

## Family History - Compiled in May 1997 by Frank Zaffarano



Joseph Zaffarano

**Joseph Zaffarano** (no middle name) was born in Vico, Italy on April 1st in 1886. His mother was named Brigitta and his father, Donato. Joseph originally expected to become a Jesuit monk. He was educated through the 8th grade and studied Latin and Greek. He came to the US at the age of 15 with his father, leaving his mother and 3 sisters (Catherine, Florence and Grace) and 3 brothers (Mike, Nick, and James) to come over later. Another brother, Vincent, was born in the USA. Father, Donato, was a metalsmith and gunsmith and easily obtained a job with Remington Rand but the transition from the metric system to English measure was difficult for him and 2 years later he opted for the easier life back in Italy.

Joseph decided to stay with an aunt who had migrated to New York City earlier and was employed in a factory where her specialty was copying the elaborate embroidery imported from Europe and used as decoration on ladieswear (coats and suits). She often brought the more difficult pieces home to work on - and often fell asleep in the process. To try to help, young Joe picked up the pieces and soon became adept at deciphering the intricate needlework (called Patissarie) and his Aunt brought home more for him to do.

Pretending that she had a nephew back in Italy who was expert in copying the fancy needle-work, the Aunt was able to get Joe a position in the same factory. His curiosity and ambition led him to hang around the designer of the ladies coats who put him to work stuffing tissue paper under the presscloth coverings of the dress dummies used to match the forms of the fashionable customers who often would otherwise require many tedious fittings.

At the age of 18 Joseph was Asst. head designer of the prestigious 5th Avenue Madame Simcox establishment and Head Designer at 21. He related several stories - one involved fitting a lady friend of Diamond Jim Brady. His every move was supervised by Diamond Jim in case he touched her improperly. Another was when some factory girls convinced a famous actress to undress completely and then sent Joe into the fitting room.

He eventually received an offer he couldn't refuse from a prominent Mfg. Co. in Cleveland, Ohio and moved, leaving his family, who had immigrated from Italy and settled in Astoria, Long Island, N.Y. A deciding factor was that Gaetan Lapick and his family, who were friends of the Zaffarano family in New York, had already come to Cleveland. Joseph became engaged to Josephine Lapick (Gaetan's sister) shortly after moving to Cleveland. They were married on September 6th 1916. A son, Daniel, was born December 16, 1917. Another son, Francis (Frank), was born November 1st, 1920 and a daughter, Bianca, on April 21st, 1924.

After getting married, Joe and Josephine eventually moved from their Euclid Avenue downtown apartment to a temporary home on Westwood Avenue in Lakewood, Ohio. One month after Frank was born they moved to the a house (there were only two other houses at that time on Cohasset Avenue in Lakewood). Josephine said they hired a horse and buggy to travel "way out in the country" to the house which they bought for \$8,000.



Joseph at the  
age of 25 ?

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During the depression in 1932, Joe started his own company, The EVERSMART CLOAK CO. It was on the third floor of a building in Cleveland at 21st Street and Superior Ave. He was the President, Head Designer, and Chief Salesman. It got to be too exhausting to design and travel too, so a year and a half later he threw in the towel and went to work as head designer for the Keller- Kohn Co., the second largest ladies coat and suit manufacturer in the US. (Gaetan Lapick was the head designer of the largest - Printz Biederman Co.) **Joseph had the distinction of inventing the "half size" in ladies clothing.** He retired from Keller -Kohn in 1944 and passed away suddenly, from a cerebral hemorrhage on December 7, 1954 at the age of 68.

