

ROSALIE HABY JUNGMAN

MEMOIR

Alsatian Customs and Traditions

B25



ROSALIE HABY JUNGMAN - 1880

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. Rosalie Jungman is the oldest living person in Castroville in 1981. She was interviewed on April 1, 1981 in her home in Castroville.

Rosalie Jungman was born in Haby Settlement in 1880 to Andrew Haby and Brigitta Frey. She married Fred William ^{Ju} Jungman in 1904, and they lived in Castroville about 10 years, then moved above Haby Settlement to farm and ranch. They lived on that land for 30 years and reared three children. They moved back to Castroville because of Mrs. Jungman's health. He died in 1956. Mrs. Jungman's oldest daughter, Josephine Bendele now lives with her and cares for her.

At 101 Mrs. Jungman is still able to walk without assistance and she attends church services regularly. Her hearing is somewhat impaired, but she is very alert and her memory still vivid. Mrs. Jungman remembers her young years at Haby Settlement and she tells about many of the social customs of the early 1900's.

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Tape #B25
30 minutes
transcribed

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rosalie Haby Jungman
 Tape # B25
 Side 1

	Page
Side 1	
007 101 years old in 1981.	1
022 Rosalie's children: Josephine (Bendele), Matilda (Iltis), Fred, Jr.	2
025 Living at "Haby Settlement"	2
029 Wedding to Fred Jungman, June 1, 1904; all day reception, Mexican dance band, barbecue	2
062 Dancing-neighborhood "surprise parties", violin player-Jack Stein	5
075 Dances in Castroville on special holidays, Easter, St. Louis Day, Christmas.	6
080 Wernette's Hall (present Koenig Park),	6
089 More on surprise parties, cake and coffee served	7
104 Josephine's schooling, convent school.	8
110 Parents of Fred Jungman-Peter Jungman and Mary Jungman	8
114 Parents of Rosalie-Andrew Haby and Brigitta Frey	8
116 Peter Jungman family-store (pre-1900's)	9
146 Growing up in Haby Settlement; Six brothers-Louis, Andrew, Jake, Adolph, Charles, Paul	10
160 Sister-Mary (Mrs. Philip Wernette); owners of Wernette's Dance Hall; midnight suppers with dance, early 1900's	11
211 Theo Artz band, popular in Castroville, old-time music	13
236 Haby family - 10 children.	14

Side 1

Page

254	First school house in Haby Settlement-first Andrew Haby home (present Ralph Beck home); Sisters' teach there, discontinued 1890's . . .	15
288	Thirty years on farm, moved to Castroville, Mr. Jungman dies.	17
367	Nic Haby story-first generation of Habys worked too hard, died young.	19
390	Andrew Haby died, Rosalie seven years old. . . .	20

Today is Wednesday, April the 1st, 1981. This is Connie Rihn interviewing Rosalie Haby Jungman at her home in Castroville. I'm interviewing for the Castroville Public Library Oral History Project B.

Q Mrs. Jungman, I know you just had a birthday. Could you tell us how old you are?

A I'm all mixed up.

Q Okay. You're 101, right? You were 101?

A Yeah.

Q 101. Okay. You're probably one of the few people who has reached 100 years old in our community, and I know you still get around. You go to church on Sundays and sometimes during the week, do you? You still get around to go to church?

A Um-hum.

Q Do you still do any work? No, you don't work anymore, huh. So your daughter Josephine lives with you now.

A Yeah. And she does the work.

Q How long have you lived in Castroville? Do you remember that?

A See, we lived -- and then I had, mother gave me a piece of land, and we moved on that piece of land and built it up.

Q You and your husband?

A Yeah. We built a new house on there and had an artesian well 900 feet.

Q Is that where you raised your family, then?

A No, they were all -- well, Freddie was born then, when we lived on the farm. The first 10 years we lived in Castroville.

Q Oh, and some of your children were born here, huh?

A Yeah, and Maltilda.

Q Josephine and Maltilda were born in Castroville, and Fred was born at Rio Medina.

A Yeah. Well, he was born at Castroville, too, but he lived up there.

Q Okay. So all of your children were born in Castroville.

A Now, I don't want you to say Rio Medina, I want to say Haby Settlement.

