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The Mraz Family

Grandma Mraz was born in Prague, Bohemia and came to the United States when 30 years old. Her maiden name was Mary Barbara Kobler. Her parents operated a Tavern in Prague. She came to this country with trunkful of beautiful things with intent to marry a man by name of "Fiella" but the wedding never took place. When I was visiting Jim and Ruth in Michigan at one time I saw a bank by the name of Fiella. Later Grandma Mraz married a man by name ^{Martin} Mraz. He was a cabinet maker. He died at an early age with tuberculosis. There were many cousins on the Mraz side in Canton, Ohio by name of Lhota, Franta, Hromatha. The Franta family had a sign shop and is still in existence to this day and has enlarged. The father was John who was an artist and married an Irish lady by name of ^{Theresa} Malley. Ann Lhota married a man by name of Fitzmaurice. Ed Mraz was very chummy with his cousins. He went hunting with John Franta and fishing with Al Lhota. We visited the Fitzmaurice family quite often on Sunday afternoons and

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Ed and Tom Fitzmaurice had many discussions, politics, Ed a forceful Republican and Tom a Democrat. Also they would listen to Father ^{Connelley} ~~Houghton~~ (?) who was on the air at that time. The cousins would visit one another back and forth. Visiting in Canton one time a dear friend Leona Lanner was in a Nursing Home and Louise Mraz took me to see her. On the way out I saw John Franta a very feeble old man sitting in a wheel chair. He didn't recognize me. Ed and I belonged to a Bridge Club. Clara and Clarence Long, Frank and Ruth Hannon, Elsie and Bill Pfeifer and Ed and I made the foursome. Frank Hannon and Ed had a lot in common. Frank was the founder of the Hannon Electric Supply Co. ~~and~~ and ^{Ed} bought from him for Republic Stamping & Enameling Co. where he was purchasing agent for the company. It seems the only time I left the house when the children were young was with Ed to card parties. He would get a baby sitter and go to the Parish St. John's Catholic Church card parties and a movie and the ^{Bridge} club. He had a set of "Book of Knowledge" and the children

got read a story each night before going to bed. Daria Tilletzki helped me with the children by taking them out in the carriage for a walk, wash the dishes after supper and go on a errand if needed. Daria later became an R.N. and said to me she learned much helping us. We gave her \$3.00 a week. We visited Grandmother quite often on Sunday afternoons and sometimes would stay for supper. Anne and Mary Maz were maiden ladies. Anne was a born musician and would play on the pump organ in their parlor. She played by heart and never took lessons until later in life. Later when Anne could afford a piano she played more and more. There were four children. Ed was the oldest. Charles (Chick) was next then Anne and Mary. They lived at 1010 Bluff Rd. Ed figured largely in building that home. The girls after they were grown and were employed took over the mortgage. Chick married the woman he wrote to after receiving the sweater she helped knit with her name on.

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Larry lived in Cincinnati Ohio after
marriage. The family seems to be
troubled with cancer. Helen became
a nun at an early age and is named
Sister Remigia.

They had three children Bill, Larry
and Helen who became a nun with
the name of Sr. M. Remigia. Larry is
deceased, Bill married Louise Heston
and they live in Canton, Ohio and have
I think eight children. Louise is a
nurse and worked at Mercy Hospital
nursing when I was employed there
in the office. Later I was told she
thought I was Bill's mother. Chick
and Marguerite were married before Ed
and me and they came to our wedding
in Columbus with their first born
Helen. Anne was ill and in bed at
475 Siebert St. on my wedding day
and I remember going to see her with
my wedding dress on. Aunt Anne as
the Ed Mraz children called her was
plagued with a nervous disorder
but still was an excellent office
girl being secretary to the president
of Republic Stamping & Enameling
Co. She was hospitalized quite often
and Ed would go to see her on his
noon hour. It was quite hard on Ed
because everyone would ask about

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I wanted to take the new baby to show her, but Ed discouraged it saying he thought that was one reason she was in the hospital. I think Anne at one time had a love affair and it fell through. Why I never found out but I surmised it was because Anne and Mary were inseparable and I don't remember Mary ever having a boy friend. Mary was also a very capable office worker employed by the Dyer, Smith, Lane Insurance Co. for years. Anne was a loving, warm person and she is the one I corresponded with. They sold the house on Bluff Rd. which Ed helped build and moved to a beautiful place in Cottage Place in Lanton. Ed and I were married in Columbus Ohio on Tuesday morning at 8:30 o'clock in St. Mary's Catholic Church October 3rd, 1922. The reception was held at home with Aunt Teenie, uncle Joe's wife helping. During the day Ed and I visited the office where I was employed me with my wedding garb on all day. Friends filled our home and in the evening the neighborhood children stood outside and "Beed us making much noise and spite -

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ment. That was done in those days when a wedding in the neighborhood occurred. Landy was given to the noise makers. The friends followed us to the railway station and I threw my wedding bouquet at that time to them. It was evening and we took the railroad to Chicago, Ill. and met Sister Laurene who Ed had never seen. We stayed at the convent for a while then went to Chicago to one of Ed's aunts. We went around for a few days in Chicago went to a dance in the evening one time. Ed was was a wonderful dancer. In fact he was wonderful in anything he attempted to do. He was a very, very intelligent man and handsome. When he died the undertaker said it was a shame to bury him, his skin was so good and he had all his teeth but one. He often said we were so well mated we both had one tooth out and in the same place. After marriage we moved in our newly built home across from Grandmother Mraz and Anne & Mary. Ed had our home on 1309 Bluff Rd. N.E. built next door to a Mrs. Diener and a Scotin couple. Mrs. Diener taught me how to bake Christmas Leibkuchen, which I baked every Christ-