**Some additional notes should be recorded here for posterity.**

- As a child he took a dislike to the baked beans his mother often cooked. He fashioned a leather pocket and stuffed the beans there until he could dispose of them in the fireplace!
- Joseph in his early years, when money was scarce, found that he could exist on lunches that consisted of a box of animal crackers - at that time they cost 5 cents a box.
- In his courtship of Josephine he was not allowed to see her unless there was a chaperone present.. Later, when she worked as a salesperson at the Ames Co. in New York City ? they would meet for lunch without the family knowledge.
- From the time he was 35 Joe suffered from arthritis in his hands and feet - he tried every medical and quack medicine approach for relief. This included gold treatments, ill smelling Indian herbal teas, Dr. Locke's shoes in Canada, pills (45 a day) prescribed by one quack, hot wax coatings on his hands, trips to Hot Springs, Arkansas ( where one doctor made him quit cigar smoking for 3 weeks - only to find the doctor smoking at the end of his ordeal) etc.
- Despite his pains he was a loving husband and father. He loved to fish and took his children along and made sure we took family vacations - to visit New York where we stayed in hotels like the Commodore and the Taft and visited his family in Astoria and went to Radio City to see the Rockettes and the movies. Two week visits to places like Margate and Atlantic City or tours of Michigan or places in Canada (Lake Simco, Toronto, Lake Nipissing) were not unusual.
- He loved to explore little used areas - following ruts in the road to some out of the way cabin or lake. Even the fancy motels only charged \$1.00 per night in the 1930's.
- His first car was a two seater Chalmers, then a '24 Cleveland sedan, '29 & '31 Fords with rumble seats, a Peerless sedan, a '34 Buick, a '42 Pontiac (\$760) and then a '51 Cadillac (\$2700) which he and Josephine drove on a vacation to Atlantic City NJ, Florida, Louisiana, and Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico. The last car was a '56 Cadillac (\$6000).
- The house on Cohasset Avenue underwent many changes - The front porch was enclosed, the upstairs back porch was eliminated and the single large back bedroom expanded into two large bedrooms for the children, The upstairs bath was redone with tile floor and walls, the basement under the kitchen was excavated to become a fruit cellar.. The basement under the front porch was excavated for storage space and the kitchen was expanded into the small back porch and equipped with the first GE stainless steel dishwasher and disposal units. Bathrooms were added to the basement and first floor. It was sold to a neighbor in 1963 for \$21,000 when Josephine moved to an apartment near her sisters in Cleveland Heights.
- Joseph's activities as head designer for Keller-Kohn required that he make quarterly trips to NYC, usually on the Empire State Express overnight train. One of the rituals he practiced for many years was to visit A.O. Schwartz's toy store and bring something back for each member of the family - usually a puzzle for each of the boys and something appropriate for Bianca and Josephine.

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- He frequently would surprise the "girls" with a new coat or a suit he had designed.
- He gave up smoking shortly after he retired (couldn't stand the smell of the butts).
- Joseph was handy with tools and termed himself as " Jack of all trades - Master of none". He tackled plumbing and electrical problems of all sorts and was usually successful.
- He loved classical music, especially the Italian operas, and would sit in the basement where his son, Frank, had (for that time ) a "hi - fi" record player, listening to Carouso or Carmen recordings. Many librettos he knew by heart as a result of frequenting the "peanut gallery" of the Opera House in New York City He played the guitar and a 6 string banjo and loved to listen to classical guitar music played by experts.
- After he was able to have two cars (Josephine started to drive in 1920), he had the single garage replaced with a large double garage and a wide concrete driveway. He also had the large swinging doors replaced with the first automatic electric door openers.

Died 12/14/83



**Josephine Marie (Lapick) Zaffarano** was born in Vieste, Italy - a resort town on the Adriatic Sea - about the latitude of Naples on May 20th, 1887. Her maiden surname was originally Lapicerrelo and she was the next to the youngest of seven children. Her mother was named Rosalia and her father, Francesco Paul (Frank Paul). Her siblings were Rose, Gaetan, Rachele, Salvatore, Esther and Marie. The mother, Rosalia, was the matriarch of the family and it was rumored that she married her husband because he was so handsome - not for money or talent. According to Josephine, her parents operated a "dry goods" store in Vieste, and her father did some tailoring.

Not much of her life in Italy can be recalled, but the family emigrated to the USA around 1907 and lived in New York City. Her education stopped after the 6th grade in school. Gaetan established himself as the owner of a dress shop and designer on 5th Avenue. Rose married an affluent manufacturer of men's suits named Frank Barbieri and lived in NYC and Baltimore, Md. Meanwhile, Gaetan moved the rest of the family to Cleveland and became the head designer for the Printz-Biederman Co, a large ladies coat & suit manufacturer. They lived in a big house on E. 70th street off Euclid Avenue until a move to Cleveland Heights.