Q Haby Settlement. Okay. And you were a Haby --

A They changed it later on to Rio Medina, but it was Haby Settlement all the time. And our home was towards Quihi.

Q Oh, uh-huh, facing Quihi. I know I've asked you this before, but do you still remember your wedding?

A Well, that was in 1904.

Q 1904.

A 1st of June.

Q What do you remember about it?

A Well, we had the reception at mother's house, and we had a Mexican band that lived in Castroville. That band was up there. And then they had a dinner, closest friends and the relatives. Then that night we had, some of the young people came and they danced for awhile and then

they all went home. The band was in Castroville, the Mexican band.

Q A Mexican band?

A Yeah.

Q Well, where did you dance at home?

A At the, we had a big room.

Q And you cleaned it out?

A That's where they danced, in that big room.

Q Did your reception last all day long?

A Um-hum. They were always all day.

Q What kind of food did your family serve?

A Everything. Sausage and chicken. Well, everything that could have been had, I think. I don't remember. Cabbage and it was sausage and it was hog meat put in, sausage and barbecue.

Q And they barbecued?

A Uh-huh.

Q Okay. Was that usually how people had weddings in that day? Was a barbecue.

A Well, not very often, no.

Q For the wedding, I mean.

A No, they didn't have it.

Q What did they usually have?

A Well, I guess it was turkey and stuff like that.

Q Turkey and chicken, but not always barbecue.

A No, no.

Q But you had barbecue.

A Yeah, sausage, calf meat in it and hog meat in it.

Q Well, did you come down to Castroville in a buggy or something for your wedding?

A Sure.

Q Is that how you traveled? Or did you stay the night in Castroville?

A I think I stayed the night in Castroville --

Q The night before, and got ready, huh?

A Uh-huh.

Q But then you did go up to the home in Haby Settlement for the reception.

A Uh-huh.

Q Well, who did the work for your reception? Your mother or --

A No, no they had several women there.

Q Neighbors or what?

A Well, neighbors too.

Q Family?

A Yeah. Andrew Haby - brother, his family.

Q Okay. When you were courting with Mr. Jungman, did he come up to Haby Settlement to see you or --

A Why, sure. (laughter)

Q Okay. About how often did he come?

A Well, I don't know that. Usually Sunday evening.

Q Okay. Do you still remember as a girl going to a dance

in Castroville?

A Oh, yeah. Not in Castroville, but through all the neighborhood. They had those, what did they call 'em?

Q Surprise parties?

A Parties, birthday parties, surprise parties. Somebody would have a birthday and the kids knew about it they gave 'em a surprise party.

Q And that's where you danced?

A Yeah, that's where we danced.

Q What kind of music did they have?

A Violin.

Q Violin. You don't remember some of those fiddle players, do you?

A I think it was Stein was most of it. Stein, Jack Stein. And one morning we came home when my brother was milking the cows. See, we always went with brothers. And Mrs. Sittre, she went home with her daughters and I think I went home with one of my brothers.

Q And you came home when they were milking? What did mother say?

A Nothing. I was surprised. Didn't say a word.

Q But did you ever come to Castroville to a dance?

A Oh, yeah, whenever they had big dances, yeah.

Q Well, when were the big dances? Like, what was a big dance?

A Well, Easter, St. Louis Day, in between I don't, couldn't tell you.

Q After Christmas and New Years?

A Well, Christmas was one.

Q Did you all look forward to those? Was that a big day, did you look forward to coming to a dance here?

A Oh, yeah, yeah we always come to Castroville. Wernettes had that dance hall.

Q Where, at the park down there?

A Yeah.

Q Uh-huh.

A That's where, the dance, we all went.

Q Uh-huh. Any others? Any other dance halls that you went to?

A Well, later on Wernettes had owned this other dance hall. I don't think I went then. I don't think there was another dance hall in my day. I don't remember.

Q Okay. What about the Mayflower? There where Suehses live. The Mayflower. You ever remember that? Or the Empire?

A No, I don't --

Q So you just remember Wernettes, huh?

A That's what I remember just now. Well, there was one at Rio Medina.

Q And that was later on then, huh?

A Haby Settlement never had one, but lots of surprise parties.

Q Lots of surprise parties, huh.

A Yeah, yeah.

Q So that was your get-togethers with the neighbors, huh?