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mas in addition to other Christmas.
I would always send some to the
office with Ed. Wilbur Frey one of
the men at R.S. & E. always remem-
bered the Mraz children with a
gift. One year it was a huge
dictionary on a stand. The
Kirllys are now enjoying it.
The Scotman wrote a poem about
Jim after he was born and I gave
that to him one time. Our 13th St
home had five peach trees in the yard
and one year I canned two hundred
quarts of peaches. Also I made ketchup
and canned tomatoes, made several
kinds of jellies. Ed went in the country
to pick elderberries. I made jelly with
them. I baked bread and made my
own noodles. We had a neighbor
next door by name of Mrs. Schultz and
her husband was with the Band
Baking Co. During the second World
war food was rationed and we re-
ceived food stamps. When I didn't get
to the bread baking and ran out of
it Mrs. Schultz would give me
some stamps for bread. Ed had two
hunting dogs Beagles Annie & Tiny that
he was very fond of. The dog house
was attached to the garage and the
dogs would have run of it. When Ed

would come home from the office and putting the car in the garage the dogs would greet him and he would say how are my sweethearts. Mrs. Schultz asked me one day who the person is we keep in the garage. After Ed's sudden death I gave the dogs to his hunting partner Al Lhota. Our basement was divided in two parts. One part was where the laundry was done and the other way ^{to the back} where the shelves were for the canned goods and potatoes laid in for the winter. The other half was the furnace and back of that was a place for the boys to build their hobbies. Jim built planes and all the boys had some thing they were interested in. Their friends came and the place was always busy.

① The Agel Family

Grandma Agel came to this country from Vienna, Austria with her husband Joseph Agel and four children Joe, John, Amalia and a small child who died shortly after coming to the U.S.A. Aunt Lena who married Frank Riser was born in the U.S.A. Grandma Agel's maiden name was Magdalen Hager. The family were farmers in Vienna. I never knew Grandpa Agel. He died after a few years in the U.S. from a horse bite. They bought a small house on Siebert St. They were very dedicated Catholics. Grandma Agel was a frequent visitor at our home on Siebert St. Mama and Grandma would talk German. In fact I learned a German night prayer when I was about six years old that I have said every night since. I also learned many proverbs ^{in German}. To this day I remember them. Also, I think the proverbs helped our bringing up. One of them was If you told a lie you would never be believed ^{even though you tell the truth} ever after. Also, I remember a man being inebriated fell

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out of an upstairs window and died. He lived across the street. When mama heard of it all she said The way you live is the way you die. All of this is said in German. Jim Burns, Gertrude's husband was very fond of mama. He said she was a very intelligent person and had perfect diction in English language. I went to a German Catholic Grade School and took German in school. At one time I could write in German as well as English. Mama was nine years old when she came to this country and was the oldest. I remember her being very close to her brothers. Her brother John strayed from the Catholic Church and she saw to it his coming back before he died. She visited him every day at the hospital where he died. Uncle John was a hunter and fisherman and had ferrets and dogs and never married. He and my father used to go fishing together. Mama made turtle soup quite often from the fisherman's landing them. Uncle Joe married Fernie Heyrich and had two sons, Carl and Joseph.

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Aunt Lena married Frank Reiser who had a bakery. They had quite a few children. They did quite well in life. In fact one was a scientist at Battelle in Columbus. The Fetter girls would always help Grandma Agel with her house cleaning on Saturdays. Grandma Agel was in her late seventies when she died at our home on Siebert Street and was buried from our home. When Mama took ill and Aunt Rowena and her husband took over our home to care for her she put her bed in the parlor and all of us took turns caring for her. Sr. Laurene was principal at St. Mary's School she would spend Saturdays with Mama. One day Mama sat up, stretched her arms wide and called, "Father" and fell back and died. Sister Laurene witnessed this. She was in the room fixing some flowers on the mantle before she heard Mama rise. Mama was bed fast for months. The proverb came very clear to me, "The way you live is the way you die". Grandpa Fetter died Jan. 1956 at age 83. Grandma Fetter died May 24, 1956 at age 87 years.

The Fetter (Vetter) Family

Grandma Fetter was born in Dresden, Germany and eloped to the United States with Franz Vetter. Franz Vetter was born in Sweden and since the Doersam family in Dresden thought Franz Vetter from Sweden below them and tried to discourage the wedding, ~~and~~ they eloped. Franz was a carpenter. Four children were born Frank, Louise and two who died with tuberculosis, that being a disease very prevalent at that time. Grandma Fetter's maiden name was Gertrude Doersam. One relative had the Doersam Meat Market on 5th Street in Columbus, Ohio where they ^{Grandma} lived. Grandpa Fetter was killed while on the job as a carpenter. Somehow the name Vetter was changed to Fetter. Relatives ^{from Dresden} also moved to United States and settled in Columbus. Cousins were the Richters, Bangerts, Thones, ^{Doersam} Looge. After Grandma Fetter's husband's death she married a man by the name of Altmeyer who had a shoe store on High St. in Columbus. One son Uncle Allie was born in that marriage. He lived in Cincinnati, Ohio after his marriage and visited his half brother Frank often. In fact Uncle Allie was my sponsor in baptism. Aunt Louise was a maiden lady until she was forty-one years old meeting Uncle Charley Strasser at the cemetery where she visited her mother's grave every Sunday.

