

**Charles Lee Anderson**  
**Frances Elizabeth Behnes Anderson**



This is an account of my parent's life together. I do this for their grandchildren, Donald, Barry, and Leanne and their descendants.

They lived during momentous times. Although Southerners by birth, they met during the Great Depression in New York City in 1932. They settled in Jackson Heights in Queens where he has just set up his medical practice. As a couple with three small children, they were uprooted during World War II and moved multiple times throughout the US eventually settling in San Jose California after the War.

This is where Gail, Gordon and Bruce grew up as Lee and Frances created a meaningful life as a family. Lee died in 1958. Frances rebuilt her life, founding and running a successful restaurant in Saratoga California for 13 years. She retired and died at 70.

The underlined words are links to articles.

**Bruce M. Anderson**  
**2016**

## Lee and Frances Meet

They met at a New York cocktail party in the early part of 1932. He saw a tall 5' 8" very attractive 24-year-old brunette with a warm smile and a southern accent. She saw a tall 6' 2" distinguished athletic 29-year-old with a mustache and a southern accent. He probably seemed older. He looked 5-10 years older than his age his whole life.



They probably found out in their first conversation that they were both born in the same town of Columbus Georgia. And it's likely that they knew some of the same people. Later they discovered that her mother had met his father in Columbus, although they were not friends. She was attractive not only for her beauty but for her intelligence.

She had come to New York three years before, having spent her teenage years in an affluent lifestyle in Bremen, Germany. Francis spoke fluent German and French. She attended private school in Bremen Germany and graduated with the equivalent of two years of US college from Oberlycaum Janson. She attended the Sorbonne in Paris for one semester. She also had secretarial jobs in Germany.

Her father, Franz Behnes, was a cotton merchant who met her mother in Columbus. The family move to Germany in 1920 when Frances was 12. They returned to the United States in 1929 when the cotton market crashed. She was now living with her mother, Lucie McDonald Behnes and Franz, a younger brother, Alexander and sister, Lucinda in an apartment in New York. Lucie worked as a clerk at [Wannamaker's](#) and [Bloomingdale's](#). Franz had difficulty in being able to make a living due to his German background, particularly as the years advanced to the war. He sold life insurance.



Frances worked as a secretary with Vanity Fair for two years, a Conde Nast publication, before it became Vogue. She was a whiz at shorthand and typing. She became business manager and associate editor of the Good Housekeeping studio of architecture and furnishings as well as fashion. She wrote articles and supervised photo shoots for decorating articles and fashions. She helped support the household.

Lee had completed his residency at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore having graduated with a medical degree in 1928 from Emory University in Georgia. Dr. Anderson established his practice in internal medicine in Jackson Heights Queens in 1932. He was a resident at King's County Hospital in Brooklyn. He did post-graduate

work in cardiology and Endocrinopathy in 1936.

Lee was an only child. Lee lost his father Jesse M Anderson, also a physician, two years before. Jesse was born to a farming family in Shiloh Georgia, the youngest of nine. He died in October 1930 at 54.

Lee's mother Laurie had recently married to Edward W Swift of Columbus Georgia who was quite wealthy.

## Marriage

They were married on December 21, 1934.

They established their household in Jackson Heights, Queens, NY. It is helpful to know



that the Thirties was during [The Great Depression](#). The country was under incredible economic stress with the unemployment rate at 25%. This was the circumstances under which they build their life together. Gail was born on August 28, 1937.

As the Thirties moved forward, events in Europe likely haunted them. Every

American was imbued with a sense of foreboding as war broke out in Europe when Germany invaded Poland in 1939.



A good thing that happened in 1939-40 was the [World's Fair](#) in Flushing Meadows New York. Frances and Lee attended the fair. Lee also attended with his mother, Laurie. They also enjoyed going to the movies and that year there were a lot of good ones including *Gone with the Wind*, *the Wizard of Oz*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, and *Stagecoach*. They all have become classics. Lee was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying fishing and sailing. He also regularly played tennis. Frances played golf. They spend a lot of time sailing on Long Island Sound out of Beech Hurst.

By 1941 Lee had a fairly successful private practice. He had his office in his house on Jackson Heights. Frances became pregnant with twin boys in June 1941. And then, on December 7, 1941 Japan attacked the United States. War was declared on Japan on December 8<sup>th</sup>. War was declared on Germany on

December 11, 1941. Frances and Lee, along with millions of other Americans were plunged into relentless uncertainty. It was five years before the Andersons could reestablish stability in their lives with some level of certainty for their future.

Gordon and Bruce were born on February 19, 1942. It was discovered that Gordon had a birth injury. He had brain damage which caused a limitation in his intelligence and mild cerebral palsy. While he had a good disposition, and developed into adulthood to marry and have a job, he was a source of on-going concern as he was growing up.

## The War

Lee and Frances then had to decide whether to participate in the war effort. Lee chose to enlist in the Army Air Corps as a medical officer. He was 39 years old. He was not obliged to do this. He could have continued his medical practice and be at home with his twin boys and little girl. But, he chose to make sacrifices on behalf of his country, along with millions of others Americans. His entire life was disrupted. Learn about [World War II](#).

Lee followed in the footsteps of his father Jesse, who was a medical officer stateside in the US Army during World War I. Bruce served stateside in the US Army as an officer and company commander stateside during the Vietnam War 1964-1966. So, three generations have been in the military. Ancestors also served in the military in the Confederacy and perhaps the revolution.



During the next four years, Lee was stationed at various locations in the south, much of the time separated from his family. His primary job was to provide medical care to soldiers who were injured and ill due to the war. To get a sense of the magnitude of the war, there were over 400,000 American's killed. And there were over 600,000 wounded.

From letters, we know that there was ever present uncertainty as to where he would be assigned next and whether it might be domestically or in the

European or Pacific theaters.

