

ANDREW KEMPF

MEMOIR

Alsatian Customs and Traditions

B8



ANDREW KEMPF - 1897

PREFACE

This manuscript is the product of a tape-recorded interview conducted for the Castroville Public Library Oral History Project B. Deanna Hoffman transcribed the tape and Connie Rihn was the interviewer and editor. Andrew Kempf was interviewed in his home.

Andrew Kempf, born May 7, 1897 in Castroville, lives on the same place where he was born and reared. His father was Benjamin Kempf who was a farmer as was Andrew until he retired. His mother was Mary Keller. Andrew's grandfather immigrated to Texas from France with Henry Castro. A well-educated man, he was the first teacher in Castroville and served as the first organist at St. Louis Church. He was County Clerk for Medina County until his health failed, when his son, August, took over the position. Benjamin and Mary Kempf were very active in the parish affairs of St. Louis, especially St. Louis Society and St. Ann's Society.

Andrew married Lucille Biediger and they have two sons. Lucille died in 1976. Andrew has a remarkable knowledge and memory of the genealogy of local families, and he said he learned this from his mother. The interview centers around St. Louis Day and other local Catholic celebrations, and about social customs of the early 1900's.

The Castroville Public Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the taped memoir, nor for the views expressed therein; these are for the listener to judge. All

rights are reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form by any means without the permission, in writing, from the Oral History Office, Castroville Public Library, Castroville, Texas.

Tape #B8
45 minutes
not transcribed

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Andrew Kempf
Tape # B8
Sides 1-2

Side 1

000 Family background; father was a farmer, grandfather a teacher and politician.

038 Early schooling.

046 St. Louis Day; socials, dance halls.

103 High Mass; gathering of priests.

113 Description of Father Heckmann; languages he spoke.

138 Location and history of grandmother's house.

152 Church choir.

165 Grandfather was first church organist.

176 High Mass; sermon; communion; procession.

196 Bishops visit; description of town welcoming.

219 Womens Club; description of activities.

230 Church windows, installation of

260 Bishop's Visit; room and board; parish housekeepers.

310 St. Louis Day Bazar; hall, captains chairs.

370 St. Louis Day Dinners; preparation of food.

417 St. Louis Day Celebration; Keno

Side 2

000 St. Louis Day food preparation; women cooked; men butchered hogs; sausage making.

022 Meaning of St. Louis Day.

049 Alsatian Foods; soups; cakes; pies; beans; typical friday meals.

084 Christmas Tree; decorated with foods; description of foods.

122 Courting Practices; feelings about marriage.

140 Wedding Shower.

151 Wedding; Firing of anvil; honeymoon.

182 Shivaree; post honeymoon party; mostly drinking.

230 St. Louis Day Handiwork; quilts and other things
made for prizes.

255 St. Louis Day Ballgame.

262 Meaning of St. Louis Day.

280 Dances; musical instruments.

305 Dance Halls; socials custom; types of dances.

INDEX

Andrew Kempf
Tape # B8
Sides 1-2

Alsatian Foods, 049
Bridal shower, 140
Catholic Church customs, 176
Choir, St. Louis Church, 152
Christmas Tree, 084
Dance Halls, 046
Dances, 280
Education, 038
Heckmann; description, 113
Kempf, Andrew, Benjamin & Mary, 001
Marriage, 122
Shivaree, 182
St. Louis Church windows, 230
St. Louis Day, 310, 230, 46
Women's club, 219

ORAL HISTORY OFFICE AGREEMENT

I, Andrew Kempf, interviewed full name - last Kempf, first Andrew, volunteerly give Castroville Public Library the full use of the information recorded on tape on the 1 day of Oct, 1980, in return for which I will receive a tape of the interview.

Andrew Kempf
Interviewee's signature

I, Connie Rehn, the interviewer of Castroville Public Library release all rights, title, literary or copyright interest in the interview conducted on 1 day (s) of Oct, 1980, to the Castroville Public Library Oral History Collection.

Connie Rehn
Interviewer's signature