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Uncle Charley was a widower visiting his
deceased wife's grave. Aunt Louise would
come to the Frank Fetter home every Sun-
day for dinner, ^{before going to the cemetery} and bring her "Portum"
beverage with her. She was allergic to
nicotine. That seems to run in families to
this day. Many can't drink coffee because
of the nicotine. The Richter, Bankert and the
Fetter children grew up together and were very
dear friends belonging to clubs and going
to school. Lizzetta Bankert taught piano
lessons. The Bankerts had a meat packing
plant. Margaret Looze was a maiden lady
very beautiful and managed the Glove de-
partment at Andrew Dobbie Dry Good Store
where all the elite in Columbus shopped.
I have a linen tablecloth and napkins that Aunt
Louise hemmed from the Dobbie store given to
me at my wedding. Aunt Louise being a maiden
lady while the older Frank Fetter children were
growing up took special interest in them see-
ing they had beautiful hair ribbons and
clothes. She bought the first winter new coat
for me when I was about fourteen years old.
Before that I wore my older sister's hand-me-
down. My older sister was Gertrude who is
twenty-two months older. The Looze family
had a summer cottage at Buckeye Lake
which was located not far from Colum-
bus and Aunt Louise would take Gertrude

and me there quite often over week ends. He would swim in front of the cottage. There was a row boat at the cottage and we would go out in that, cut the waves, watch sun sets etc. Later on when the Fetter children grew up they were taken along as their age permitted. That all stopped when Aunt Louise married Uncle Charley Strasser. Aunt Louise and Margaret Looze were very dear friends all their lives even after she married Uncle Charley. Margaret Looze saw to it that Gertrude and I got a job at Andrew Dobbie's who was Scotch. That proved to be a lucky stone in our lives. Gertrude was given a job in the Blouse Dept. on the 3rd floor, and I was cash kid, that being one who would take bought merchandise from counter to counter until the customer was finished buying and one bill was sent to the office on the second floor. There were wires strung above the counters and a small box would take the money and bill to the office. There were four floors. A year or so passed and as I grew they put me in the Suit Department on the third floor opposite the Blouse Department. There was great rivalry going on between the two buyers in those departments. It

4) was Ann Cooke who was buyer for the Suit & Coat Department and Margaret Kelley the Blouse Department. Both the ladies were very kind to me. At one time Ann Cooke wanted to take me with her to New York on a buying trip; but it didn't materialize. The Suit Department was to the rear and the Alteration Dept. was next which employed about eight ladies. A Miss Sullivan was the boss. One day Miss Sullivan said "Helen you are such a young person why don't you go back to school." I talked it over with Mama and she decided I could go to ^{Business} Columbia School where I learned Pittman Short hand and typing. I didn't think that was enough so I went to night school almost until I was married. I took different subjects and Aunt Gertrude and I belonged to a Literary Club. We discussed different authors. I liked "Joyce Kilmer" who was coming into the limelight then and after meeting Ed Mraz I would in my letters to him quote Joyce Kilmer. My first gift at Christmas from him ^{after marriage} was two volumes Joyce Kilmer's ~~Memories~~ ^{Life} and Poems. The days at the Dobbie Store will never be forgotten by me. Aunt Gertrude and I learned so much. In fact when Andrew Dobbie went out of business he

Told Aunt Gertrude she should never short change yourself. You now have a college education. And I believe that. We the Fetter children went to St. Mary's Parochial School who at the time had a German Father Specht who would be thunder and lightning in the pulpit at Sunday Mass. He didn't believe in further education and never talked it up. I remember him being a pompous old man that was Catholic to the core. You were out if ever you went to a Protestant grade or High School. He died and a Father Wherle was installed. His people had the Wherle Stove Works in Newark, Ohio. He was just the opposite of Father Specht. He could see the potential in those German kids and immediately built a High School. He told the parents to quit coming to Mass on week days and see that their children had a good breakfast and ready for school. He also closed a German Club on South High St where men would gather, drink beer and schnapps and have a good time gaining a "beer belly". He told the men to stay home and care for wife and children. Father Wherle was too late for the two older children in the Frank Fetter family and it was sheer luck that Margaret Loop came into their lives. She learned the

9 meaningful things in life how to conduct oneself as a lady. I remember Florence Mulligan at Dobbie's who was buyer at the Cosmetics department. She taught us how to manicure our finger nails and to squeeze finger tips to enhance the beauty of the nail. We got to know the value of things. I remember me being in the elevator one time alone with Andrew Dobbie the store owner. He looked at me reached in his pocket and handed me a five dollar bill. He often would do that to the young employees. Andrew Dobbie from Scotland got to be a very old man and his nephew Peter Mc Donald who worked at the store didn't take the store over. His wife was an opera singer. On East Broad Street in Columbus there was another elite shop, women wear run by a society lady named Mrs. Eugene Grey which was called the "Grey Shop". After the Dobbie store closed Gertrude was hired as buyer for the Blouse Department. By that time I was a full fledged office girl working at the Shaw Foundry in the South end in Columbus. Mr. McMillan was my boss and each morning I had to make a run down of certain stock prices from the morning journal. I took dictation from different ones. I wore good clothes from the Grey Shoppe. Grandma Fetter, my mother, was also a good seamstress. Looking back at St. Mary's grade school - I don't think any school in the U.S.A. could surpass it's teaching the rudiments

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Clarence Fetter married this night school sweetheart Mary Stalder and had eight children. He was a plumber and very successful. I doubt if any school now could pass a sentence as well as was done then.

of education - reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic, spelling, geography, religion. The nuns were excellent teachers.