During World War II he performed duties of Chief of Medicine Service, Daniel Field, Georgia.; Chief of Communicable Diseases, Robins Field, Georgia.; Medical Ward Officer at [Ashford General Hospital](#) (which was the Greenbrier Hotel) in West Virginia.; Assistant Chief Medical Service, [Madigan General Hospital](#) in Fort Lewis, Washington.; and, Chief of Medical Service, Regional Station Hospital in Fort Ord, Calif.



When he was allowed during the latter part of the war, he chose to attend medical courses to make good use of his time. He attended a course in X-Ray Technology in Memphis Tennessee for 3 months at the end of 1944, and he attended a course in Tropical Diseases, Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC., three months of 1945.

The letters between Frances and Lee show that they loved and missed each other very much. He also missed his children. There are many endearing sentiments from each. Many practical matters were discussed in the letters such as logistics of packages, moving, and finances. They had very little money on the Army salary. To make up for this, they rented rooms in their Jackson Heights house and the doctor who took over his practice paid them from time to time from patient revenue. There were on-going concerns with money, particularly for little luxuries such as Christmas presents.

When Frances planned to move to Augusta, there was much discussion about getting sufficient gas coupons for the trip. Issuance of coupons had to be justified to the [Ration Board](#). She commented that it was best to drive the car to Georgia rather than just having it sit in the garage in New York, due to lack of available gasoline.

It is interesting to note the circular aspects of life. Lee and Frances left New York to move to where the Army order him; Augusta, Georgia when he was stationed at Daniel Field. Lee's mother was born in Augusta and his grandfather was postmaster.

Twenty years later their son Bruce was assigned as a US Army officer to Fort Benning in Columbus Georgia from 1964-1966 where Lee and Frances were born. This was the same town where Lee's mother Laurie, lived there.

Lee and Frances's grandson, Barry Anderson moved to New York City from Houston, Texas in 1998 and continues to reside there with his wife and three daughters. So, he is back where his grandparents use to live in in the same way that Lee went back to where his grandparents lived in Augusta, Georgia while in the army, and Bruce went back to where his grandparents lived in Columbus Georgia while in the army. All this without making any specific requests on location.

A chest of drawers was moved from Jackson Heights to Augusta and later, after several other moves, to San Jose California where Frances and Lee settled after the war. Bruce then had the chest shipped to Texas in 1978 after Frances died. Barry took it with him back to New York in 1996, 38 years after it left. It then was sent back to Texas in 2000 and given away in 2006. I remember the chest being in my parents' bedroom and that my dad kept all kinds of trinkets in the top drawer. I even remember how it smelled.

## World War II Letters

These are excerpts from letters between Frances and Lee. I have chosen the excerpts that give some hint as to their character and personalities.

Frances to Lee

*Honestly honey, your ears should be burning. You have no idea what nice things people have said. I've always known you were no ordinary guy, but I didn't know other people were smart enough to appreciate you to such an extent. When they say these things, they go up in my estimation, you couldn't go any higher. Good night darling. I wish I could kiss you good night.*

Lee to Frances

*The letter for Gail is one that I will cherish. I love that girl so much. That I am afraid that I will spoil her, if I get a chance. And my little he-men, too, feeble expression cannot tell the whole story and feeling. I intend on bringing them up to enjoy life at its best, to have fun, and at the same time face the world on even fair terms, looking it's straight in the eye; giving and demanding credit where it is due. Working hard to earn and get what it offers. Know what I mean. My dad ended his life early to get me the education with which to get ahead and be something more than average. I intend on doing the same. Maybe the effort, in this case, will cause me to live longer and to bear the fruits. Oh, Bruce will someday smash up my brand-new car, and Gordon will probably get some girl in trouble, and they will both worry our hearts out by the results of youth enthusiasm, but we will keep them essentially right and good; wait and see. Oh, I have no illusion, but I also know what is important in life.*

This is a very poignant in that my dad did not live any longer than his father. They both died at age 54. I know nothing about the reference to his dad died sacrificing himself for Lee to get an education. (His died from tuberculosis in 1930) His prediction on Gordon and Bruce's transgressions were a bit off. I did get the Mercury Montclair up to 115 mph on the Bayshore highway when I was 15. Gordon did marry at 21, but had no children. It is interesting that he did not predict that Gail would be involved in any shenanigans, just the boys.

Frances to Lee

Frances saw a soldier on the bus. He was speaking with a southern accent, and she invited him to dinner the next day. He and a buddy showed up and ate them out of house and home. First meal for them in a house in months. It shows how open people were during the war to support soldiers away from home. In a later letter, Lee was invited to dinner by a stranger.

During the summer of 43, Frances recounted how New York got to be in the high 90s with high humidity. She was not tolerant of the heat. It's no wonder they moved to California.

Lee offers Frances technical support

*As to your lighter, just unscrew it, hold it halfway down with a certain amount of spring pressure, flip it several times to wear down the Flint. Then screw it in tight.*

Lee was a science and technical guy. He loved gadgets, particular those that helped him catch more fish. I suspect that he would have been an early adopter of the computer and would have been naturally proficient in it. He mentioned the intensity of his course on X-Rays. He had to become an electrical engineer, a physicist, and a mechanic. He was expected to take apart and repair an X-Ray machine in the field.

Letter from Lee in Washington DC tropical disease school to Frances March 21, 1945.

*We should all be spanked for being weary of the war as right now that is the biggest thing in any of our lives. Think of the Japanese or even Germans invading this country has a plan and messing up the situation for years to come maybe forever. To hell with them and the sooner we blast them to hell the better and I will stick by as long as they need me.*

*So, my trouble is not being with my lovable and loving family whom I really live for from day to day. Everything also seems just as an adjunct and sideline. And I long to be with you sweetheart. I love you so much, and you do so much for me my dear that it's just a rough time being somewhere else. Please to give them a kiss for me and tell them I'm thinking of them all the time.*

Little did he realize that Germany would soon surrender and that five months later the bomb would be dropped on Japan, and the war would be over. To say that everyone all over the world rejoiced that the war was over is an understatement. Over 60 million people died in World War II which was 3% of the world population.

