



KNOW YOUR ROOTS

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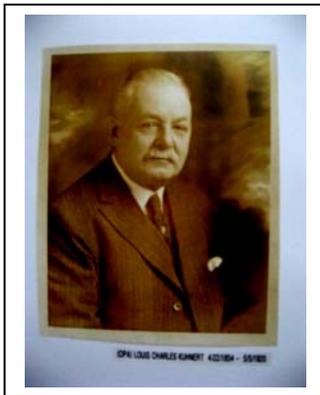
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THE SPIRIT OF LOUIS KUHNERT

In my newsletter of April 2011 regarding Louis Kuhnert I wrote about the small child that was left after the terrible tragedy that occurred in the family. I also wrote that Carrie the daughter never married. Now, I'm pleased to say, I've been in contact with that child's daughter and I'm able to tell you a little more about Louis Kuhnert's family. I bring you his spirit in a lamp made from a wallpaper roll from the company of Remien & Kuhnert as I tell you a new story of three women in his life. To



refresh your memory, Louis is the brother of Grandmother Minnie Schueneman and the most successful brother of the other Kuhnert brothers. You read about him last year, his company, and the building that still exists in Chicago. This newsletter will tell you about the three women who were very important to him and about whom I knew nothing.

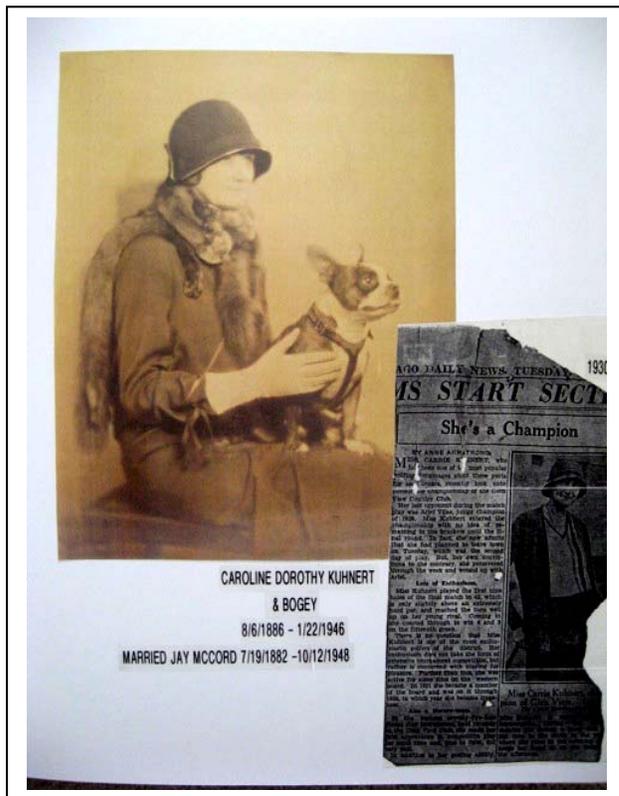


I shall begin with Lena Lassman, his wife, because I have never written about her before. She, like Louis, was born of German parents who immigrated to this country and that is all I could find of her parents. I don't know their wedding date but the 1880 census lists Lena as his wife so their marriage had already taken place. It also says Louis was in the grocery business. All the pictures in this story are from the descendant who has been kind enough to give me permission to print them. This wedding picture of Louis and Lena is from her.

Life must have been treating Lena well for in 1920 her husband Louis was a bank president, she had two children, Louis Jr. and Carrie, and her sister Dora was also living with her. Unfortunately the 1890 census was lost which means much information about the family



during those next 20 years was unavailable. However a trademark for the company was applied for in 1902 so Remien & Kuhnert must have been started within that time and profiting.



Their daughter was officially named Carolyn Dorothy born in 1886 but she always went by the name Carrie. A prolific golfer, she had membership in 138 golf clubs, and during her golfing career was treasurer of the Western Golf Association. She obviously was quite good for she won several championships and was written up several times in the sports sections of the paper. Many of her trophies still exist with the family. Besides her golf laurels she was an amateur horsewoman.

Carrie didn't marry until after her mother Lena died so she was free to join many tournaments. When she did marry, she chose a bachelor Jay C. McCord who was quite interesting. From what I can tell, he lived alone on Michigan Avenue in Chicago, had a Japanese man servant, and sold real estate. In the past I could find that he

and his brother Downer were the step sons of Harvey Hayden but I don't know about his biological father. I'm sure there is much more to tell about him but suffice it to say that the wedding of Carrie and Jay C. took place in Chicago September 28, 1942. Her mother Lena had died the March before. Unfortunately, Carrie's marriage was an ill fated one for she died January 22, 1946 from a head injury when some construction material fell on her.

My last spirit of Louis is his grandchild, the six year old I couldn't find until her daughter found me. The name of the grandchild was Virjean and while as a child growing up, her life was turbulent, she had Lena and she had Carrie to watch over her. She married Otto Hills Jr. and had a daughter. And to this daughter I give my thanks for all the information and pictures about my lost Kuhnert family. Virjean lived to be 100 years old. These three women embody the spirit of Louis: Lena seated, Carrie on the left and Virjean on the right, and their stories are all represented in the lamp made from a wallpaper roll of Remien & Kuhnert.



(Webmaster & Technical Advisor: Jerry Larkin)