Eight living children were born to Frank and Amelia Fetter, seven girls and one boy. Their names are Gertrude, Helen, Marie (Sr. Laurene who became a nun) Lucy, Bernadine, Rawena, Alice and Clarence. Gertrude married James A Burns and had ten living children.

Helen married Edward M. Mraz and had five living children.

Marie became a nun Sr. M. Laurene in the Franciscan order in Joliet, Ill.

Lucy married Orson Foster in New York and had two living children, now deceased.

Bernadine married Charles Myers and had ~~one~~ child, a son.

Rawena married Andy who died. She then married a widower Anthony Smielinski.

Alice married ^{Leonard} Newman a Jew who later embraced the Catholic faith. He

children were born, two were adopted. Both Alice and Leonard are deceased.

Grandmother Amelia Fetter died May 24, 1964 at age 87 yrs. Grandpa Frank Vincent Fetter died Jan. 1956 at age 83 yrs.

Grandpa Fetter worked in a foundry and was a pattern maker. In those days

men had a trade as it was called. Without that men would be called a laborer. Grandpa had a trade. Grandpa was very active at that time in the labor movement and was barred from many foundries. We had labor union meetings at our home and the voices were raised pretty high. I can remember sitting in the corner in the dining room unseen listening when I was about ten years old and thinking Papa was using some pretty big words.

After Grandma ^{Youngman} ~~Fitter~~ died her son Frank was willed enough money to build our home on 475 Siebert Street ^{Cumbeo, Ohio}. It was a six room house with an attic. The house was set back from the street and we had a front and side lawn without a weed in it. As time went by and the girls were growing up the back room was finished. I was about six years old when Papa built the house and remember Gertrude wheeling the buggy as we called it with Uncle Clarence in it and I was holding on at the sides. We were leaving our home on Bruck Street for good. I remember in our back yard ^{on Siebert St.} we had vegetables growing

9) In the back alongside the alley there was a shed. Half was used for tools, etc. and the other half housed the chickens at night. There was a fenced in chicken yard. The chicken nests were in the enclosed house where the hens would lay their eggs. Our house was cleaned every week and before we had a carpet sweeper, the rugs that were not nailed down were put on a line and beaten with a carpet beater. The nailed down ones were swept with a broom. We had a piano in the parlor and we took piano lessons from a Miss Ackerman 75¢ a lesson. The dining room was in the center. It had a huge side-board, a round table in the center with a yellow dome that resembled a flower hanging from the ceiling. We would do our home work from school there. Papa usually sat in front of the pot bellied stove drinking his "growler" of beer that one of us got for him at Bernhard's Saloon. The fire in the stove was always lit after supper and it was a chore for one of us to fill the coal bucket and bring the wood to start the fire. We did our piano practicing with the folding doors between the parlor and "sitting room" alias dining room closed. After Aunt Louise

10) and Uncle Charley married. They would join us in the sitting room each Wednesday evening. Uncle Charley had gone to some opera and would tell us about them. Christmas was always a big occasion. We always received games and glass dolls and my Aunt Lena, Teller on my mother's side would dress as Santa. He would stand in row and she would disguise her voice and asked us if we said our prayers and sometimes have us say one for her. After a while we deduced who Santa really was. Aunt Lena was always late coming. In the kitchen on the table Mama put out some of her Christmas cookies and nuts. There was a Christmas Tree in the parlor. No electric lights, it was lit with candles. Before Aunt Louise was married she would come with two sisters also maiden ladies who were her friends by the name of Wagner. Grandma Agel was living and she would also come. She also lived on Siebert St. in her own little home about a block away. A few years ago I had occasion to be in Columbus with Mary Alice and Ned Kirby and we took a ride down Siebert St and I think #75 is still the best on the street and Grandma Agel's house is still there. Aunt Tennie & Uncle Joe Agel lived behind Grandma Agel on

Stewart St. or was the street called Germania St. Getting back to Christmas. Uncle Charley was a foreman at the Butterine Factory in Columbus. His job consisted of maintenance. So much liquid being used in the factory caused wood to rot easily and there was always replacement. He was a carpenter and made a beautiful church for the Fetter to put under the Christmas tree. A light was put inside to light up the windows. Years later Mama gave the church to me and the Mraz family used it. Later I gave the church to one of the Mraz boys I think Paul. Growing up in Columbus was an exciting time. At the end of Siebert St. was Schiller Park. The name was changed to Washington Park during the second World War. Schiller being a German poet. Also the street adjacent to the park was Schiller Street and changed to Whitacre St and still is Whitacre. The park was at the end of Siebert St. During the winter we would take our sleds and coast down the hill in the park. In summer we would roll down. St Mary's School picnic was held there at the end of the school year. Grandma Agel would