### **Settling in San Jose California**

During 1944 and 1945 there was much discussion of where they would live after the war. They apparently did not want to return to the Northeast and thought about Columbus, Seattle, and the Bay Area. Frances did not want the heat of Columbus, and it is likely that they wanted to create a life of their own outside of Laurie's high-end social sphere in Columbus. The West Coast was attractive. They managed to get a transfer to Fort Lewis at Olympia Washington. Then, Frances, Lee, and Gail drove to the West Coast in a [Desoto convertible](#). The boys followed by train with Amsie (Lucie) and Ida, the maid. They then

moved to Monterey. Having decided on San Jose California, Lee did the house hunting. Homes were in great demand after the war. He sealed the deal in April 1946 for a house at 1311 McKendrie Street in San Jose. The owners had two other offers for more that day, but they stuck to the bargain. They bought the house for \$14500. (it is now worth \$1.2M) They set the move date for July. Lee also studied for his California medical license and



passed early in the year. It is likely that the medical training he had in Memphis and Washington DC was very helpful in getting through it.

Franz, Frances's father, was helpful in selling the medical equipment and the home in Jackson Heights.

So, four years from Lee's departure from Jackson Heights, the family was finally back together with a stable future ahead of them. Frances had moved the household from Jackson Heights to Augusta, to White Sulfur Springs, West Virginia to Columbus Georgia, to Olympia Washington, to Monterey California and finally to San Jose.

Lee was 43, Frances 38, Gail 9, Gordon and Bruce 4 and ½. It is likely that the next five years were some of the happiest of their lives.

### **Lee Gets Established**

Lee had to establish a practice in cardiology and internal medicine and Frances needed to establish a household and become a member of the community. They joined Trinity Episcopal Church. She organized the house, and the children were enrolled in school.

His office was in the Saint Claire Building in downtown. He became affiliated with O'Connor Hospital and started making the rounds of the medical community to get referrals from colleagues. He joined the Santa Clara Medical Association. He was a Fellow of the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians and Surgeons, a member of the California State Medical Association, The American Heart



Association and the California Society of Internal Medicine.

Doctors did not advertise, and so the start-up was slow. Frances worked in the front office. One day, a crowd of people came in the waiting room. She was overwhelmed with joy and went back and told Lee. It turned out that they were all the same family of the one patient who needed to see a doctor. As the years went on, his practice grew.



## Frances Gets Established

Frances's parents and sister Lucinda were still in New York, but not for long. They moved out to California that year and bought a home six blocks from the Anderson home at 1052 Morse Street. So, the entire family was back together, except her brother Alexander who was married and on Long Island. Lee's mother Laurie was in Columbus. Lucinda (Dee



Dee) worked at Bank of American and was the sole support of her parents except for Social Security.

Frances brought a black girl from the cotton fields in Georgia to be a maid. She taught her to cook and do other household duties. She lived in the apartment above the garage. From the birth of Gail throughout our upbringing, we had maids.

With her design and interiors background, she decided to remodel the house. It was a major ordeal and took longer than expected. The house was decorated in the Fifties fashionable décor with an oriental touch.

## Frances becomes Civic and Social Leader

Doctors and doctor's wives had an immediate entry into the higher social levels. Frances joined organizations that connected her with well-educated affluent people. The house and schools we attended were in an upper middle-class area of town. She became friends with our classmates' parents. Growing up in Germany, she was used to being with educated affluent people.

She joined organizations that had civic-minded members.

- She was a cofounder of the Santa Clara County Crippled Children Society
- She helped organize Chandler Trip school for cerebral palsy children
- She was founder of the Crippled Children Society Auxiliary
- She was a member the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters
- She was a member of the Girl Scout Council
- She was a member of the Board of Directors of San Jose nursery
- She was a past member of the Advisory Council Volunteer Service Bureau. She served twice as a judge for the young women of the year sponsored by the Jaycettes
- She was the second president of [The Valle Monte League](#) a mental health organization in 1953.

Frances was active in politics for the Republican Party and was a member of the League of Woman Voters. She managed precinct captains during elections. She worked on

Richard Nixon's campaign for the House of Representatives and the Senate. She was obviously very disillusioned with him by 1973 when he resigned the presidency.



She loved the symphony and the opera and was on the board of those organizations along with San Jose Concerts Series. She also was a member of various art organizations.

These associations required quite a social life and Lee joined her at charity galas and other social events. I think that one could characterize them as a "prominent" couple in San Jose society. San Jose had a population of about 75000 in 1946 and grew rapidly. They also had a rich circle of friends both in San Jose as well Jackson Heights and the various other places that they lived.



It is evident that Frances was a very accomplished woman prior to Lee's death in 1958. And she also raised three kids, who turned out pretty well.

Frances was artistic. This was evidence by the interiors of the house, her passion for making the garden rich with roses, and all types of flowers. She also took up painting and became quite accomplished. Her paintings are digitized in an electronic file.

Frances was also a poet and could write a verse at will. Some of her poems were read at her memorial service 1978.

## Outdoorsman



Lee loved the outdoors. Summers and weekends were spent on boats fishing or sailing. At times, we owned an outboard runabout for water skiing and fishing, as well a small sail boat. This continued to whatever extent it could after he was disabled. Frances joined him in these activities from the beginning. Frances and Lee enjoyed camping even before kids.

Lee also loved cars, and at one point we owned a 7-passenger used Cadillac limousine which Gail drove to high school. We had two Fiats which Lee found convenient to drive to work because he could easily put his wheelchair in the back seat. I remember getting 12 kids in/on the Fiat, sitting on the roof with feet through the sunroof on the steering wheel. We drove about a half a block.



