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KELLEY/BARZYNSKI FAMILY DATA AND STORIES (as told by Beatrice Kelley Agathen ("BKA") to daughter Jeannie in bits and pieces over the last few years).

** This is another edition of the familiar type of family history that Marian Kelley wrote up for a reunion in 1963. This is all recorded oral history and accuracy is not the point. (Biographers, beware.) Memories of personalities, character and financial circumstances are more important here.**

Kathryn and Harry's family: Kathryn Barzynska and Harry Kelley were introduced by Harry's law partner, Arthur Wyseman. (Wyseman had been Dziadek's lawyer.) Wyseman urged Harry to go out to the Barzynski farm "to play chess." Kathryn and Harry were married on June 23, 1915 in Manitowoc. Harry was about 38, Kathryn about 29. Harry was a lawyer. They had five kids.

When Harry and Kathryn were raising their kids at 717 N. 7th, the paternal grandparents, Grandma Annie and Grandpa T.J. Kelley, lived upstairs. BKA used to have to go upstairs to Grandma to get washed up and dressed for school every day for a number of years, because she was the third child born into the family in fairly quick succession (July 1919), after Harry ("Moose") (April 1916) and Virginia (November 1917). But finally BKA persuaded them that she could do it herself.

Moose was born in a hospital, but all the rest of the kids were born at home. Paul was born in 1922, and Bob in – well, some year. BKA isn't sure where her parents got her first name, although Kathryn had a cousin named Beatrice.

When the five kids were growing up, their mom Kathryn used to call up a little grocery store in Manitowoc called Mahnke's every day. She'd order a few groceries, and they'd deliver. They sent a monthly bill. Sometimes the grocers had to wait a few months to get paid.

At one point, Aunt Mary, Kathryn's sister, wrote to Kathryn and Harry, asking if she could borrow \$1,000. Harry refused. He held onto his money very firmly. He was worried about leaving enough for Kathryn when he died. He did leave her about \$40,000 and a great pension from the Post Office.

Harry was very frugal. He had to be, with five kids in the Depression. He wasn't earning much until he went into the Post Office, in about 1933 after FDR was elected. His law firm had had a lot of work but not much payment. The firm was Kelley and Wyseman. Then it became Kelley, Wyseman and Muchin when Harry left for the Post Office. Muchin's first name was Jake, and he was Jewish. A few years later, the firm's stenographer, Ruth Hanson, passed the bar exam, without going to law school, so the firm became Kelley, Wyseman, Muchin and Hanson.

Kathryn gave piano lessons before she got married. After getting married, she didn't do that anymore. Their piano was a Busch and Gertz, from Chicago, and it was good but they couldn't afford to get it tuned for years.

BKA took piano lessons from the music nun at Sacred Heart. She took lessons for about two years. She had to stop because the family couldn't afford them. Vir also took piano lessons, and Moose studied the cornet. All of them had to stop their lessons for financial reasons.

BKA remembers her father Harry playing a little game with her brother Bob when Bob was little. He'd set Bob on his knee, and pretend to be an owl. The owl would say to Bobbie "are you good to your dad?" and after Bobbie answered, Harry would ask "Are you going to buy your daddy a new car?" and they'd laugh. The money situation was really tough in the Depression, since, as Harry said, lawyers had a lot of income but they didn't get paid.

In about 1949 or 1950, Kathryn and Harry went to live with their son Moose and his wife Dorothy ("Dot"), at 612 N. 6th St. Harry didn't want to move there because he was used to living at 717 N. 7th his whole life, since he was 2 years old. He had stacks of newspapers saved in the basement, even dating back to WWI. He also saved old Harpers and Atlantic magazines, that he got, used, from a friend.

A Trip to the World's Fair: BKA, her sister Virginia, and cousin Marybeth went to the World's Fair in Chicago in August 1933, and stayed for about a week with Aunt Mary Smietanka. While there, they visited with Aunt Mary Hart, who was their great-aunt, their Grandpa Kelley's sister. Harts lived in Chicago, too. Auntie Hart had a daughter, Marguerite. BKA, Vir and Marybeth took public transportation around the city. BKA was only 14 at the time. The unholy trio didn't take much money to Chicago with them.

Mother and maternal grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins: BKA's mom, Kathryn Bronislawa Barzynska, was born in 1886, probably in Chicago. She died in 1962 in Manitowoc. Kathryn's mother, Bronislawa Virginia Wilkoshewski Barzynski ("Babcia," Polish for "grandmother") was born in 1855 in Philadelphia, and died in 1936. Kathryn's father, John Barzynski was born in 1849 in Sandomierz, Poland, and died in 1889 in Chicago at about the age of 40. Babcia inherited a coal company from John. They had three kids, Kathryn (BKA's mother), Mary (who married Julius Smietanka), and Joseph. Kathryn was about 3 years old when her father died.

Babcia remarried. Her second husband was Anton Crapikosky ("Dziadek," Polish for "grandfather"), who was Lithuanian. Dziadek spoke six languages. In about 1901, Babcia and Dziadek moved to Manitowoc from Chicago. Kathryn, who was then about 15, moved with her mother and stepfather to Manitowoc. They moved to a "mansion of a farmhouse," the one the newspaper story is about.