The Park is called
Schiller Park again.

stand at the gate and give us 5¢ towards the money we had to spend at the picnic. Also when we were in our teens we would Congregate there on Sunday afternoons. We always went to Vespers on Sunday and would meet and walk to the park afterward. We also went to one another's homes. Sometimes we would stop at Margaret Hohman's and also Marie Klarman who later married Albert Miller. Haman's Drug Store was on the corner of Whitacre and Bruck Streets and the family lived upstairs. Marie Klarman Miller's mother was Swiss and her father always reminded me of Conrad Adenauer and was German. We had many parties at the Klarman and Fetter homes. Marie was good at playing all the songs at the piano and we would all stand around and sing and play games. I didn't have many boy friends. I was kept busy going to night school. The ones that did show up I didn't care for. The ~~first~~ ^{first} World War was on and Gertrude's boy friends came back shell shocked and their friendship ended. She later met Jim Burns. I think the shell shocked one wanted to come back but

Gertrude had only eyes for Jim
 Burns. Jay Culp whose father owned a
 brick yard in the South end of Columbus
 never married. One of the Fetter girls
 went to school with a niece of Jay and
 when the name seemed familiar to her
 she asked if she had a sister Gertrude.
 She said her Uncle Jay had a drawer
 full of letters written to him ^{by her} while
 he was over seas in the war. Even
 after Jim Burns' death he wanted to
 come back. He went to the same
 church and one time he followed her
 and stopped his car and wanted to
 talk but Gertrude would have none
 of it. One of the girls at Chase Foundry
 where I worked knitted a sweater dur-
 ing the war and put her name and
 address on it. Knitting, bandage
 making and other helpful things were done
 for the boys overseas. Marguerite Dawling
 was her name. Charles Mraz received the
 sweater she knitted and they corresponded.
 She got to know the family in Canton,
 Ohio and after a while invited Anne
 and Mary to her home. It was a hen
 party she had for them and invited
 Gertrude and me. A hen party was
 called that because it was all female.
 At that time we were getting Sr. Laurene

ready to enter the convent and Anne was so interested. I think at the time she was thinking about entering but she never made it. We became good friends and we corresponded. I was good at writing letters. Anne's hand writing was beautiful. After a while she invited me to come for a visit. ~~Up to that time I had never been~~
~~travelling and I thought that was my first~~
~~trip to the city.~~ Fourth of July happened over a week end that year and I went to Canton, Ohio. Anne and Mary met the train. I wore my best clothes. The next morning was Saturday and Anne was secretary to the President ^{was} and was asked to work. She liked the hat I wore when I came and I put it on her. She had to come back upstairs for something and said "I'd love your hat." I didn't know she had a brother. I heard the door slam once then another time I hastened to the window thinking that must be the brother. He also had to work. I saw a well dressed, tall, slender man tipping his hat to someone across the street. I sat on the porch at noon with my best dress on waiting to meet the brother. He came and said. You must be the Helen of

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I saw in a picture. Aunt Louise before her marriage used to take us to see Sr. Laurene in the convent, and pictures were always taken. As I said Anne and I corresponded a lot and I sent her pictures. Ed asked me to go to Myers Lake with him in the afternoon. We danced and went on all the rides and had a hilarious time. We walked home. Ed didn't have a car. We had a hike around Canton and Sunday came too fast. I had to be back at Shaw Foundry on Monday morning. On Sunday Ed took me to the train station and bought a magazine and box of candy for me. I read the magazine on the train but saved the candy to give Mama as a present. Coming home Mama said I looked different. She wanted to know all about my trip. The crowd I ran around with was having a 4th of July picnic and Mama thought it odd I would forgo a picnic. She couldn't have known I met the man of my life at that time. Having such a wonderful time in Canton a "thank you" note was in order. I didn't want to sum forward and I addressed Ed as "Dr. Dudley" in my note. That was in July 1921 and after a few letters from him and my answer was to "Ed". He had

beautiful handwriting and was gifted
 in many ways. He skipped grades
 in grade school and in a "Spelling Bee"
 won spelling the whole town down
 at a very early age. He was given a
 picture ^{as a prize} as I recall it had Madonnas
 framed in an oblong frame. When Eddie
 Mraz was born to Bernard and Yvonne
 Mraz I sent it to him hoping he would
 take after his grandfather. It seems
 young Eddie has. I hear he is exceptionally
 intelligent. Right before my first visit to Lanton
 Ed Mraz had broken his engagement to a
 Lanton girl named Bertha Zigler and later
 at Christmas when he was mailing a
 gift (a beautiful hand bag) to me he met
 her and she asked if they couldn't patch
 things up. He told her it was too late.
 I received a letter each day after a while
 and after we were engaged it was
 always "my dear and only Helen". The
 two younger Fetter children were seven
 and nine, Alice and Rowena, knew
 where I kept my letters and would
 sneak in the drawer and read them.
 Then would tease me about my
 boy friend. After I received my engage-
 ment ring I didn't wear it to the office.
 I didn't want them to know I
 was engaged. Lucy at the time was

