

**“Hermann: The Rhine City on the Missouri River” Oral History Collection
1979**

Extent: .75 Linier Feet

Accession Number: 1998.016

Abstract: Ten oral histories from six residents of Hermann, Missouri discussing their experiences growing up in the community, including: education, agriculture, community development, transportation, family life, World War I, Prohibition, the Depression, and World War II. The oral histories were conducted by Dr. Arthur Mattingly, Professor of History at Southeast Missouri State University, between September and December, 1979, as part of “Hermann: The Rhine City on the Missouri River,” a project sponsored by the Missouri Committee for the Humanities.

Processed by: Kelli Mitchell, July, 2014

Repository: Special Collections and Archives, Southeast Missouri State University
Phone: (573) 651-2245; Fax: (573) 651-2666; Email: semoarchives@semo.edu

Provenance: Unknown

Citation: “Hermann: The Rhine City on the Missouri River” Oral History Collection, Special Collections and Archives, Southeast Missouri State University.

Restrictions: The oral histories do not have release forms; the Special Collections Librarian will need to be contacted with regards to permission of use. The oral histories were recorded using 5 inch and 7 inch audio reel tapes. Researchers that would like to listen to the audio tapes must bring equipment to do so.

Other Relevant Collections: “SEMO, Hermann: The Rhine City on the Missouri River,” *Missouri Committee for the Humanities* (SA0936), Box 17 (016494), Item 57, State Historical Society of Missouri.

Biographical Note

Dr. Arthur Mattingly taught in the Department of History at Southeast Missouri State University from 1963 to 1992. He attended Southeast Missouri State University (graduated from Murray State University with a Bachelors of Science in Education in 1961), received his Masters degree in history from the University of Missouri in 1962, and his Ph.D. in history from Kansas State University in 1971. His areas of scholarship were United States, local, and military history. Dr. Mattingly helped begin the Center for Regional History in 1979, and the Bachelors of Science degree in Historic Preservation for the 1980-1981 academic year.

Elmer Danuser was a math, science, and German language educator from Hermann, Missouri. He attended public schools in Hermann, received his undergraduate degree from Warrensburg Teachers College and his Masters from the University of Missouri. Mr. Danuser taught math and science at Hermann High School for 39 years.

Hugo Fricke was born and raised on a farm outside Hermann, Missouri that his grandfather purchased when he emigrated from Germany. Mr. Fricke was a third generation farmer and farmed the land until, due to arthritis, he sold the property when he was eighty and moved to Hermann.

Norman Heckman was a steamboat engineer who worked on boats that travelled the Gasconade, Mississippi, and Missouri Rivers. Mr. Heckman's father and brothers also worked on steamboats as pilots or engineers. He was born near Mount Stearling at Heckman's Mill on the Gasconade River and his family moved to Hermann when he was two years old.

Pearl Hubberstey was born in Hermann, Missouri. She left Hermann at the age of eighteen to attend business college in St. Louis. Mrs. Hubberstey worked for several companies in St. Louis and met her husband Jack. The Hubbersteys moved to various places in Oklahoma and Kansas where Jack worked in the oil industry. The couple retired to Hermann and operated a farm until Jack passed away in 1970.

Theresa Loehnig was born outside of Hermann, Missouri and grew up on a farm there. Her family operated a vineyard and winery until Prohibition halted the wine making business and the family switched to growing wheat. Miss Loehnig attended business college in St. Louis after graduating high school in Hermann. She worked in offices throughout the Midwestern United States, and the wine industry in both California and Missouri,

Hugo Wagner was born and raised in Hermann, Missouri. He worked in a blacksmith shop as a boy, then the local marble works for thirteen and a half years. Mr. Wagner got married in 1917 to the daughter of a local drug store owner and worked in the drug store for sixty-two years, making ice cream at the store for twenty- two years.

Scope and Content Note

Oral Histories from six residents of Hermann, Missouri, conducted by Dr. Arthur Mattingly, Professor of History at Southeast Missouri State University, between September and December 1979, as part of "Hermann: The Rhine City on the Missouri River," a project sponsored by the Missouri Committee for the Humanities. Collection contains ten oral history transcripts; eleven audio reel tapes which the histories were transcribed from; and fifty-eight photographs, one of each person interviewed (six) and fifty-two of steamboats. Transcripts of the oral histories are arranged in alphabetical order and preceded by an evaluation of the project that provides background to the project in Box #1067. Audio recordings of the oral histories and photographs referenced in Norman Heckman's November 10, 1978, oral history are in Box #1068.

Archivists Note

The audio tapes have several dates written on the boxes. The "Recorded" and "Copied" dates should be ignored. The date next to the interviewees name is the interview date and is the date used in the finding aid. Due to space constraints and variety of reel sizes, there is no arrangement order for them. A segment of audio tape T 31 has come off the reel.

Rules or Conventions: Finding Aid prepared using DACS

Container List

Box #1067

“An Evaluation of Project MH-557-78: ‘Hermann: The Rhine City on the Missouri River’ ”	1980 May 15
Danuser, Mr. Elmer	1979 Oct-Dec
Fricke, Mr. Hugo	1979 Oct
Heckman, Mr. Norman	1979 Sep-Nov
Hubberstey, Mrs. Pearl	1979 Sep-Nov
Loehnig, Miss Theresa	1979 Oct-Dec
Wagner, Mr. Hugo	1979 Oct

Box #1068

Photographs Referenced in Oral History with Mr. Norman Heckman on November 10, 1979	1903-Circa 1920
Audio Tape T 30, T 31 Mr. Elmer Danuser	1979 Oct-Dec
Audio Tape T 22 Mr. Hugo Fricke	1979 Oct
Audio Tape T 28, T 29, T32 Mr. Norman Heckman	1979 Sep-Nov
Audio Tape T 25, T 26 Mrs. Pearl Hubberstay	1979 Sep-Nov
Audio Tape T 23, T 24 Miss Theresa Loehnig	1979 Oct-Dec
Audio Tape T 27 Mr. Hugo Wagner	1979 Oct