In NYC, Josephine had met and had become engaged to Joseph Zaffarano. He followed her to Cleveland and they were married in St. James church in Lakewood, Ohio on September 6th, 1916. (Salvatore Lapick had married Catherine Zaffarano the previous year). Josephine and Joe had three children, Daniel, born Dec. 16, 1917; Frank, born Nov 1, 1920 and Bianca, born Apr. 21, 1924. Joseph died suddenly at the age of 68 from a cerebral hemorrhage in 1954.

Josephine lived at 1616 Cohasset Avenue from October 1920 until 1963 when she joined sisters Marie and Esther (all in separate apartments) in the Waldorf Towers at the top of Cedar Hill in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

The reason for not moving sooner was that son, Frank, who was single until almost 40 years old, had returned to Cleveland in 1950. He finally was talked into a position at the Swartwout Co. in Cleveland in '50 by Charles Swartwout who had also graduated from CASE and MIT. This happened after 7 years in Boston, Mass. (part time at MIT college, 2 years in Europe) and then 3 years in Rochester, NY. He had commuted weekly since 1947 to Cleveland to see his parents. Frank lived on Cohasset with his mother until 1960 when he married Vera Prahin and they moved into an apartment. Josephine was then alone in a big house and felt the time had come to move out in 1963 when Frank and Vera moved from Lakewood to Rocky River.

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- Josephine had been extremely healthy and, until she was 85, had only been in the hospital to have her children and once when the kitchen stove exploded in her face. She started to have delusions of people trying to get into her apartment when she was about 88 and spent months at a time living with Frank and Vera in Rocky River, with Bianca and Bob in Novelty, Ohio and also with Dan and Suzanne in Ames, Iowa. After several transfers it was decided that she might have more stability in a rest home. She died from a medicinal overdose after three days at the Manor Care Rest home in Fairview Park at the age of 92. She is buried in Calvary Cemetery in E. Cleveland next to her husband, Joseph.

#### Miscellaneous highlights

- She was an extremely devoted mother, active in the school PTA's and in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon college fraternity of both boys, even after they graduated.
- She drove a car expertly until she was 75 (without ever having an accident) - even drove to New York City with 3 children in the car in the 30's and back to Cleveland from Atlantic City, NJ. This was before the days of super highways! Her ability to read highway signs at a distance was fantastic in her younger days. When she reached her 80's the apartment management installed spare tires to protect the concrete posts (and her Cadillac) in her parking area in the garage!
- Her formal dinners were always lavish 7 course affairs for 10 or more guests.
- Since her husband's birthday was on April Fool's Day, the occasion was usually accompanied by a dinner and a decorated birthday cake with a license plate, sponge or other inedible item buried inside - or some other prank. She always managed to compensate with another conventional cake or pie.
- She traveled to England and Italy with her husband in 1951 returning on the maiden trip of a large French liner, the Ile de France, which stalled for three days on the high seas.
- In 1956 she toured England, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy and Germany for seven weeks with Frank, Dan and Suzanne - while Dan was in Europe with his family as the US Navy's representative on Atomic Energy. Frank drove Dan's Volkswagon "Beetle" in most of Europe, and in Italy a rented Italian car. They covered about 2500 miles so that Dan could visit many major universities.
- In the '50s she accompanied Frank on auto trips to oil refineries in Calgary, Canada and on vacations to Toronto and Ottawa as well as to Iowa and New York.





Bianca

Bob  
Wiegand

*Bianca Brigida  
(Zaffarano) Wiegand*

Bianca was born on April 21, 1924 to Joseph and Josephine Zaffarano and until she married in 1948 lived at 1616 Cohasset Avenue in Lakewood, Ohio. She was very blonde as a child and Joseph deliberated with Josephine the Italian custom of naming the first female

offspring after the father's mother - he said Briget sounded "too much like an Irish washer woman for such a fair featured child to carry around for the rest of her life". Bianca means "white" in Italian and this was a compromise as was the second name.

Her hair didn't turn dark until she was in her teens. She was a beautiful child with a sweet disposition and tolerated the antics of her two older siblings, Daniel and Frank. The usual division of chores ended up as - Dan was older and too involved with his school activities to help dry dishes (or cut the grass) and Bianca was too young, so Frank ended up with the job. Bianca did pick up a lot of cooking know-how from her mother, but escaped from most of the heavy labor. She became adept at the piano thanks to weekly lessons from her Aunt Marie who was a concert pianist who had studied with Rubenstein at the Cleveland Music Insitute.