was working in the office at the
 Railway Station and took my ring from
 the dresser drawer and wore it to the
 office. The first time Ed came to Canton
 Mama had just had her teeth drawn and
 waiting for the false ones. She didn't want
 to meet Ed without her teeth and sat
 in the kitchen. Ed just walked out in
 the kitchen to meet her. At first Mama
 was reluctant me marrying someone
 out of the city and said "Can't you find
 somebody in Rahmerville" but after he
 sent a barrel of enamelware to her
 it was all OK and they became fast
 friends and Ed was very fond of Mama.
 Ed and Papa didn't have much in common.
 Ed didn't drink or smoke and Papa was
 the opposite. Also Republic Stamping &
 Enameling Co. was not Unionized. On
 one of Mama and Papa's visit to Canton
 Ed took them to see the Company and
 going thru Papa found they were not
 unionized and he immediately talked to
 the people at work about how they
 should unionize. Ed got Mama
 and Papa out pretty quick. It might
 have been a good idea to have them unionize
 or have some kind of pension. As it was
 when Ed died there was nothing after

Ed being employed at first as P. M. Seymour's secretary then climbing up the ladder to become Purchasing Agent and Traffic Manager, the time employed by R. S. & F. Co. being about 35 years. A Box Co. in Cleveland seeing the potential in Ed offered him a job at a higher salary and would move him and his family. When Ed confronted Mr. Seymour about the change he told Ed that he Seymour was an old man and his job as an executive would be his ^{Ed's} soon. It so happened that Mr. Seymour had a son about ready for a job and one day Ed heard Seymour coaching this son in the office routine for his job. It must have hurt Ed badly. Ed was an honest worker and during the war when materials were hard to come by he would take work home. Ed often said I do the work while Seymour is looking out of the window. I think the Company felt Ed's loss. I have poems written about him by Denny Fraser an employee how much Ed was loved by everyone and what a good honest man he was. Coming to Mass one Sunday shortly after Ed's death and in front of the church a man was getting out of

his car and called to me and said
 Mrs. Mraz you think your husband
 died of a heart attack - Not so,
 he died of a broken heart. I was
 so bereaved at the time I didn't
 question the man. I didn't know
 him and ^{all} I said is "Is that so". Since,
 I've been so sorry not questioning the
 gentleman what really did happen.
 R. S. & E. Co must have felt some re-
 morse - they paid the funeral ex-
 penses. When Ed was a very young
 man he started to work at "The
 Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad and was
 secretary to P. M. Seymour and would
 travel with him in the railroad car
 for days and sometimes longer. Then
 when Seymour and the Fawcetts founded
 R. S. & E. Ed stuck with Seymour.
 Mr. Seymour didn't have much luck with
 his family. His wife was killed in an
 auto accident taking the maid home.
 I was working in the office at Mercy
 Hospital, ^{after he died} at the time when they brought
 her in and no room was available. I
 went back to the X-ray department
 where she was and saw as I thought
 not much time left. I asked Sr.
 Loretta Clair to find a room for
 her and call her minister that the

20) patient looked like she was dying.
Sr. died find a room. She died
shortly afterward. There were two
children. The girl was a maiden
lady and librarian at Ohio State U.
and died with a peculiar disease.
She wrote poetry and one time Mrs.
Seymour sent a copy of her poems
to me. The company R.S. & E. didn't last long
after Ed's death. He ^{Ed} died at his desk
2-20-47. Wilbur Frey at R.S. & E. Comptroller
took care of everything financially. The
company sold out to Ecko Products Co.
about two years after Ed's death. Some em-
ployees said if Ed had been here we would
have had material up to the ceiling. Republic
Stamping & Enameling Co. (R.S. & E.) during the
2nd W.W. did government work. The
company realizing their short comings
in regard to salary, etc. decided to
pay for Ed's funeral as I said earlier.
There were Bernard and Mary Alice at
Lehman High School, Paul was in the USA
Air Force being drafted, David and Jim
were in the Army, they being in ROTC at
Ohio State University when war broke
out and automatically in the Army.
He belonged to St. John's Church in
Canton, Ohio and just about the time
Jim graduated from grade school at

St Johns there was a high school built, but Ed seeing the potential in his children decided they should go to Lehman High School, the best in the city. Before that we were in McKinley High territory and Ed didn't want the children to go there. That is one reason we sold our house on Bluff Rd and moved in Lehman High territory on 13th St. One person couldn't get in Case Western Reserve after applying there and going to St Johns because of not having learned the essential subjects. St. Johns High has now been abolished. After Ed's death I stayed home for a year. One day Anne and Mary Mraz came to see me and suggested I get a job. They knew many maiden ladies at Mercy Hospital a Catholic hospital run by nuns. I applied and they gave me a job in the X-ray Dept. I would admit X-ray patients. There was so much bustle and bustle I couldn't take after the trauma of Ed's death. I called Sr. Marie the one who hired me and told her and all she said I should stay home today and come in tomorrow which I did. They then put me in the Admitting Office.

