Notes

1 Sveen told Ferguson, "I have a distinctly North American sound, very relaxed, very easy to listen to. Norwegians prefer a more rigid, traditional approach. If my records were put on sale in Norway, nobody would buy them."

2 "Garnet Clark, steel guitar; he’s still playing—well, I don’t know, but not very long ago. Claude Swanson, banjo, is the tallest guy. Swedish. He’s southeast of here by the U.S. border. I think he’s dead. Maybe he’s in Edmonton now. Danny Colibaba, the fiddle player, he’s dead. He had kidney trouble, Eddie told me. He was a good player. He had to play Western style; he didn’t play too much Ukrainian." All photos courtesy of Olaf Sveen.

3 Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Championship hosts a week-long festival of concerts, competitions, and other events every summer. Their use of the term "Old Time" music refers "...to the manner of style in which the selection is played, not the selection’s age or ethnic origin. Old time manner or style is fittingly described for the purpose of this competition as: style and tempo that has been predominantly and successfully used for dancing the Polka, Waltz, and Schottische throughout a broad section of Western Canadian communities during the past century." For more information about these events, write to K.I.O.T.A.C. at Box 473, Kimberley, B.C. V1A 3B9.

4 Gabriel (Gaby) Haas, 1920-87, was born in Czechoslovakia and became a Canadian in 1943. He recorded over 50 record albums and was known as "Canada’s Mr. Polka." (The term is also often applied to Walter Ostanek.) Haas was well-known in Edmonton for his many TV appearances and for his frequent performances in the city, often at the restaurants he owned in partnerships. Olaf Sveen has written a reminiscence of Haas, which will appear in an upcoming issue of the Bulletin.

Sources


Schottische

This schottische, among the many played by Olaf Sveen, has been found under various titles, including "Thunder Road," the minor-key theme song of a Robert Mitchum film of the Fifties. Herewith is a basic version, with only a few dotted notes. Readers should feel free to decorate it to suit themselves.