She attended Garfield elementary, Emerson Junior High and Lakewood High school, like her brothers, and excelled in the singing groups -glee club, choir, etc.

On graduation she decided to attend the Flora Stone Mather division of Western Reserve College on the East side of Cleveland and major in pre-med Biology. She did well at this but had a tendency to put off writing reports until the night before they were due. She then would burn the midnight oil and work furiously making detailed color sketches and drawings which would always win her excellent grades. She did so well that she was granted an assistantship in the department.

One humorous incident that bears mentioning occurred during her senior year when her mother decided that it was past time to tell her sweet innocent child about the birds and bees. It was then that Bianca told her mother that she had been teaching the college freshmen about human reproduction for the past nine months!

Bianca's slim figure and obvious 'joie de vivre' attracted the attention of several young men during her college years including one who could do vigorous 'back flips' and other gymnastic tricks, but one fine young man who she met while registering students for their next semester classes obviously knew a good thing when he saw her. He would show up at the house in Lakewood with a corsage, dressed in a suit and tie with his car shined up to take her on a date and treat her like a China Doll. He could and would speak politely and intelligently to her father and mother. It wasn't long until this courtship blossomed into a marriage proposal. The boy was Robert G. Wiegand. He had served his time on a Navy destroyer and graduated as an accountant from Western Reserve. Bianca lacked only a Thesis to get a Graduate Degree when she married.

Bob worked for a while for National Cash Register before quitting to work with his Dad and Mom who were trying to get a new enterprise, Wiegand's Lake Park, established as a recreation activity.

Bob's father, Wilfred Wiegand, had successfully managed a grocery business and a jewelry business previously. These assets had enabled him to buy a piece of property (55 acres) in Novelty, Ohio. At first he used a cottage on the property as a retreat from his business life. However after several years the requests of passers by to picnic and fish on the property led him to believe he could charge these people for the privilege and Wiegand's Lake Park was born.

Bianca and Bob were living in Wickliffe, Ohio (E.296th St. - Sylvan Drive -near the Lake) and Bob was spending his summers helping to run the park. During the winter months he managed the furniture department at the nearby Bailey's Department store or the Toy department at Christmas.time. Bob even had a side venture, which eventually died, servcing a string of gum ball machines

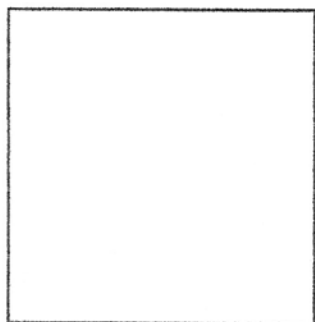
Eventually, Dr. Neil Wiegand, who owned the big house on the top of the hill on the Wiegand lake property passed away and his wife moved to the Denver area. The Wilfred Wiegands moved into the big house on the hill and attended to the business of running the Park.

When Wilfred and his wife, Ella, passed on, the park operation was taken over by Bob and Bianca. Their boys, Roger and Garry, went to College and graduated from Yale. Roger got his PhD. in the Bio sciences and Garry in Computer Science. Roger married and is now living in St.Louis working for a division of Dow Chemical. Garry formed his own company after working at Princeton University, sold the company and is in California (But that is another long story told elsewhere). Wendy, Bianca and Bob's daughter, received her degree in Library Science at the University of Wisconsin, got married to another Library Science major named Bill Frantz and moved back to Novelty, Ohio, living in a refurbished cabin on the Wiegand Lake property.

In 1993 Wendy divorced Bill Frantz who continued to live in the cabin and work in the Park. Wendy and her daughter, Katie, eventually moved into a home on Watt Rd., adjacent to the park property and she became the proprietor of Wiegand's Lake Park when Bob and Bianca technically "retired" from the operation. Bob and Bianca, before they retired, bought an adjacent 50 acres which included a big house, with a swimming pool and 2 barns, which they rent to others.

Many improvements were made to the Park by Bob and Bianca. A beautiful veranda and stairway was added to the dance hall, the cook cottage was expanded and the old refreshment stand abandoned in favor of a large addition to the kitchen cottage. A new patio area with a wide staircase down to the boat dock on the lake was constructed to replace the dirt path down the hill.