There were three desks in the room. Sr. Loretta Clair gave out the rooms at one desk and the other two were used by Clara Barn, a good friend of Ed's when he was living. He used to work with her sister on the Rail Road. The other desk was mine. The patients would come in when called. They liked my work I wrote legibly. After a while seeing I could work in the office where I worked with another good friend of the Mrazu Anne Balloun. I posted payments and would balance each day. Also I would do jobs for Anne Balloun who saw to it that bills were paid. I worked there five years when I decided to sell my home and move to Columbus. I used to visit Columbus on week ends going with Harry Gallahan. His sister lived behind Aunt Gertrude and Uncle Jim and I would go and come with him. He was a friend of Ed. He was an engineer and traveled by boat to Europe quite often. He at one time made the Stations of the Cross out of clay for the Sisters at St Johns School. I heard he made the Stations while

Tails, David & Jim graduated from Lehman High. Paul was Valedictorian of his class.

- 23) travelling by boat to Europe. I was with Mercy Hospital for five years. One part of Mercy Hospital facing Market Street was the old McKinley Home and was used as the Maternity Building when my first son Jim was born. President McKinley is buried in Canton, Ohio in a hill that could be seen from our upstairs window and on the hill the Mraz boys and Mary Alice would see. The children were young when their father died at age 53 years. Jim was in the Army being drafted after being in ROTC at Ohio State University. David also after being in ROTC at OSU. Paul was in the Army being drafted after graduation from Lehman High. Then after the war he entered Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio. Bernard enlisted in the army and finished High School there. He had one semester to go when he decided Lehman High was too much for him. He learned a trade in the army and was in for 22 years. Mary Alice graduated from Lehman High and went to Marquette University. After all this I decided to sell our home and move to Columbus, Ohio. I lived there on Woodruff Ave. until

Mary Alice graduated from Marquette.
 He took an apartment in Milwaukee,
 Wisconsin. I found a job and worked
 in a Maternity Shoppe. Then Mary Alice
 got a bid for a job in Washington
 I went with her where we lived
 at McLean Gardens. In Washington I
 took a job at Georgetown University Hospital
 as receptionist for Patti Grimaldi who was
 head nurse for incoming nurses and doc-
 tors and all personnel relating to patient
 caring. I would take their prospectus and
 give it to Patti and she would then inter-
 view the person. I worked six days a week
 and sometimes on Sunday doing typing
 for different offices. I was missing a lot
 of sight seeing in Washington working
 and after a couple of years decided to
 ask for a job at Best & Co. a few blocks
 from McLean Gardens where we lived.
 Best & Co. was a very prestigious ladies
 wear store. One day I helped Mamie
 Eisenbauer in the girdle department.
 But after leaving Georgetown U. Hosp.
 Patti Grimaldi and Martha Fetter re-
 mained my friends and we would
 see one another often. At Best & Co. I
 became a good friend to Marily Joly
 a French lady who had charge of the

alteration department. I learned a lot
 about altering women's suits and dresses
 just watching her in the fitting room
 after selling the suit or dress. Marilyn
 Goly and I became good friends and went
 out together often going to see different
 places of interest in Washington. Also,
 she became a friend to Martha Fetter
 and Patti Grimaudo the nurse at Geo.
 U. Hosp. All came to Mary Alice's wedding
 at St. Ann's Church in Washington.
 I stayed in Washington a few years
 after Mary Alice's wedding then asked
 to be transferred to Best & Co. in
 Boston. Ned and Mary Alice helped
 me find an apartment at 61 Commonwealth
 Ave. It was close to Best & Co.
 and I enjoyed working there. Many
 college girls patronized. An Italian
 couple lived downstairs ^{an Commonwealth} and we be-
 came friends. The job was getting so
 I would be very tired. I was 43
 and I decided to quit working and
 take my Social Security. I then bought
 a house in Whitman but that proved
 too much to care for. I sold it and
 moved on Washington St. in Whitman
 close to Holy Ghost Catholic Church.
 I went to Mass every morning and
 while living in the house I bought

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Msr. Frauley came to my door and asked me to help him out as cook for the rectory. The cook he brought along from Boston when he was transferred to Whitman wanted to visit her home land Ireland. She hadn't been there in years. I was teaching Catechism at the time and I told Msr. I couldn't that I was teaching catechism and he said I'll get someone in your place. I remember asking him why he would choose me and he said he thinks I have the time and he sees me at Mass in the mornings also I look like I could do it. How could I refuse. He wanted me to stay at the rectory over night but I wanted to go home. So each night he would drive me home and come after me at six o'clock each morning. I would eat breakfast with Msr. and his huge black dog had a place at the table and ^{the dog} would ~~provide~~ ^{provide} slap his breakfast and take vitamins. One morning sitting opposite me I winked at the dog and he winked back. He was well trained. I think the curate, Fr. Hamrock and Fr. King thought of me as their mother. I

I took lessons for teaching catechism and have a diploma for same.

