

# PROLOGUE

Barbara Mary Kuth was the oldest of five children born to *George and Clara Kuth*. Clara had been a Registered Nurse and over the years George held positions as Credit Manager for various firms in Minneapolis.

Born on November 21, 1915 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Barbara grew up in what seems to have been a comfortable middle class family and neighborhood. She attended an all-girls parochial high school and worked in secretarial and bookkeeping jobs. During World War II she relocated to Washington, DC where she worked for the Army in a position that required great secrecy. She would never tell us what she did but records indicate that she was a cryptographic clerk in the Army Security Agency Traffic Analysis and Control Branch and that she performed well. She was released from her position in 1945 and returned to Minneapolis.

Harry Francis Anez, nicknamed *Guy*, but known as Francis to his friends and family, was born on June 16, 1916 in Cylon, Wisconsin probably at the home of his maternal grandparents. His father Ira Anez worked in lumber mills in Stillwater, Wisconsin and his mother, Anna, kept house for a family that consisted of 3 other children at the time. The logging, and consequently lumber mill, industry had been in steep decline since 1914 because of deforestation and when Guy was three months old the family moved to the prairies of eastern Montana. Ira's parents had moved to Enid, Montana in 1914 and in 1916 Anna's parents moved along with Ira and Anna.

Anna ran the Enid Hotel and Ira was employed by the Great Northern Railroad treating and pumping water for steam engines. The family moved to Gettysburg, Montana in 1921 and then back to Enid in 1923. Guy grew up in these small prairie towns, attending schools in Enid, Gettysburg, Lambert and Sidney until 1932 when the family moved to Havre, Montana where he graduated from High School. Through the 1930's Guy attended college a little, worked in grain elevators and on his sister's husband's farms around Sidney. He began working for the Great Northern Railroad as relief pumper around the end of 1938 and continued this until the summer of 1942. He was rejected for military service in the World War because of a childhood disease and during the war years he taught school, worked as a driver-salesman for Beatrice Foods, worked at Farmer's Union Oil service stations, ran grain elevators and helped on the farms.

Guy met Barbara in early December 1945 where he was best man at his brother Lyle's wedding. Barbara was maid-of-honor. During January 1946 Guy again travelled to Minneapolis to attend the annual Farmer's Union convention and he and Barbara saw each other

during the week of the convention. They corresponded throughout 1946 and in January 1947 Guy again travelled to Minneapolis for the Farmer's Union convention.

Apparently during that week they decided to get married. There doesn't seem to be anything even hinting about marriage in any of their correspondence prior to January 1947.