

[Peter P. Luther]

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FORM A Circumstance of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Cecile Larson ADDRESS 430 So. 17

DATE Sept. 26, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Peter P. Luther, 430 So 17th St.
2. Date and time of interview. Sept. 26, — 9 till 12.
3. Place of interview. His Apt. home
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant. None
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you. None.
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Three room apartment in small ap't house, fairly comfortable. [????]

2

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Cecile Larson ADDRESS 430 So. 17

DATE Sept. 26, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore (American)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Peter P. Luther (and wife)

1. Ancestry. German

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2. Place and date of birth. [Maritowoo?] Wisconsin Dec. 27, 1871.
3. Family. Father and mother both Germans from Germany
4. Place lived in, with dates. Wisconsin until 8 years old — Lancaster Co. at Walton on same farm for 56 years until drouth forced him to leave farm and he came to Lincoln getting a job as night watchman.
5. Education, with dates. Went to country school on days when there was no work to do — from age 8 to 14.
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates. Farming — played French harp, jaws harp, B cornet and accordion.
7. Special skills and interests. Liked dancing — called for dances all around the country.
8. Community and religious activities. Was Altar boy in Catholic Church — always attended church and still does.
9. Description of informant. Nice, intelligent and pleasant looking. Very happy disposition.
10. Other points gained in interview. Cut prairie hay — 3 or 4 tons to the acre. No roads — just trails. No trees except along creek. Herded cattle & hogs on foot 5 or 6 miles from home.

3

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Cecile Larson ADDRESS 430 So. 17

DATE Sept. 26, 1938 SUBJECT Peter P. Luther

Library of Congress

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Peter P. Luther, 430 So. 17

In 1879 my father came to Walton and bought the farm at Walton for \$6 per acre. There was a cornfield where the State Capitol Bldg. is now and I guess we could have bought that ground almost as cheap. Lincoln itself was only four blocks square at that time. I worked at home herding hogs and cattle. We had 60 head of cattle and 200 hogs. We drove them thru the native grass which was two feet high. Had no horses. The grass had never been cut and was thick and wonderful feed — but it'll never come back no more. Sometimes I'd hear a noise and then a big bull snake would raise up above the grass and look at me. In between working times I went to school. In them days the only way we marked grades was 1st reader, 2nd reader 3d reader 4th reader and history. When you had history that was as high as you could get. With all of it we had geography and arithmetic. Our teacher had 77 pupils. I was a catholic altar boy. We drove to Lincoln with a team and buggy, father and mother and 5 children-left home at 8 in the morning and got back by 3 p.m. or 3:20. We sang gospel hymns in school. We went-barefooted up until Christmas — weather was never very cold. No snow until after we had been here 8 or 9 years when climate began to change. Lots of fish in creeks. No trees except along creeks. There were stone quarries at Bennet and Cheney. Everybody built their own house out of the stone. We didn't wear heavy clothes, didn't need nothing but summer clothes.

4

I got sick one time and while I was in bed I learned to play the harps and accordion. Wore the accordion out — had to glue it together but I took a few lessons on the B Cornet so I could play in the band.

Just loved to dance and I'd go now if my wife wasn't such a stay at home. Lots of our friends still dance. I used to go all over the country calling for dances — some of them are called 4 hand round 8 hands round do-si-do The girl I left behind me Buffalo girl Virginia reel

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Part of words. Buffalo girl are you coming out tonight. Coming out tonight, coming out tonight Oh Buffalo girl are you coming out tonight To dance by the light of the moon. Balance all-swing, first couple lead to the right Four hands half — right and left back Right and left fore “ “ “ back Lead to the next Six hands half Right and left six “ “ “ back Balance home — Swing Alaman left — grand right and left. Meet your partner — promenade home. 4 times.

Polka. Bal and swing Alaman left Promenade Down center Round outside Sing on the corner. 4 times.

5

Waltz Quadrille Sal your partner Swing Promenade Meet your partner with a double elbow One and half and around you go. Waltz — 4 times and change partners.