## Religion

We attended church as a family on Christmas and Easter. The kids were expected to attend [Trinity Episcopal Church](#) Sunday school on the church bus. Frances and Lee stayed home. This allowed them to “reconnect” with each other. They also took long weekends in Carmel 2 or 3 times a year, while Lucie (Amsie) took care of the kids. So, we can say that we were brought up with Christian values, although Gail and I are not religious. I was an acolyte, but by the time I was 18 I was an atheist. I used to say that I became an acolyte to please my grandmother.



Christmas was a very special time. The Anderson’s went all out with decorations and gifts. My good friend Les Freund, who was the son of a rabbi, would come over and help us decorate. His mother and Frances were good friends.

## Gordon

Gordon had educational challenges as we were growing up. By third grade, he could not keep up, and Frances enrolled him in Chandler Trip, a cripple children’s school, she helped found. He had an IQ of about 80. He read and wrote at about the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level as an adult. He was not crippled but was physically awkward. They offered excellent speech therapy which was very helpful. He was surrounded by kids on crutches and wheelchairs





and he really did not fit in. After two years, he said he wanted to go back to grammar school. He returned, three grades below his age. He started to have seizures. He developed emotional issues and withdrew. It was a very difficult time for him. Lee and Frances decided to enroll him in a private boarding school called Deveraux for mentally and emotionally challenged children in Santa Barbara California. He left in September 1955 at the age of 13 and remained there until he was 18. Laurie financed his tuition. Dropping

him off at the school was heartbreaking for Frances. And, it was the best thing that they could have done.

Upon his return in 1960 at 18, he went to work at the Hope for Retarded Children, met his future wife, and married at 21. Later his wife, Liz, and he worked at the Plumed Horse Restaurant working for Frances. They were divorced in his early 30's. He died at 35 in January 1978 from a seizure while in his sleep. He memorial service was attended by many who gave testimonials to his loving, sweet nature. He was a wonderful man.

Frances wrote *"If there were more people on this earth like Gordon-his kindness, his simplicity-there would be no problems among nations. This earth would be a pleasant place in which to live. Love thy name as thy self might be a reality."*

### **Lee's injury and disability**

In 1951, Lee and Frances went albacore fishing in Newport Beach while the family was on vacation. Apparently, he strained his hips and over the next few months lost his ability to bear weight on his hips. The condition was caused by a lack of circulation in his hips causing bone deterioration. He became confined to a wheelchair which allowed him to walk with his feet with his chair on rollers. He was in this condition the rest of his life although the last year he was able to walk across a room.

In 1953, he traveled by train to Iowa to have surgery on his hips, where they transplanted bone from his shins to the hips. When Frances got there, she found that he had made friends of all the hospital staff.

Lee regularly wrote to his mother, Laurie about his journey through this very difficult period in his life. This was how we know his story.

Lee to Laurie-May 1953.

Excerpt was explaining why he had not written. He is recovering from surgery on his hips.

*With my own case, it can possibly be explained thus: when I was about seven years old my dad, in order teach me to swim, threw me into the middle of a pool at Warm Springs where I could not touch bottom. I did not feel like laughing particularly at the time and as I remember no amount of excellent philosophy like "be happy" "be glad" would have been very helpful. As it turned out, he was right because, since then I've had no fear of the water and at times have been considered a very good swimmer.*

*His insight of life was very good. I only bring this up as a matter of comparison. At times of trouble, it seems as if life again is teaching us a lesson the hard way, in which we either die, go down in disgrace, or come out stronger. Things usually turn out for the best, but for a time we are not too happy or communicative until we are able to make a so-called adjustment. The only difference this time is that I am 50, I have four other people to save and swim out with, while have two bum legs with degenerating bones and in much pain, to use in the swimming.*

*To show you I have not lost my sense of humor, I got such a kick out of the recent story about how distraught father who son was continually asking him all kinds of questions. One day his son said "Daddy can I ask you another question?". The father thought oh my here we go again. The son asks "Daddy why is it that kids ask so many questions?", and that's what I'm getting all the time, and I love it.*

Lee to Laurie-November 1953

*We have cut our spending to the bone. I need only to ride it through as I am getting well. Working and practicing in this manner, not being able to make house calls and hospital calls, has cost me a lot of cases, but when I get going, I can rebuild without much trouble. I'm surprised things have held up as well as they have for which I am thankful*

*With me, there's been despair, depression anxiety, eternal hope, and fighting. I'm still building character, and by the way, I have learned some very valuable lessons such as patience, fortitude, human understanding, stamina and the meaning of Christianity. Some things we must definitely learn about ourselves under stress, and there's no other way. The trick has been how to go through something like the last two years and still keep your mind and personality ready for the arduous task of continuously helping others solve their medical and personal problems. Maybe doing this has helped me keep my balance. It has certainly promoted self-discipline and no fooling; there were times when I was almost ready to throw in the sponge (quite a while ago I had Francis dismantling and hide my automatic pistol). I can write about these things now because I know I will never throw in the sponge and I'm just beginning to live. I have never been more convinced that I am to be totally*



*physically and spiritually well than at the present moment.*

Lee to Laurie-January 23, 1954,

*I've been like one in a daze, living from day today, doing my work, trying to be of some value around the home, remain optimistic, still fighting, with the rest periods and all the mental and spiritual power at my command. Describing my present apathy is hard.*

*It's different than the total physical exhaustion of a year ago. It's probably like the marathon runners and the people who swim the English Channel. They are just done in physically or psychically for a time afterward. Everything I do is an effort a strain. I have been waiting for the Lee Anderson's vitality, personality and humor to come back. And it is coming back. I now have a glimpse of well-being, of ambition and of wanting to live for the first time in a long time and I know it's the real thing.*

*Instead of dragging myself to the office or to do anything but through sheer willpower, I now have some days that sale through like old times not often but they are increasing.*

Lee to Laurie March 3, 1954

*I know I have to rebuild my practice. The first year didn't matter too much, just a little easing off, but the past year has been difficult. It has kept me on edge worrying. Rumors went around actually I suppose they thought I was done for and would have to spend the rest of my life in a wheelchair. All of this I have to counteract and have started well. I have attended church twice using crutches. People have to see to believe.*

These letters reveal an aspect of his character; a sense of humor in the midst of adversity and the unswerving desire to persevere.