A Yeah, yeah. All the kids came then, and most of 'em came with their relatives.

Q Well, did they eat at those, too? Did they serve eats?

A Well, you had to bring a cake, cake and coffee. The one you went to furnished the coffee and the kids brought the cake, sometimes there was a table full of cakes, and after the party they divided it, gave each one a little piece, you know, they took their plate along home --

Q And took a little bit of everybody's cake back home.

A Yeah, yeah.

Q Oh, so that's what they served then.

A Yeah.

Q Well, did they ever serve parisa when you were young?

A What?

Q Parisa.

A Uh-uh.

Q You never made that at home?

A No, no.

Q My great-grandpa made that, my daddy remembered. He's the only one that has said he remembers making it, you know.

A I still don't know what parisa -- well, those days was no Mexican food.

Q Josephine, do you remember the Tragasser Hall? Was that in your day?

A Tragasser? Oh, yeah. Yeah. Well, Josephine went to school for five years at the convent, and after she was married she teached school for one year, and then she got married and lived in -- where'd she move to?

Q I think I need to interview Josephine, too. No?

A Then Matilda grew up, now, we went with Matilda to the Tragasser dance hall.

Q We never did say who was your husband. I need to get that on, who was your husband?

A He -- Fred Jungman.

Q Fred Jungman. And who were his parents?

A Peter and Mary.

Q Peter and Mary Jungman. And your parents were --

A Andrew Haby and Brigitta Frey.

Q Brigitta Frey, uh-huh. And Mr. Jungman's family lived right here next to this house you're living in, right? When he was growing up?

A Um-hum. All the time.

Q Did his family have a store there?

A Um-hum.

Q What kind of store was that?

A Well, everything you could have had.

Q It was a general merchandise store?

A Yeah, yeah.

Q Groceries too?

A Oh, yeah, groceries and dry goods. Everything.

Q What years was that, about?

A Now there you got me.

Q Was it before you were married?

A Yeah, before we were married. They always had a store, the Peter Jungman family, always.

Q So that'd be in the 1800's huh?

A Yeah, they had a store for all the time. That one was their store first, that was Peter Jungman. I think the sisters now own it on that corner. They didn't sell it. They boys sold it, but they moved up here. When their children got big enough they moved, they first lived where Frank Jungman lives on the LaCoste Road, and when the children got big enough they moved to Castroville. That's the old, the old Jungmans. They had a big family.

Q This is Peter's father you're taling about.

A Yeah. They only had two girls.

Q Oh, Peter had a big family, her husband's family. But they lived down below between here and LaCoste, and then when their children started growing up they moved here to Castroville. And they opened the store then?

A Uh-huh.

Q Did your -- is that what your husband did when you married him? Was he working in the store or was he --

A He worked for his daddy at the store.

Q Uh-huh. But then when your mother gave you the land you all moved to Haby Settlement and then he became a farmer.

And he was a farmer all his life.

A Farm and ranch. Raised chickens, raised turkeys.

Q Did you have cows, too? Did you have milk cows, a lot of milk cows, or not?

A Not a lot.

Q Just enough for your family, huh?

A Um-hum.

Q Well, Ms. Jungman, as you think back over your life, what do you remember the most?

A I think I told you already.

Q Yeah, but we didn't get it on tape. Like what do you think about your life? How do you remember your life?

A Well, I was raised in Haby Settlement.

Q Do you remember, what I mean, is --

A And I had six brothers. One was Louis Haby, he lived at the Dunlay store. There was Andrew Haby, he farmed where, mother's land, and some land that she had bought. And there was Jake Haby and Adolph Haby. Well, Adolph Haby, his last years he lived in Hondo, where he died. And Jake Haby lived below Dunlay, I don't know what they call that place.

Q Biry?

A And Henry still lives there.

Q Biry? Not Biry, huh? Yeah, I know where Henry lives there.

A It's closer here than Biry. And then I had a sister,

worry about it. Somebody told me they'd fix like roasts and fresh lettuce out of the garden, salad, and pies.

A Pies. That they cooked. Pies they served. Oh, they (inaudible) but don't put that down, I can't call that thing.

Q Tripe? Somebody told me Molly Schott always helped with that. She would clean it at the butcher shop there, and they served -- yeah, Archie Jagge told us that they always served tripe and he really liked it.

