtensteiner Polka" and "Spanish Eyes."

[TAPE ONE ENDS]

34. "Lili Marlene."

35. German Medley: Du, Du, Mein Hut Der Hat Drei Ecken, and Ach Du Lieber Augustine.

36. "Kaffe Klatsch Polka" (sp?), an original composition.

4. "Edelweiss," attributed by T to The Sound of Music.

[THE SESSION ENDS]