His recovery was slow. By 1956, there was some progress, and he could walk across a room. However, he remained in the wheelchair for the rest of his life.

As you can see, this condition had a profound effect on him. He was under a great deal of stress. He had sole financial responsible for a family of five. He wanted to be the provider as was the norm in those days. I think at some level he felt emasculated. He did not like to sit to pee. He was now shorter than others when before he was taller. A private man naturally, he retreated into introspection. He focused on his healing using prayer, self-made hypnosis tapes with positive affirmations on his health and well-being. He became more spiritual. He was also in pain much of the time, and self-administered pain drugs.

His nurse told me at Frances's wake in 1978 twenty years after his death that she left him because she did not want to see him do that to himself. She loved him and had a high regard for his capabilities as a physician. He also drank, but I never observed that he was drunk.

In 1957 Francis wrote to Laurie to say that "he got out of the wheelchair and danced! This was news and made the paper."

### **Lee's Affirmations**

Even as a physician and scientist, Lee believed in the power of belief to heal one's body. He created affirmations in writing and in self-produced recordings to program himself positively.

1. *In faith in following the teachings of Christ. Have faith in Jesus's faith. Love thy brother as thyself.*
2. *As a husband and father. I love and honor my wife. I love help and guide Gordon, Bruce, and Gail.*
3. *In my profession, I practice these principles: kindness, service, medical knowledge, integrity, and permanence.*
4. *I am taking action to become financially independent.*
5. *In my relationship with all others, I practice kindness, goodwill, and fellowship*
6. *Self-control and self-mastery. List habits to omit and habits to form.*
7. *In health, the muscles of my hips, thighs, legs: relax, loosen up, get well now, and function normally. Every abnormal spasm in my body is to relax at all times. And under all circumstances, all my organs, glands, muscles are always functioning with top efficiency and in perfect health. I have the power. I have the desire; I have the will. It is done. I am well.*
8. *Begin to prepare my mind and organized my whole life experience to unite at a date which I will later determine.*
9. *I am convinced that the human mind is capable of anything constructive. Certainly, immediately of controlling the destiny of that human being, both within and without himself. The above statement includes me, the I, the I AM which is a part of the living God.*

### **Business and Marital Crisis**

My judgment is that Lee was a good doctor. Numerous New York colleagues sent letters of recommendation to the Medical Board in California attesting to his medical skills and interpersonal capabilities. Patients loved him, as did his staff. Other doctors referred patients to him for further diagnosis. He was, however, not as affluent as one would expect. He practiced on his own in a wheelchair which limited his financial ability. He was also just not that money oriented and not a very good businessman. Patients use to

come by the house and pay him in produce for his services. His estate was only about \$38000 plus the house. The accounts receivables were very low. So, my sense is that there was an on-going struggle to maintain the lifestyle that they choose. There may have been good years and bad years based on his ability to work. Laurie was helpful with added expenses such as Gordon's private school and summer camp.

In 1956, Lee suspected that his long-term mechanic was cheating him. He scratched his initials in an alternator that he was told needed to be replaced. They charged him, and he pointed out that the new alternator had his initials on it. This was a major breach of trust with someone who he had known for years. He also found out that his bookkeeper was embezzling from him. There was much drama around this, with Frances, Gail getting involved in auditing accounts and such. This triggered some kind of mental aberration that caused paranoia. He started mistrusting everyone. He accused Frances of keeping a personal account from the household funds. She went to great lengths and detail to show him this was not the case. It really impacted their relationship to the extent that one could call it a crisis.

One Saturday morning, he woke me and accused me of messing with his recording system he used for self-produced recordings. I did not go to basketball practice and showed him that he had accidentally reversed the tape on the reel and that was why it appear to be erased. I don't think he ever apologized.

The next year, Lee and Frances had weathered the storm and were closer than ever. It was very evident from my recollections and from their letters to each other that their love was deep and enduring.

## **Personalities**

Frances was the extrovert. Due to her height 5'8", how she carried herself and her social confidence, you would know when she was in the room. She was able to relate equally to men and women. She was a deep thinker and was able to focus, particularly in planning, listening to music, and creative pursuits such as painting and cooking.

She identified with the woman's liberation movement in the 70's and believed that she was ahead of her time. And, she was. She was a Republican and had strong views about most everything. She studied Buddhism in her 30's and was quite philosophical about life.

She was likely a [Seven](#) on the Enneagram with a Six-wing. On the Myers Briggs Type Indicator, she was an [ENTP](#).

Ken Carlson, a long-time family friend, recently said "you all were such a special family to me. Your mother was such an elegant lady. She taught me how to appreciate the finer things in life, social manners and etiquette. She was such a great role model. I was truly

honored to have had the opportunity to be included in your home and to have had your friendship.”

Lee was the charming southern gentlemen. He liked women and respected them. While a private person, he could be quite social and loved to tell a good story. He also had some male friends, but not in groups. He was not a joiner. That was Frances’s job. He had a few lifelong friends, including Squeaky Mitchell, Ed Merritt, and Skeeter Meadows. His friend, Bob Bias in Saratoga, was Gail’s blind voice teacher. They would go out to dinner together with Lee guiding Bob while he pushed the wheelchair.