A Yeah, that's what they cooked. But they cooked it a couple of days before and put it in the icebox and froze it in a crock, and they served it that night. Coffee.

Q Well, did you and your husband like to dance when you were young?

A He didn't dance at all.

Q Did you like to, though?

A Well --

Q But you couldn't dance much if you didn't dance with your husband.

A No. I didn't wait on him. I had other boyfriends. (laughter)

Q But you married him anyway, didn't you? (laughter)

A I guess I picked, choose him.

Q But you did like to dance when you were young, then, huh?

A Yeah, like I say, we always went to the parties.

Q Yes. Can you tell me some of the dances you all did?

The kind of dancing you did?

Mary Wernette. She lived at --

Q You have two brothers you didn't mention.

A Yeah, but they lived where I lived. They were young.
They were the youngest.

Q And who were they?

A Charlie and Paul Haby. And Mary, she was older than
those two boys. She lived in Castroville.

Q So Mary was your only sister?

A Um-hum.

Q Okay. Mary, your sister, I get a lot of people talking
about her on the tapes. She boarded a lot of children
that came here for Communion in her home. And also, was
she the one that put on the midnight suppers with the
Wernette dance place?

A Yeah, yeah. Well, he's the one --

Q Her husband was Philip Wernette.

A I think he run that place.

Q Yeah, he built that second story. Did she cook all that
food for those dances? Do you remember what she cooked
for them? Can you remember that?

A No.

Q Did you ever help her?

A Well, later on, after I was married --

Q Well what kind of food did you all cook?

A Oh, I wouldn't know.

Q You wouldn't remember that, now. Well, that's okay. Don't

A Yeah. The Mexicans they played it all the time, and Gene Artz' son played, too.

Q So the name of the band was Gene Artz, huh?

A Uh-huh. He played violin, I think, too, like the old man did.

Q Well, did they play old-time music, or what?

A I think so. They were an old-times band, but --

Q But at these surprise parties, around home --

A Oh, well, then the boys played.

Q Yeah. What kind of music did they -- what kind of dances did you do there, if you can remember?

A Well, I think a waltz, that's all. I don't remember. We only had a room.

Q It wasn't too big, huh.

A No. I think mother had the largest room of them all.

Q Did you all ever have a party at your place?

A Oh, yeah, lots of 'em.

Q Lots of 'em, huh? Well, you had a big family, too. Half of the dancers were there.

A Well, the older boys weren't home no more then.

Q Oh. You were the youngest in the family, right? You were the baby. I know you told me once you were born in 1880, right? And you oldest brother was born in 1860. There was 20 years difference between you, and how many children were there then?

A And mother was born in '40.

Q In '40, yeah, '40, '60, '80.

A Louie Haby was the oldest. He was born in '60 and I was born in '80.

Q In '80. And how many children did your mother have? Eight?
A Was it eight? Two girls and six boys?

A Yeah.

Q Or did you have some that died, too?

A Well, two died, but after --

Q But eight lived, huh?

A Well, the little girl I think died of diphteria. She must have been about six years old or five. Well, they always lived afterwards. The whole family except Louie Haby --

Q That first schoolhouse was their first home?

A That schoolhouse was their first home, yeah.

Q Your mother and your father?

A Um-hum.

Q And that's where Ralph Beck lives now?

A Yeah.

Q Okay. You know that little log cabin close to Spettel's little house there? Was that a school ever? They said that was the first school.

A That was school for Julia and Alice and John.

Q Spettel?

A Yeah. And they had -- wasn't it one of those Huesser girls, why those girls teach. That was no school.

Q Just kind of a tutor? They had a tutor?

A It didn't last very long. Maybe one term.

Q Oh, I see. They just had a teacher to come in for their girls. I see. Well, somebody told me it was the first school in Haby Settlement.

A No, no. The Sister's school was the first school, and that was there for always --

Q 'til 1890's.

A Finally they didn't have no more children to send so they sold it to, well I guess the Bishop then got it. Or was it always the Bishop's?

Q I think they deeded it to the Bishop.

A Yeah. But my mother and daddy, they lived in there, they raised a family and then later on they moved where we always lived along the Rio Medina river.

Q And who lives in that house now? The one you lived in?

A Well, they're strangers. I don't know them.

Q Is that where the Brutons live?