Wiegand's Lake Park is booked almost a year in advance, catering to single groups of 100 to 3000 persons. They have an extensive menu and provide picnic area fireplaces and facilities for swimming, boating, volley ball, horseshoes, baseball and even swings and sand boxes for the kids. At times there are as many as 30 teen agers from the local area working on the property and "Mom" (Bianca) feeds and consults them as though they were her own. She is now working with the second generation to serve and clean up after the picnics. Daughter Wendy has taken over much of the booking, paperwork, food preparation and supervision duties.



**John "Ivan" Louis Prahin** was born in Prudnice, Yugoslavia on September 20, 1887. He immigrated to the United States around the the year 1908 and located in western Pennsylvania where he was employed making barrel staves. When coal was discovered in southern Illinois he could not resist the lure of opportunity and moved to Zeigler, IL to work in the coal fields.

There he found a wife and established a home and family. He married Dorothea May Horvath ( originally Dorotyia Yugic), born in Hrzenica, Yugoslavia on February 4, 1904. She came to the USA in 1913. He became a U.S. citizen on Sept. 19, 1930 in Benton IL.

She was naturalized on May 27, 1938, also in Benton, IL. They raised three children in Zeigler. Mary, born February 20, 1922, Vera Ann, also born on February 20, but 5 years later, in 1927 and their brother, John, who was born on September 20, 1925.

When their father became ill it was necessary for Dorothea to go to work to support the family. The younger John, after graduation, went to Oregon to seek financially rewarding employment at the Kaiser Shipyards. Dorothea also went to Oregon and lived with her son during WWII, training and working as a precision welder in the shipyards. Meanwhile, the senior John became the homemaker in Zeigler - doing the chores of cooking and gardening. When young John was drafted, Dorothea came home to Zeigler. Sadly, John Jr. was sent to Europe and died during the battle of the Bulge in Belgium in 1945. He was brought home to be buried in the family plot in Benton, IL.

Father John went back to work at the mines as the operator of an elevator lift which lowered the miners into the depths and brought them back up. On his retirement he devoted his time to the considerable garden which he and Dorothea cultivated each year. He passed away in 1961 and was buried in the Benton Cemetary, North of Zeigler. He never got to see his grandchildren. The family home was sold in 1992 after Dorothea passed away.

Mary graduated from Ziegler High School in 1941 and went to Chicago to seek a better paying job than Zeigler could offer. She worked at the Simpson Meter Co. and Sunbeam Mfg. plant there. She married young but it did not last. After her divorce, she and sister Vera shared an apartment in Chicago. Vera worked for several years at the US Treasury Department, working herself up to the manager of a keypunch section. Mary married an ex-Navy man named Richard Alger and moved to Texas. Vera was coerced by Mary and Dick Alger into also moving to Houston, Texas in 1955 where she found a position with the Swartwout Co., an industrial instrument Co. headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio. *[ See Histories of Vera Ann (Prahin) Zaffarano and Mary (Prahin) Alger ]*

**To be proofread, edited, added to and a picture to be included - incomplete**





Daniel Joseph Gaetano Zaffarano was born on December 16th, 1917 to Josephine and Joseph Zaffarano at the E. 55th street hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. He lived his first few years in an apartment on Euclid Avenue until his parents bought a home in Lakewood, OH at 1616 Cohasset avenue in 1920. Dan was soon joined by a brother, Frank and then a sister, Bianca. At the age of 8, he was at an Easter egg hunt at Edgewater park and managed to get trapped in a mud, water and quicksand sinkhole while looking for the "Golden Egg", but was rescued by some nearby men.

His days at Franklin Elementary and Emerson Junior High were relatively ordinary except that with his double cousin, Frank Lapick, he became active in a home chemistry lab.

In the basement of the Cohasset house he amassed a sizable array of chemicals and while electrolyzing water into hydrogen and oxygen one day managed to blow up an Erlenmyer flask with a loud explosion. Luckily he was wearing a black rubber apron (which had a glassy glaze thereafter) and had stood behind a protective windowed panel so no medical emergency occurred. He was not so lucky the day he demonstrated how metallic sodium would explode when dropped into water and sustained a nasty burn, the size of a quarter.

A few years later, just before his Aunt Catherine had prepared a sumtuous Easter dinner for the whole family, cousin Frank and he prepared a "perfume" for their Uncle Gaetan in Frank's basement lab. The "perfume" was H<sub>2</sub>S (a noxious poisonous gas). Gaetan took a deep whiff and was unable to eat any of the dinner.

