

FRANCIE MORSE
LUCILE'S ... 87.1
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FRITZ KLB76 Jack Faust

According to Mom, the Faults were family friends in Kansas City. In fact, Dr. Faust had taken care of Boppa's first wife, Nettie, who died of a congenital heart problem. Boppa had shared many stories about the Moon River area with Uncle Doc. Dr. Faust bought his island, sight unseen, from a friend of Papa Judge's, a Mr. Davidson, who had built the home on Faust's Island several years before. As the story goes, his wife hated the island and refused to come back. So in 1920, the Faustus became the proud owners of Fritz Island.

Mimi was delighted to have Uncle Doc near by because she was bringing up little Lucile, then eight months old. In those days, the Jennings were vacationing on the Isle of Delight with Papa Judge. The Faustus had two children: Jack age 10 and Dode age 12.

Jack had an ongoing supply of tall tales and stories as he did until the day he died. On one occasion, he convinced the family as well as little Lucile that a hummingbird had built a nest outside their back door. For more than a week, everyone watched the nest closely looking for that hummingbird. Eventually, someone figured out that Jack had taken hair from his grandmother Munzenmaier's hair jar and used grass and twigs to weave a tiny bird's nest.

Jack was also a great practical joker. On one of the many train trips from Kansas City to Canada, the Faults spent the night at the elegant old Royal York Hotel in downtown Toronto. Auntie Faust checked them in and instructed Jack to take his shower, dress for dinner and meet her in the lobby at 7:00pm sharp. Jack did exactly as he was told but not as Auntie Faust intended. When Jack made his entrance to the lobby, he was wearing an ascot, monocle in one eye and sporting a cane. Auntie Faust, being very accustomed to Jack's practical jokes, walked over, taped him on the shoulder and said, "Come, Jack. We will be late for dinner." At which point, Jack spin around, looked Auntie Faust in the eye and said, "**Unhand me, madam! I've never seen you before in my life!**" loudly enough so that the entire lobby heard him. For a brief moment, Auntie Faust was speechless. She then grabbed Jack's arm and dragged in into the dining room, monocle, cane and all.

Every summer the Faust's celebrated their wedding anniversary at Jennings Island and, in return, Auntie Faust hosted Mimi's birthday on July 20th. On one particular anniversary, Uncle Doc had purchased a canoe as an anniversary gift. After dinner, he invited everyone down to their dock to watch the canoe launching. Dr. and Auntie Faust were very big people. As they pushed off from the dock, the canoe began to sink. At that point, Dr. Faust calmly stood up in the canoe, now underwater, and offered Auntie Faust his hand and escorted her back to shore.

Jack loved the island. He had many, many flags, which he flew from the gazebo ... flags from all over the World. In addition, he mysteriously acquired, some Naval flags much to everyone's amazement since Jack was never in the Navy. Frequently, he would fly the flag that signaled, "The Admiral is On Board."

Jack attended Wentworth Military Academy in high school, which seemed like an odd choice since he was very artistic and creative. After high school, he attended the

University of Chicago and liked Chicago so well that he stayed to study at the Art Institute there.

The first time I can remember meeting Jack, I was eleven or twelve years old. We had driven to Kansas City to spend spring break with Mimi. Jack invited Mother with her "litter of children" to his house to see his "litter" of six-week-old poodle pups. Jack was living with his life partner Hal in a lovely old home full of antiques and a very white living room carpet. Much to my amazement, Jack let loose the entire litter of puppies! We children were delighted by the puppies' antics and they were delighted and excited to see us. Periodically, one of the puppies would pee on Uncle Jack's beautiful white carpet and we children would point that out to Uncle Jack. He would grab a spray bottle of Puppy Pee Remover and ran around behind his little darlings spraying everywhere they peed. It was very difficult not to laugh. I felt as though I were in the middle of One Hundred and One Dalmatians!

Near the end of his life, when Jack was 80 years old, he told mother that before he died, he wanted to return to Woods Bay one last time. It was a wonder reunion for all of us. Jack was as usual, full of tales of summers in Georgian Bay. The day that he left for home, Mom found that Jack had written "Made in Korea" on all the eggs in the refrigerator.

Jack died several years later and just three months after Dad died. Before he died, he asked mother if she would be willing to take his ashes back up to the island where his heart was, and sprinkle the ashes on Fritz Island. So, as mother tells it, she went to the funeral and came home with "Jack in the Box." Not being certain what the Canadian customs would say if they knew that Mom was bringing a "body" into Canada, she wrapped the box in gift paper and a bow and passed through customs, no problems.

The memorial service was on Fritz Island in the gazebo overlooking the bay just where Jack wanted it to be. It was a bright, sunny Georgian Bay day. Not a cloud in the sky. Just before the service began, two beautiful male blue herons flew by in formation as if to inspect the afternoon's activities. I couldn't help but think that Jack and Dad were flying by to start the proceedings. His spirit shall live there forever.