

MARTHA KEMPF RIHN

MEMOIR

Alsatian Customs and Traditions

B22

PREFACE

This manuscript is the product of a tape-recorded interview conducted for the Castroville Public Library Oral History Project B. Connie Rihn interviewed Martha Kempf Rihn at her home in LaCoste in November, 1980.

Martha Kempf Rihn grew up in a family that was very active in Catholic parish activities of St. Louis Church. Her grandfather, Joseph Kempf, was the first school teacher in Castroville, also the first organist at the church, and served as county clerk of Medina County most of his life. Her father Benjamin Kempf was a farmer; he was president of St. Louis Society and her mother, Mary Keller was president of St. Ann's Society.

Martha married Robert Rihn in 1931. He was a widower with four children, and Martha helped to raise them. They lived in Castroville, then in LaCoste, and again in Castroville. After Mr. Rihn died, Martha moved again to LaCoste to be near two daughters. Martha is very active, doing her own house work, and attends church regularly, and enjoys her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In this interview Martha talks about St. Louis Day, the church service, the dances held on that day, the preparation of the food served, and the various places St. Louis Day was held over the years.

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Tape # B22
50 minutes
Not transcribed

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ORAL HISTORY OFFICE AGREEMENT

I, Martha Rihn, interviewee's full name - last Rihn, first M, volunteerly give Castroville Public Library the full use of the information recorded on tape on the _____ day of _____, 1980, in return for which I will receive a tape of the interview.

Martha Rihn
Interviewee's signature

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Connie Rihn
Interviewer's signature