would bake cookies and put fruit
 out on the table. I would see
 them pocket some going out. I did
 nothing but do the planning meals,
 ordering food and cooking. There
 was other help to wash dishes and
 clean. After about three months
 and even after the regular cook
 came home Msgr. asked me to stay
 that he would build an apartment
 for me above the huge garage. I
 decided then to leave. When I
 first came I told Msgr. that I didn't
 want pay and he wouldn't hear of
 it. Holy Ghost Church had no other
 place to teach catechism than in the
 church. In the meantime Spellman
 Hall was built with rooms for
 teaching, a huge hall and other odd
 places. One Sunday Msgr. asked
 for donations to fit a room for
 teaching and the amount was
 \$500.00. I figured I earned about
 that much as cook and decided to
 furnish a room. When I approached
 Msgr. with my wanting to fur-
 nish a room. he said he would
 not think of taking money from

a widow and I asked him if he would accept \$500.00 in memory of my husband. He couldn't refuse and now there is a bronze placard on one of the doors - "In Memory of Edward M. Mraz". When I lived on Washington St. in Whitman after seeing the house I bought after retiring I was feeling so good I decided not to take the Thyroid Pills I had been taking for years and was told I had to take the rest of my life. While with Patti Grimalda at Georgetown U. Hosp she had me take a test for my thyroid and found me underactive. I started to have trouble after a while and wound up a very ill person with three broken vertebrae. The thyroid metabolizes your whole system and when that is out of order it takes the calcium from the bones to feed the blood. I was in and out of the hospital several times and got much better but not quite up to where I had been before. My sister Bernadine visited me when living on Washington St. and saw I wasn't quite myself and it was a time when there was a heat shortage and she got a sore

(30) throat shortly after coming to Whitman.

She persuaded me to come back with her to Columbus. While in Columbus Bernadine took me around to find a suitable place for me to live. We found Joyce Arms on E. Main St. in Columbus. I lived it. It was a beautiful place to live and across the street from ~~St. John's~~ ^{St. Mary's} Catholic Church. The Notre Dame Convent was next door and after I became acquainted with the ladies they asked me to join the Tabernacle Society. We made vestments and other articles and some were sent to Catholic countries. We would meet each Wednesday morning, stay for lunch in the Notre Dame dining hall and leave about three PM. Sr. Francis Xavier became my good friend and even after I left Columbus I would hear from her. The last time I saw her was at Aunt Gertrude's 90th Birthday Party July 11th, 1986. At one time Sr. Camille Burns was in charge of the convent. Paul Mraz visited me while I lived at Joyce Arms. He was on a business trip and stopped in Columbus to visit me over Sunday. Father McHulty was pastor of ~~St. John's~~ ^{St. Mary's} and on that Sunday he asked for donations

(31) to buy the organ Holy Family Church was selling. The price was \$3000.00. At the time I had accumulated Teledyne Stock I was distributing to the Ed Mraz children. Paul and I talked it over and we decided to give some to Father McNulty for the organ. He received almost enough for the organ and was very thankful. My thought ~~was~~ that our family had been blessed and what a beautiful way to thank the Good Lord for all His Blessings. ~~St. Mary's~~ ^{Holy Cross} Catholic Church is one of the oldest Catholic Churches in the United States and ~~it~~ ^{is} beautiful ^{stained glass} windows and murals painted on the walls. Being so old it was deteriorating and was going to be torn down but thru the efforts of Sr. Camilla and the Notre Dame Convent it received Federal Aid to restore it. When ~~St. Mary's~~ ^{Holy Cross} was built the French and Germans helped financially. I lived at Jaycee Arms for over nine years and enjoyed good health ^{with} my sisters and brother. We would gather and play cards, go to the theater and all in all enjoy ourselves. Then a lady who lived below me at Jaycee Arms smoked all night and the fumes would enter my bed room. I am very allergic to tobacco smoke. I complained to the

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manager and he could do nothing about it. But after a while did speak to the lady after he saw I was losing my voice. I visited in Whitman, Mass. and Mary Alice Kirby persuaded me to come live with them with the idea of finding a place for me similar to Jacree Arms. I was with the Kirbys four years and enjoyed my friends I had before when living in Whitman. I belonged to the Garden Club, Women's Club and was active at church. Mary Alice and Ned were visiting in Washington, D.C. with daughter Jane and I went with them as far as Paul and Sally Mroz's home. They were aware of my wanting an apartment and Sally took me around to different ones. I decided on one at Colonial Gardens. I had to take a two bed room at first until a one was available. I moved in the two bed room in Sept. 1986 and stayed with Sally and Paul until my furniture and belongings from Whitman arrived. In May 1987 a one bed room apartment was available and Paul, Sally and the Mroz boys moved me. I like my apartment very much. There is no noise or smoking and my neighbors are wonderful. Everything I need is

around. The Senior Center is close by and I play cards. Bridge and Pinochle there and sometimes Bingo. In the evenings some of the ladies sit out under the tree and I join them. On May 17, 1988 I reached the age of 90 years and Sally and Paul arranged a beautiful party. Jim and Ruth came from Michigan, Jane and David from California, Bernard from California, Mary Alice and Ned from Massachusetts. All of Paul and Sally's children and their kin were there. Jane Kirby Jaki and her new husband and Fares' parents from Rome. Jane's new in-laws were here for her wedding which happened in May in Washington, D.C. ^{Burns} Jim and Pat from Washington were there. A big surprise when my dear friend from Washington days Patti Grimalda came. She now lives in Arizona. I remember visiting her in Arizona when Jane Kirby was nine years old and we were on our way to California. Also I remember Patti visiting in Whitman when I lived there. Sally and Paul worked hard to make it a time to be remembered by all. They had a 1913 car which was a pin call for me and

and seven of my good friends from Colonial Gardens to go to the party, which was held in their yard under a huge tent. There was a Mass said at noon and delicious food and drink was served on beautifully decorated tables. I live now in a very comfortable apartment in Colonial Gardens 334 E. Main St. Apt. C-9, Newark, Del. and hope to complete my life there.