Lee did not attend the church that much. He did pray and was very much a Christian. He was very much a traditionalist and a man of his time with respect to the role of the man in the family. Like most men and particularly those of his time, feelings were not at the forefront.

Lee was an introvert and was likely an [INTP](#). He was a [Six](#) on the Enneagram with a strong Five wing.

The further indication of their types is that Bruce is an ENTP 7 and Gail is an INTP 5 and Barry is a INTP 5.

I remember both being affectionate with each other and with us. Conversations at the dinner table were lively and substantive.

## **Movies and Pictures**

We have home movies taken during the 40’s and 50’s. Frances took the movies, so we don’t have many with her in them. She loved taking scenery, such as flowers and mountains. There is more of this than anything else. And of course, we want to see the people! The movies have been digitized and edited.

There were a few photos taken but not a lot, and none that we can find with all five of us in the same picture. Frances or Lee was always holding the camera. They have been digitized, and I intend to put them and the movies on DVD’s that are designed to last a long time. Most memory drives today only last a decade or less, so it is a challenge to preserve for a long time.

## **Lee’s Death**

The Christmas 1957 was fantastic for me. I was totally immersed in high school social activities and was out every night. Gail was away at college, and Gordon was in boarding school.

On Tuesday, February 18, 1958 I came home in the evening from an event, and mom told me that dad was in the hospital. He had come home feeling very badly and was taken by ambulance to the O'Connor Hospital. I visited him on my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday the next evening. I showed him my new chess set that I bought with birthday money. I don't remember anything else about the conversation. I was not worried about him.

On Friday, I came home from another event at about 9:30. My mom was at the back door and told me that he had died. He was 54, the same age as his father was at his death. He died from an aortic aneurysm. There may have been evidence that it had earlier impacted the circulation to his hips.

It was devastating for all of us. There had been no warning.

His memorial service was well attended. We received 47 telegrams from all over the country to express condolences.

Sentiments expressed by their friends is represented by a letter to Frances from Ed Merritt, a longtime friend from Columbus, who had visited that last summer.

*He was a grand and glorious person and a little bit character with so much ability and so much interest in life and all that it held. He was smart and brilliant and well-versed in most anything.*

*He will always live in my heart and soul, and I will ever be reminded of the unselfish good he was always doing for others.*

*Frances, I realize what a big adjustment is in store for you. He could not have chosen a better wife and companion, and you had so much in common, and you both were such smart people.*

## **Frances**

Frances created a new life for herself amidst her grief. What else can one do?

She needed to make money quickly. She began writing a society column for the San Jose Mercury newspaper. She knew many of the socially prominent people in town so she was a natural. But there was not much money in it.

She passed the real estate license test and began selling homes. I think she did well.

In 1960, she decided to invest the money on a 60-day trip for the 4 of us to Europe. She was able to introduce us to her German friends and relatives. She was speaking fluent German within a few days, 31 years after she left. We were in England and then from



Germany we drove to Austria, Italy, France, Belgium, and Holland. The trip has stayed with me my whole life. It was a good investment.



She bought a tea house in Saratoga California called the Plumed Horse in 1962 and turned it into one the most successful restaurants in Northern California. It is still in operation as a 5-Star restaurant.

Bruce lived with her while going to San Jose State until 1964 when he graduated from college and married. Gordon lived with her from 1960-1963.

She sold the house in 1971, and she moved to an apartment in Saratoga.

She had two or three boyfriends over next twenty years. She never fully recovered from Lee's death.

She experienced the joys of being a grandmother to four wonderful grandchildren: Donald, Leanne, Barry and Brian. See the family tree to learn more about decedents of Lee and Frances.

She sold the restaurant in 1976. She died in October 1978 from COPD. She smoked for 50 years and the alcohol also contributed to her early death. She was 70.

## **Remembrances**

### **Bruce Anderson**

I remember my childhood as happy. There were some dramas of course, but we were a loving family with solid values and not a lot of true dysfunction. My parents loved each other and of course they loved us, and wanted the best for us. When my mother and father hugged, our little terrier dog, Micki, would chase her tail in a fit of jealousy.

We were free-range children. I walked and rode my bike to school. It was just a one mile, a 15-minute walk. We could leave Saturday morning and be with friends the whole day, but we had to be home by six. There of course were no cell phones and no way for parents to monitor their kid's wanderings. We did have territorial boundaries, but they were 3 square miles and took in most of our friend's houses.

When we moved into the McKendrie Street house in 1946, there were no numbers on the telephone. You had to tell the operator the number of the person you were calling. I remember our number was AXminster 5683. It was called a telephone exchange.

We had a record player/ radio combination. Many of the records I listen to were of symphonies and standards. These were 78 rpm and later 45 rpm single song records. I also listened to Saturday morning serials such as the Long Ranger, Straight Arrow and Big Jon and Sparkie. We were together for family meals, and when TV came into the house some of the meals were eaten on TV folding tables. The movie Avalon shows the impact of the introduction of television on families. In 1957 we had one of the first color TV's.

On Sundays, we would go to Spivey's diner to eat and then go on a drive, many times into the foothills of the Mount Hamilton range above San Jose. There was a spectacular view of Santa Clara Valley filled with fruit orchards and you could see the south edge of San Francisco Bay to the north.

My dad was affectionate with me, but at times got angry. I remember one time him throwing his crutches down the hall toward the door of my bedroom when my best friend, Ken Carlson, and I were making a lot of noise. I remember as a 15-year-old trying cigars in the patio and listening to him tell shaggy dog stories.

He wanted me to go to medical school like he and his father did. One day, when I was 13, he asked me if I wanted to see an autopsy. I agreed and we went to a funeral home. I watched him cut the heart out of the chest of one of his patients and examine it for evidence of a heart attack. I was a little woozy at first but then fascinated. I majored in psychology in college. I think he would have been okay with that.