Kathryn's brother Joseph went to West Point and became a general of some kind. He had two kids: Joe and Eunice (Draper). Eunice was petite and beautiful.

Kathryn's sister Mary was a person to emulate. She was always ready to do anything for anyone. For example, her son-in-law, Ed Prebis, daughter Virginia's husband, came to Mary's home to die. Mary's husband Julius was a Polish Catholic. He and Mary lived at 7345 Oglesby Avenue in Chicago. They had five kids. Julius had been a banker at two banks, and a lawyer in Chicago, but his banks went under in the Depression. He then practiced law. Uncle Julius and Aunt Mary were very good to Kathryn. They brought her back to Chicago for about three months, and gave her lessons, in china painting, at the Art Institute. And they also got her good piano lessons. They introduced her to Polish men, especially Count Demarasay (sp?), who gave her a huge oil painting he had done.

Father and paternal grandparents, aunts and uncles: BKA's father was Harry Kelley, born and died in Manitowoc. His father, BKA's paternal grandfather, was Captain T.J. Kelley, born in 1849 in Springfield, Massachusetts. He died in 1943. He married Annie Buggie in Chicago in 1870. Annie Buggie was born in Haverstraw, NY, in 1851. She died in 1927. Captain T.J.'s mom was Margaret Mahaney Murphy Kelley. She and her husband moved to Maple Grove, Wisconsin, near Manitowoc, and that's why T.J. ended up in Manitowoc. T.J. left home at age 12 to go to sea, as the family was very poor. He took some kind of business courses in Chicago at night. BKA doesn't know how many siblings he had, but he had at least one sister, Mary, who married someone named Hart and moved to Chicago.

T.J. and Annie had seven children: first Mary ("Mayme") and then six boys. The boys were: 1) Edward Ryan, the oldest. He became a lawyer in Manitowoc. He married Margaret Usher and they had one son who survived, Phillip Kelley. He married someone and they had a daughter. 2) John was next. He became a doctor ("Uncle Doc"). He married Sarah (Sadie) and they had four kids: Charlie, Francis, John and Marian. Charlie was a newspaper reporter for the Sheboygan Press. He married Dolores Kunz, who was very quick and witty and cute as a button. They had two kids, Timmy and Suzie. Marian taught history in Manitowoc High School for many years, and was very active in the movement W.O.C., to get women ordained. Johnny married Bette, and they had four kids: Dennis, Maureen, Mary Pat, and Eileen. 3) Harry, BKA's father, became a lawyer and had five kids. 4) Charlie, the fourth, was killed at a very young age. He had just started work at the railroad a week earlier when he got killed in an accident. BKA doesn't know any details. He wasn't married. His parents used to say a rosary every night for him. 5) Tim, who moved to Beloit for his work, worked in the gas company office as a troubleshooter. He was married to Nell, who was very frugal. They had one child, Catherine Ann, who was pretty and talented and acted at the U. of Wisconsin. She married a Bremner and had two kids but BKA lost track of her. She was the apple of Tim's eye. 6) The youngest was George Kenneth, whom everyone called Ken, born in 1887, ten years after Harry. Ken didn't go to college, but he was employed at the shipyards in Manitowoc as an expert fitter. He was hired on at the shipyard by Frank Egan, a second cousin. Ken lived with his parents at 717 N. 7th and everyone gave up on his getting married. Eventually he married Eleanor Schroeder and moved out of his parents' home. Ken and Eleanor had no kids. Ken had a "big bit" of a drinking problem.

Mayme married Matt Ryan, the postmaster of Escanaba, Michigan, in the Upper Peninsula. He also had a wholesale grocery business in Escanaba. They had five children. One of them, a girl, died when she was about 2 years old. Richard Ryan became a Jesuit. Ed became a lawyer in Escanaba. Kathryn Ryan married Carl Nordberg, who was an English school teacher, just as Kathryn was a high school teacher. The youngest was Marybeth. When Aunt Mayme was widowed, she and Marybeth, who was still in junior high at the time, moved to Manitowoc. Mayme's father, Captain T.J., had bought a little house about half a block from 717 N. 7th, at about 630 N. 7th St. in Manitowoc, and he was renting it out. When Mayme needed to move back, T.J. told the renter to move out, so Mayme and Marybeth could move in. Aunt Mayme finagled a ride to school for Marybeth every day with neighbors, which was quite a feat in those days. But BKA, who attended the same public school as Marybeth for 9th grade, as there was no Catholic high school in Manitowoc, had to walk. She still remembers those walks to school in the bitter winter weather.

When Grandma Kelley died in 1927, Grandpa moved out of 717 N. 7th and into the little house with Mayme and Marybeth. The house had two tiny bedrooms. And Mayme took care of her father for about 16 years. He died in 1943, when he was 94. When Grandpa died, he left the little house to Mayme in recognition of her years of caring for him. Mayme's brother Ken and Ken's wife, Eleanor, had somehow gotten the idea that T.J. was going to leave the little house jointly to Mayme and Ken. When that didn't happen, Eleanor was resentful.

Mayme sent Marybeth to Chicago to hunt for a husband, through her cousins. She had red hair and was quite attractive. Aunt Mayme succeeded, because she got Marybeth a rich husband that way. Marybeth married Jim Heller, and lived in Northfield, a Chicago suburb.