Dan and cousin Frank also engaged in a Fourth of July episode where each planted a "cherry bomb" in the other's newly planted and manicured grass lawn (blowing a foot diameter hole in each - for which they were both punished).

One other episode of note - Dan's father had purchased and mounted a couple of large and expensive oil paintings in their living room. One was of a distinguished looking gentleman holding a beautiful pear for his child to see. Dan had learned to fashion darts out of match sticks, sewing needles and tail feathers and needed a target - yes the pear! His mother interrupted target practice but not until four or five holes punctured the painting!

Dan was comparatively angelic in Lakewood High School where he augmented his many years of piano training, under the tutelege of his concert trained Aunt Marie and with his gift of "perfect pitch", into playing violin in the orchestra. He then was able to switch to the viola when the orchestra need arose.

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He also played in a string quartette and incidentally dated the cello player. Not content with these extra-curricular activities he also managed to be the editor of the year book and the school paper at the same time. His social activities didn't suffer either; he dated as many as three girls at a time, and often changed them at three week intervals for a different set. Despite all these diversions he maintained a "B" grade average which made it difficult for his brother and sister when they encountered the same teachers a few years later.

Dan graduated in the January Class from Lakewood High in 1939. Instead of waiting for September to start classes at CASE School of Engineering, he chose to go to summer school and enter as a Sophomore in September. He decided to major in Physics which complimented his interest in Science, (math, chemistry, electricity, etc.). Always able to juggle many activities at one time, Dan was active as a fencer, manager of the fencing team, Glee club, Orchestra, Band (where he played the Glockenspiel), Debating Team, SAE Fraternity Treasurer, etc., etc. In fact, he amassed enough points, one at a time, that he received an Honor Key. This required accumulating 50 Activity Points (normally reserved for football players who could get 15 points a year by being on the team).

There were four Physics graduates in 1939 and Dan was the only one that had a job at graduation. He went to work for the National Carbon Co. He specialized in improving the carbon arc lamp elements and was transferred to the Fostoria, Ohio plant where he worked on the batteries for Proximity Fuses. NCC later tapped him to oversee the work at their out of state factories (Bennington, Vermont; Winston Salem, North Carolina; etc.).

It was in N.C. that Dan was instructing the workers in how to use a gauge he had devised to aid in counting the number of battery cells that composed a proximity fuse battery. One of the ladies was so embarrassed by the fact that she was using the gauge upside down that she invited him to dinner. It turned out that she had two beautiful daughters. Dan dated both, but ended up engaged to the younger one, Suzanne Kirkham. They were married in Rockwood, Tennessee four years later at Eagle Lodge - a fishing cabin area and marina, which her mother and father operated.

Dan went on to earn his Doctorate in Physics at Indiana University, in 1949, temporarily living with his wife, Suzanne, and son, Dario, in a house trailer. When Dan graduated he did not return to National Carbon, but received an invitation to interview for employment at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa from Jerry Fox who knew Dan's brother, Frank, at the MIT Radiation Lab.

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At ISU, Dan continued teaching and doing research for 24 years while also heading up the Synchrotron activities at the Ames Nuclear Energy Laboratories - and then for 10 years was the head of the Physics Department starting in 1961. He became the V.P. for Research and Dean of Graduate Students in 1971 holding both positions until retiring in 1988.

For two years, '57 & '58, he was headquartered in London, England (with the first four of his 6 children and wife) as the US Navy's representative on Atomic Energy Affairs in an effort to acquaint educational centers with literature available and encourage students to study in the US. He traveled extensively in Europe visiting distinguished professors and universities.

He amassed many honors in his career, a Distinguished Professorship at Ames, for one, and headed several interesting projects, such as the Multi-University Synchrotron built in Illinois, heading the conference on the possible use of icebergs towed from Antarctica for fresh water and as a powerplant coolant and promoting the use of coal from the Iowa coalbeds and the desulphurizing methods available. He was also called upon to dedicate several College physics departments and lectured extensively.

Dan and his wife, Suzanne have been very active in musical and cultural events in Ames by being involved in the Ames Choral Society, the Ames International Orchestra Festival and the Town and Gown Chamber Music Society. He has worked with the ISU Music Department to initiate and promote the Scholarship Musicales which use local talent to raise money for the department.