When dad died, mom relied on me for emotional support. Sometimes I would come into her bedroom and just hold her hand when she had panic attacks. We became close and were friends. She never directed me as a parent. I was free to do whatever I wanted, and I was responsible and she knew it. I kept her informed so that she would not worry. One day in the fall of 1959, I left the house early for high school on my motor shooter and was struck by a car. She was called from the hospital and was astonished to hear that I had been in an accident. She thought I was still in my bed. I could have been killed and when I think of it, I know that she would have been beyond despair.

### **Gail Anderson Upton**

Free-range children is an interesting concept. I believe that I was guided by expectations. I believed that I made my own decisions: brilliant parenting! I was expected to get up and get myself to school by walking, bike or bus from the time I was in kindergarten. I walked a short block to a friend's house and continued with her. Mom was a night owl and didn't like to get up in the morning. Obviously, I was capable and not overwhelmed. I remember one crisis when the bus didn't show up and I knew I was going to be late to my 2nd grade class. I walked back home and woke Mom up. She drove me to school with an excuse note. No problem!

I got a D in English in 7th grade. Both Mom and Dad went to see my teacher at Herbert Hoover Jr. High to figure out the problem, some help was arranged for me, and of course I was fine from then on. I had been out of school for a month the year before with whooping cough when the other kids learned predicates!

I often accompanied Dad when he did "house calls" on Saturday. I would sit in the car and read while he visited patients in their homes. One day in the foothills, he asked me if I would like to drive. Of course! I drove occasionally from age 12!

In 1971, while my husband Phill was in Viet Nam, I worked with Mom at the Plumed Horse. It was a grand opportunity for us to be together. She explained "nepotism" to the employees. They were ok with it and even trained me! They respected and adored her. She had many long service employees.

Mom had been in real estate and helped me find the perfect apartment next to a school for Donald in 1st grade.

### **Ken Carlson**

Ken Carlson, a long-time family friend, said "you all were such a special family to me. Your mother was such an elegant lady. She taught me how to appreciate the finer things in life, social manners and etiquette. She was such a great role model. I was truly honored to have had the opportunity to be included in your home and to have had your friendship."

### **Betty Kalicki**

Betty Kalicki, Gail's best friend, recalled Frances. "There were so many lovely memories with Frances. Of course, I always called her Mrs. Anderson, as we were more formal in those days. I adored her, she was so beautiful, accepting, funny and just a person for whom I cared deeply."

She recalls entering the kitchen, and coming upon Frances, cooking some wonderful something, with an easel on the counter. There were oils nearby and Frances had a generous batch of oils in her hair. She was painting some scene or flower arrangement. She gave Bets one of her paintings which is a depiction of the shore of Lake Tahoe. On the back is written "the rocks look like marshmallows."