A It was sold, it belonged to my youngest brother.

Q Paul.

A Yeah. And then, well, he wasn't married. So the whole family got a little out of it, not much. And it was sold to a stranger.

Q Uh-huh. Yes, I remember.

A It's still there, the old homestead. I saw it the other day.

Q You did? But no one lives in it now.

A That's no question I could think of. I couldn't answer that. We lived on the farm and I think that was the happiest days of our lives. When we lived on the farm. We lived up there for 30 years. My husband and I. And Fred took over and Fred got sick and he died in Castroville. We weren't together very long after we moved back. He was sick for two years, sick in bed.

Q But you had your happiest time living on the farm?

A Raising cattle, raising horses, chickens, turkeys.

Q What did you enjoy working the most? Outside or inside?

A Not in the fields. I never did no field work. That was in a column that came from. Field work. Always picking cotton. I never picked cotton. Why should I go pick cotton with a good piece of land with four brothers, six brothers, just myself, and then I was married.

Q Well, what did you enjoy doing the most? Sewing or cooking or what? What was your --

A Just raising animals.

Q You liked to raise the animals?

A Yeah. Outside.

Q Gardening. Did you like gardening?

A Well, gardening, too. We had a garden else we wouldn't have no vegetables.

Q But you basically had a happy life, right?

A Um-hum. Well, I can't complain.

Q I know you're always such a happy person and your whole

family seems to be such a loving family, and I would classify you or call you a gentle person, and your whole family appears to me to be gentle people. How would you think about your family?

A Well, I guess they were all happy. Can't compalin. Of course, they had their hard days, too. I think Jo had the hardest days.

Q Yeah, I believe so.

A And Fred had a big family. He's got a family of nine. They're all married except two.

Q Now, Fred lives on your home place.

A No, no. No, he bought a place its owner moved --

Q Does anyone live in the home that you and your husband lived in? Or is it vacant?

A Yeah, yeah, they lived there. Then he bought a place from Mrs. Koenig and they lived on the road going to Medina Lake.

Q But no one lives in the house that you lived with your husband, then. It's vacant.

A No, no. Fred still farms that land.

Q So you can't tell me what you attribute your age to, huh?

A Now, why I got so old I don't know. One birthday came after the other without me knowing it.

Q Well, did your family live to be, did your mother live to be an old age too, or your daddy?

A How old was Grandma when she died?

Josephine: Almost 90. 88.

A 88, I think.

Q That's pretty old.

A 88, I think.

Q Seems to me like the women live a lot longer here in Castroville than the men. Why do you think women live longer than men?

A Aw, daddy -- somebody told me that, Nic Haby -- I was only seven years old when my daddy died. I didn't own a daddy. Oh, I can still remember him but I, I was only seven.

Q And you were going to say something Nic Haby said.

A But he died in Rio Medina -- I remember when he was laying sick.

Q No, I asked you if you know why do women live longer than the men around here?

A (laughter) I don't know. Nic Haby said they had to work too hard. Those people came from the old country, and had no home and nothing else, but Nic Haby told me they had to work too hard. That's what he told me.

Q The old people had to work too hard.

A Yeah, the old Habys. None of them got very old. Except the oldest one lived the longest the first borther.

Q Well, do you think maybe better food might have had a reason, too, that people live longer now?

A They had no food those days.

INDEX

Rosalie Haby Jungman

Tape # B25

Side 1

Artz, Theo Band, 211, 13

Beck, Ralph, 254, 15

Bendele, Josephine, 022, 1, 2, 18

Christmas, 075, 6

Dancing, 062, 4-8

Easter, 075, 6

Education, 104, 16

Frey, Brigitta, 114, 8, 19

Haby, Andrew, 114; 390, 8, 19, 20

Haby, Louis, Andrew, Jake, Adolph, Charles, Paul, 146, 10

Haby, Nic, 367, 19

Haby Settlement, 025; 254, 2, 10

Holidays, 075, 5, 6

Iltis, Matilda, 022, 2, 8

Jungman, Fred Jr., 022, 2, 18, 18

Jungman, Peter, 110; 116, 8

School: First, 254, 16

Stein, Jack, 062, 5, 6, 7

Surprise parties, 062, 5, 6, 7

Wedding, 1904; 029, 2-4

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