

LOUIS APPLE AND FANNY KRINSKY

In Raseiniani, near Vilna, on September 19, 1877, Lewis Apple was born. Although Vilna, Lithuania was one of the renowned centers for Jewish learning, Lewis Apple and his family were not very religious. We know very little about Lewis' parents except their names--Abraham Tapuach and Riss Reiber. They had 5 children. Mordechel ("Max") was five years younger than Lewis. He became educated, moved to Paris and married a Catholic woman named Jeanne LauMond. Mordechel and Jeanne had a daughter named Carmen, who came to visit us here in Detroit when she was 78 years old in September 1999 with her daughter Genevieve. The other son of Abraham and Riss, Samuel Barnard, also went to Paris, but his son Albert went to South Africa and Brazil before returning to Paris where his son Francis and his two daughters Arlette and Monique were born. Abraham and Riss also had two daughters Rebecca and Sarah, but we know very little about them. We do know that Sarah had a daughter named Anna, who became pregnant and traveled to France for an abortion. The procedure did not go well and she died at the age of 27.

Lewis came to America around the turn of the century. He met a woman named Fanny Krinsky, who was two years younger than he. Fanny was born on August 13, 1879 in Russia, possibly from somewhere near Romania. Her father was named David, but we do not know her mother's name. We also do not know if Fanny had any siblings or what became of them. Most of Fanny's early life is a mystery. We do not know when she came to America or with whom (if anyone). We believe she met Lewis



in Syracuse, New York, but we are not certain. In 1903 their first child was Elizabeth was born. Elizabeth never had children, though she did get married later in life to Maurice Fainman. Their second child Evelyn was born on May 30, 1906. Evelyn went on to marry Herman Wise, who was then the music critic for the Detroit Free Press. Years later, when Herman was struggling financially and clinically depressed, Evelyn's mother Fanny would taunt in her heavy Jewish accent, "Instead of marrying money, you

married a title." Apparently, Fanny never totally approved of Evelyn's marriage to Herman.



Lewis was a happy-go-lucky man. By the 1920's, he had moved his family to Detroit. During the depression, Lewis sold costume jewelry to support his family. He was patient and could handle his wife's hot temper and her sharp tongue. Though he was never rich, he never felt poor. On Sunday mornings, he would buy bagels and the Jewish newspaper and bring them to Herman and Evelyn's home, where he and Fanny would visit for the morning. He lived to see his two grandchildren, Judith and Richard.

By the time Lewis reached his early 60's he had grown heavy, with a long history of heart problems. On November 1, 1941, shortly before the U. S. would enter WWII and end the worst economic depression in U.S. history, Lewis was outside when he felt a tightness in his chest. He began pounding at the locked door for his wife's attention and then he collapsed. Fanny ran to the door, but received no answer when she asked who was knocking. She waited, too scared to open the door. When she finally did peak outside, it was too late. Lewis Apple died on the steps to his home of a heart attack.

Fanny lived for another 10 years, but suffered from heart disease herself. She fractured her hip from a fall at home on August 1, 1951, never really recovered, and died of heart disease on October 2, 1951 at the age of 72. She is buried beside her husband at Beth Tefilo Cemetery in Ferndale.

