

East Falls Past--Lizanne LeVine

The Fallser, January 2010, by Wendy Moody

We were saddened by the recent death of Lizanne LeVine, the younger sister of Grace Kelly. How fortunate we are to have a taped interview of Lizanne with her sister Peggy conducted in 1981 by gerontologist Cherie Snyder. Following are some anecdotal excerpts focusing on their memories of East Falls:

Our thanks to **Anne Farnese** for transcribing the original tape.



CS: Were you involved in any community organizations?

LL: Mother was very involved in the Medical College when we were children and had a spring fete to raise money ... We helped by having a booth in front of our house where we sold flowers...do we tell that we stole flowers? The night before, we would climb the fence and steal Old Mosie Brown's violets and make up bouquets. He never knew they were in the back of his huge property. And we used to send Grace and the little ones up the alley to steal the flowers from the other neighbors. As the neighbors went by in the morning we would sell their own flowers to them. Or we'd knock on their doors and they couldn't resist these sweet little girls with baskets who had just stripped their gardens...It was for a good cause.

CS: Where was the house located?

LL: On the corner of Henry and Coulter.

How long did your family own the house?

Forty-four years.

Tell me about the child's playhouse.

It was in the back behind the tennis courts. It was rather nice looking. We had an electric stove with two burners in there. Absolutely! You could cook all the old apples that fell off the trees but you didn't eat them. It was really a little dangerous and it was taken out. Daddy gave it to someplace in East Falls for an air raid warden shelter.

Do you remember the first play you were in at Old Academy?

The Women. I took over for Grace when she got the measles. The first one I did (not as a substitute) was *The Philadelphia Story*. I was the brat sister and I think my two sisters thought I was really well-cast.

Did you have any holidays that were special?

Well I do remember one—Mother was having Thanksgiving, about 1959. And Grace and Ranier and everybody were there. We were having cocktails and I said to Peggy "I don't smell any turkey." And Mother said, "Oh! I put the turkey in a long time ago." So I

walked in the kitchen and said “My God Peggy, she hasn’t turned on the oven! Now what do we do? It was naked as the day it was born and we’re about ready to eat...” Peggy said, “Don’t worry about a thing...”

Peggy: I had just baked a turkey so I went right around the corner to my house, threw hers into my oven and brought her mine.

Were both of you married in the Falls?

Peggy: No, I was married in Pleasantville, New Jersey.

Lizanne: I was married in Saint Bridget’s. Grace had just won the Oscar and she was my maid of honor. Knowing that she was coming, there were a lot of people outside. As the limousines pulled up, people would go look in to see who was there. When my husband-to-be Don and his best man pulled up in front of Saint Bridget’s, they looked in the limousine and said “Oh they’re nobody.”