In addition, Dan and Suzanne have entertained many visitors from foreign countries in their home, as well as musical groups such as the King Singers Sextet and the Cleveland Orchestra. They also participate in other groups for square dancing, aerobics exercising, etc.

Medically, Dan survived many childhood ailments, such as measles, mumps, & scarlet fever, thanks to excellent nursing by his mother. In later life he had cataract problems (aggravated by his radiation lab activities), a session with colon cancer and at 79, surgery for prostate problems. None of these seemed to slow him down!

In his retirement Dan has used water rockets, static electricity, smoke rings and other methods to show elementary school students the principles of physics and make science fun for them - especially to intrigue more girls into the study or at least future college enrollment. He hopes to encourage many others to study Science and the Arts in the future through his many activities.

## *Family History -*

*Compiled by F. Zaffarano 5/97*



*Suzanne (Kirkham) Zaffarano* was born in Winston Salem, North Carolina on September 4, 1926. Her mother was born in England but her father, Ted, was born in Jamaica. His parents were missionaries. He was a member of the famous Scotch Blackwatch Regiment in Canada before emigrating to the USA. Suzanne's mother, Annie, was a teacher of botany & math and her husband was educated as a Civil Engineer in Canada.

Suzanne has a sister, Joan, who is 2 years older and a brother, David who is 4 years older. She attended the University of Kentucky where her husband, Dan, says she majored in "horseback riding". Sue claims this is a gross understatement. She grew up in Winston Salem, North Carolina where her mother, during WWII, took a position with the National Carbon Co. assembling batteries for proximity fuses (used to control strategic detonation of artillery shells and aircraft bombs).

Suzanne's mother, embarrassed by misusing a gauge, designed by a young traveling Physicist assigned to report on the operations in several NCC plants, invited the young man to dinner at her home. She neglected to mention that she had two beautiful daughters! Four years later Suzanne's father transferred the family to Tennessee where the government was building the top secret Oak Ridge Nuclear Refining Plant. He also leased some land along Watts Bar Lake and hand built several cabins for fishermen. A complex called Eagle Lodge evolved with a large Marina for 50 to 75 boats.

Dan Zaffarano pursued & became engaged to Suzanne Kirkham and married her on a scenic peninsula at Eagle lodge located near Rockwood, Tennessee on August 27, 1946. He acquired an assistantship at Indiana University in Bloomington and received his Masters & Doctorate there. They became parents and named their son Dario (after a close friend at National Carbon named Dario Domizi) while living in a trailer park near the University. After Dan graduated in July of 1949 they moved to Ames, Iowa where she bore him 5 girls to complete the family. They were named Erica, Elisa, Bianca, Gina and Monica.

Sue's and Dan's home in Ames was always a hub of activity. Frequent overseas visitors, students and friends seemed to congregate there. Between Church and University activities and numerous musical occasions people were always coming, staying or going at 3108 Ross Rd.



Meanwhile, the children grew up as bright and beautiful family members. Dario is now an attorney, Erica is a set designer for stage productions, Elisa gave up the business world to become a homemaker (and later a teacher's associate), Bianca has her DVM in veterinary medicine and operates a clinic in Lexington, KY, Gina has her own beauty shop business in Minneapolis, MN, and Monica pursued a successful modeling career. All the children are married and have given Suzanne and Dan 14 grandchildren to date.

Suzanne and Dan have been involved in the Town and Gown Chamber Music Society which has hosted many musical festivities in Ames. They sing in a church Choir and several other musical organizations. Suzanne also acted as the corresponding secretary and editor for a Newsletter outlining the dates and locations of concert appearances of the British Sextet named the King's Singers. She did this for many years until daughter, Erica, took over the task in 1996. She and Dan entertained the King's Singers in their home whenever the Sextet passed near Ames. They even went to London, England on the 25th anniversary of the Singers to help celebrate the occasion.

They have cruised through the Panama Canal and to Greece and are taking advantage of the many tours offered by Senior Citizen and Bank organizations since Dan's retirement and have been to Europe to visit her Mother's relatives several times. Suzanne does most of the driving when they visit their children in Nevada, Iowa; Minneapolis, MN; Chicago, IL and Kentucky, or relatives in Tennessee and Ohio.