

# Interview With Nyal Pierce

**GREGORY HANSEN, INTERVIEWER:**

When did you first hear fiddle tunes?

**NYAL PIERCE:**

Oh, when I was a kid at home, we lived on a farm up south of Coon Rapids. And it was almost every Saturday night, somewhere in the neighborhood, they would have a house dance. And I would sit behind the fiddlers all night long.

**HANSEN:**

So there were a lot of fiddlers in this area as you were coming up?

**PIERCE:**

No, there was only two or three. But they were good old fellows, and I liked to hear them play.

**HANSEN:**

I was curious about the types of tunes that they played.

**PIERCE:**

Practically the same as I do. That's where a lot of them came from.

**HANSEN:**

So it was hoedown tunes and waltzes?

**PIERCE:**

Hoedowns, waltzes, one-steps. Of course the hoedowns were for square dances. They'd have about every third tune they'd play be a square dance. In the summertime especially, they'd move the furniture out of the one of the rooms—just carry it outdoors—so they'd have room to dance. And we'd have a gay old time.

**HANSEN:**

I wonder how long those were going on during that time?

**PIERCE:**

Oh, I would guess somewhere in the neighborhood of ten or twelve years—way back in the late '20s, when I was just a kid.

**HANSEN:**

How many people would come to those usually?

**PIERCE:**

I really can't answer that, but it would seem to me like the place—They'd have two or three square dances at the same time, so the whole neighborhood would be there—probably further away than that.