# Gallery

## Frances Behnes





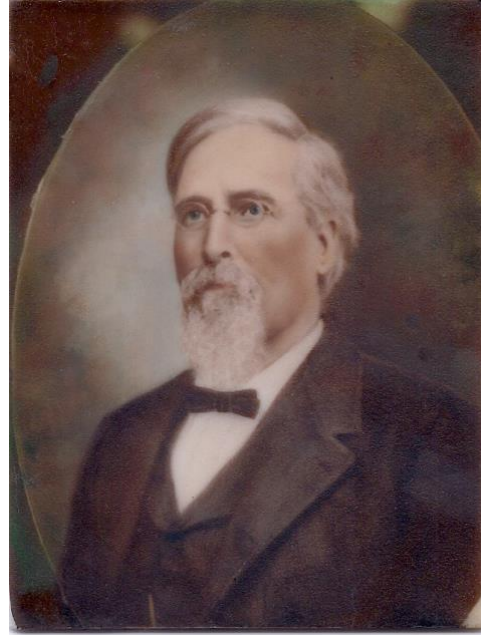




## Lee Anderson



**Edgar Pilcher 1850-1829**  
**Lee's Grandfather**



**Adolphus Anderson 1839-1918**  
**Lee's Grandfather**



**Laurie Pilcher Anderson 1882-1870**  
**Lee's Mother**



**Jesse M. Anderson 1875-1930**  
**Lee's Father**



**Laurie and Lee**







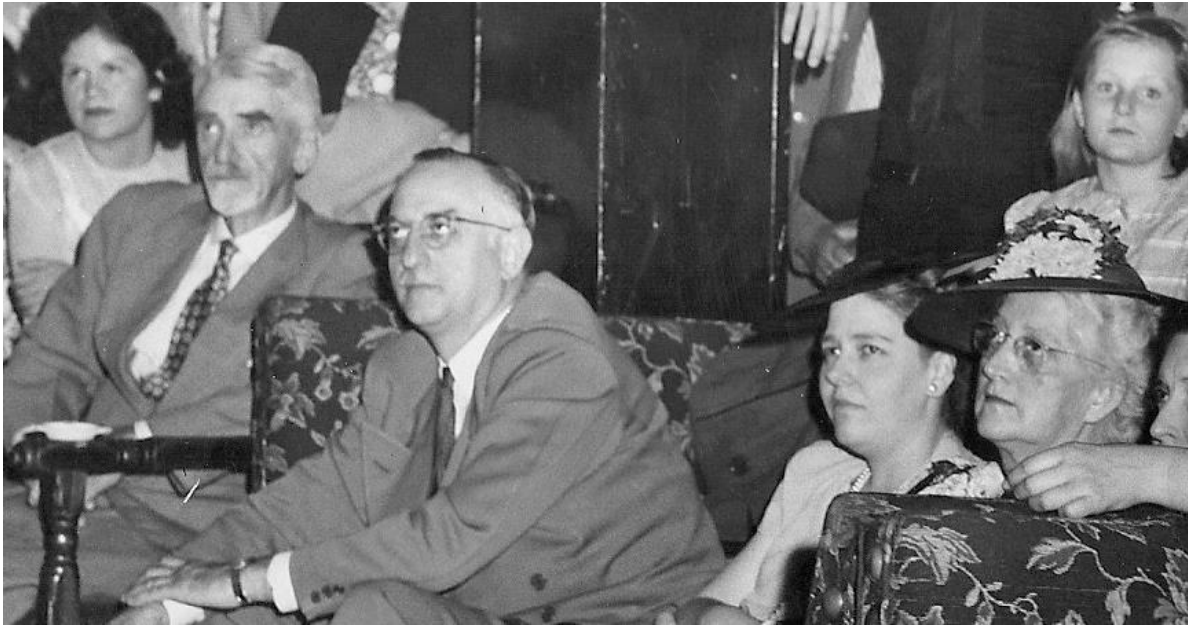
## Lee and Frances





July 1946 San Jose





**Opening of new radio station 1950  
Franz, Lee, Lucinda, Lucie**



**Franz, Gail Effie Porter (Lucie's sister, Frances, Lee, Lucinda, Lucie,  
Gordon and Bruce-1947/8**



Photo shopped from group picture 1949





**Bruce Gordon Frances Gail with German Relatives  
Europe 1960**





THE PLUMED HORSE, Saratoga's justly famous restaurant on Big Basin Way, has all the elegance and charm of the Victorian area, and owner Frances Anderson has all the dignity, grace and poise to accompany it. Redecorating and refurbishing has recently been completed at THE PLUMED HORSE, and a handsome new sign now welcomes visitors through its doors. The opulent interior decor is rich with beautiful antiques, delicate crystal chandeliers and the finest of table settings; while the intimate little cocktail lounge is a gem in its own right. Many are the west valley and peninsula socialites who gather for luncheon and the Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday fashion





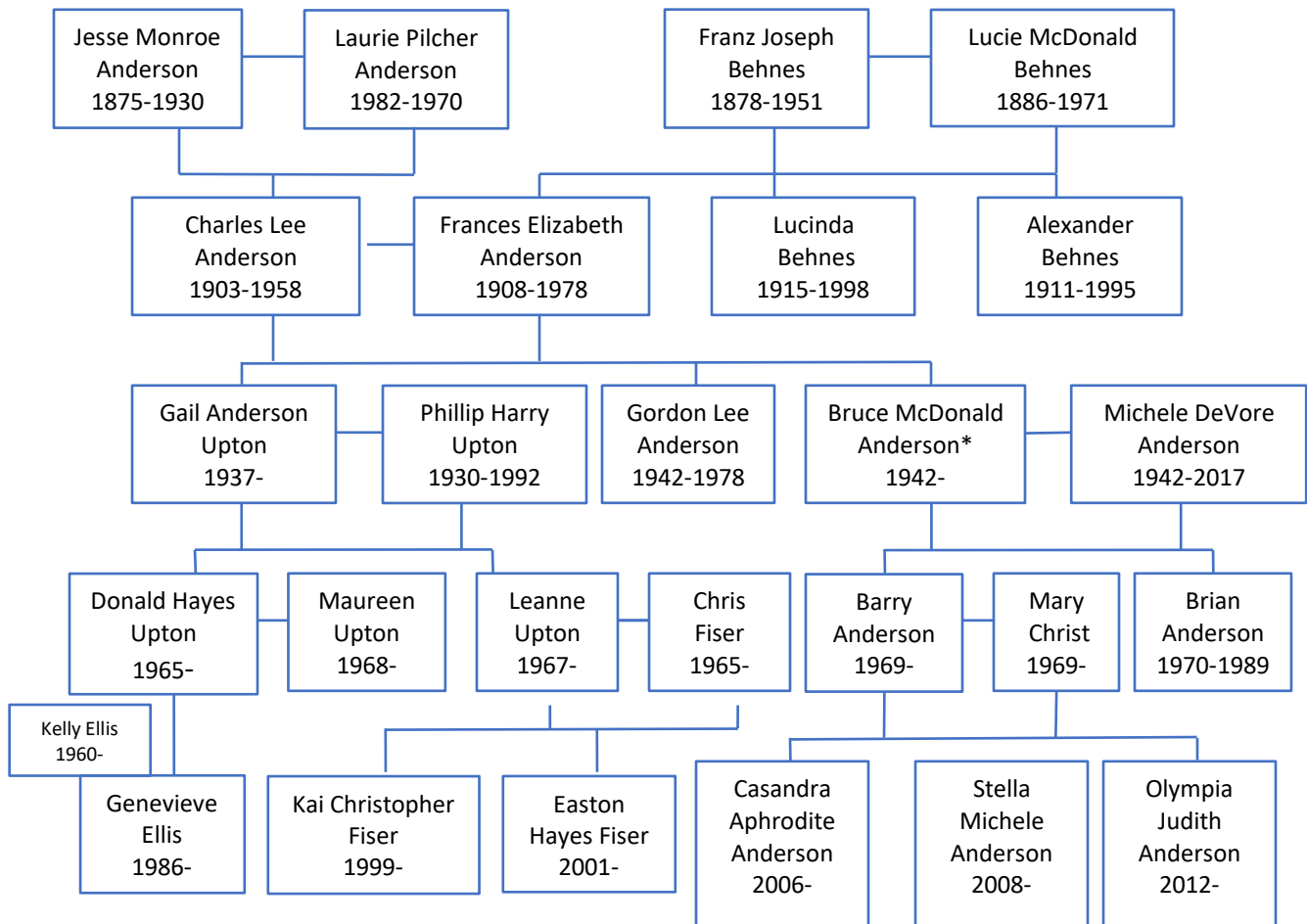




Bruce and Gail  
2016



## ANDERSON/BEHNES FAMILY TREE



\*Judith O'Connor  
Marriage 1998  
1946-