



Sam Bermi was born on November 26, 1910. His mother was pregnant when Kuni left for America. Sam thought his father did not know about the pregnancy when he left Europe. Sam didn't talk much about his memories of the early days in Europe. He remembered ice cream called sacamorose. After World War One Kuni brought his family to America. Tzivia was sick the entire time they were at sea, and Sydine took care of

both her brother and mother. As a child Sam went to Heder and remembers the boys gambling with dice behind the school. After he graduated Soldan

High School in St. Louis, Sam went to Washington University in St. Louis. During his first year in college the stock market crashed, money got tight, and he transferred to Rolla School of mines. He made money in school playing saxophone in a dance band. He remembered eating lots of stewed tomatoes in college. He graduated with an engineering degree.

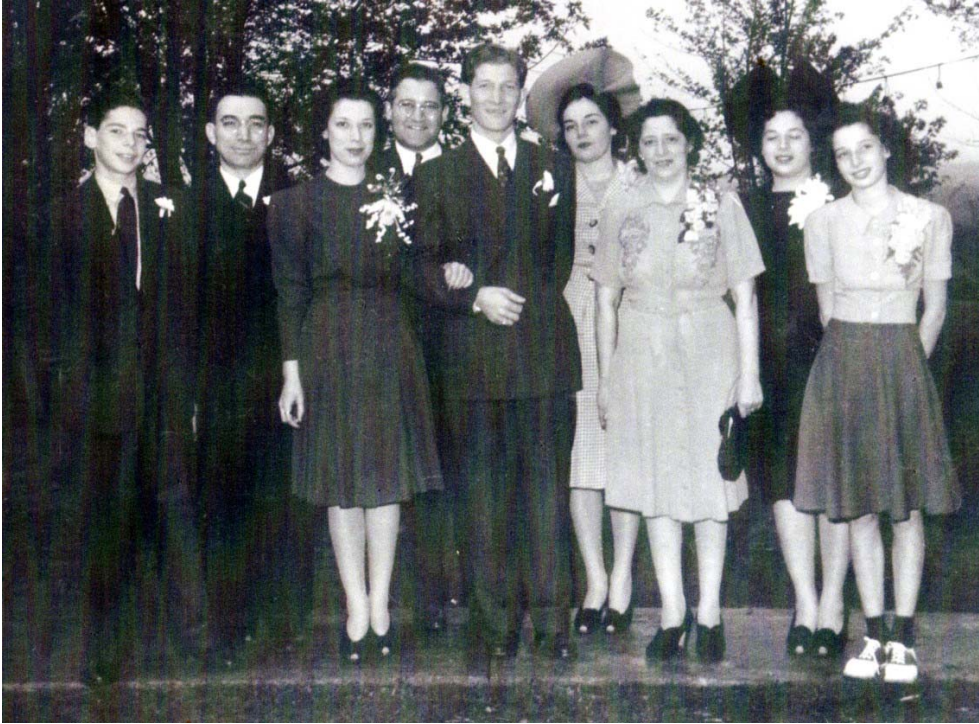
During the Second World War he was rejected from the military because of bad eyes. He lived briefly with Sydine in Vandalia, then got a series of jobs working on airplane engine parts. He met his future wife, Claire Rosen on a blind date. She was a practical young woman who had just ended another relationship. They liked each other. Claire and Sam loved



to dance. They played tennis at the Water Tower in South St. Louis. Eventually they decided to marry.

Claire's father Isidor Rosen was born in Russia; her mother Mary in Romania. Mary's parents were killed by a street car shortly after they came to St. Louis. Isidor had a women's clothing store, the Beverly, on North Grand Avenue in St. Louis. When Sam met Claire she was working at the store. Claire's siblings were Selma (wife of Max Colodesch), Evelyn (wife of Melvin Kamenetzly), Harvey, and Beverly (wife of John Sommers). Sam and Claire lived in an apartment on Bellview owned by Claire's uncle (father's brother) Sam. Though she was not from a religious family, Claire tried to make a kosher home, but gave up the effort because, as Claire told it, Tzivia, like many

orthodox Jews, couldn't trust her daughter in law. It seemed like she was always inspecting and double checking. During the war Harvey and Evelyn joined the Navy. Sam worked as an engineer and spent a few years in Fort Worth Texas. After the war there were no jobs for engineers and Sam became an insurance agent.



Clare's family: Harvey, Isidor, Claire, Max Colodesch Sam, Selma Colodesch, Mary, Evelyn and Beverly
Manuel Steve Claire Sam Syd Fran



Jane





Bess And Marvin



After 10 years of trying to conceive Sam and Claire adopted Barbie. Barbara. (Afterwards Claire would joke that her only regret was all the money they spent on condoms.) Barbie's biologic parents were Jewish students at Washington University. Mrs. Zimmelman of the Jewish Agency was the case worker on the adoption. Barbie was born in November and



spent 6 months in foster care and was adopted May 21, 1951.

