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file

November 1, 1993

Chester S. Kazalski
715 Ocean Parkway
Brooklyn, New York 11230

Dear Mr. Kazalski,

Please take the time to read this letter to see if you can answer some questions I have concerning the whereabouts of two old friends of mine named Felicity Kazalski and Eugene Dembinski. If neither of these names means anything to you, then I apologize for having addressed this inquiry to the wrong person.

As the letterhead indicates, my name is Francis Shields, but most people call me "Frank." Eugene Dembinski (Gene) was a close friend of mine from high school, when I lived in Brooklyn about 50 years ago. Felicity Kazalski was, possibly, a distant relative or, at the very least, a close friend of Gene Dembinski. Gene and I lived in Bay Ridge at the time and went to St. Michael's High School; he introduced me, my brother, and one or two other friends to Felicity around 1940, and we all became good friends. We remained good friends through World War II and for some years after, till marriage, jobs, families, and time had the effect of our losing contact with one another.

In our high school days and during the war Felicity lived at 811 East 8th Street in Brooklyn, and we often visited there, getting to know her mother and her father, whose name, I believe, was Ben. It is my strong recollection that she had a brother named Chester, but I have no remembrance of meeting him, though I may have. He was somewhat older than Felicity and therefore not part of our social circle. Nevertheless, it is the coincidence of your name also being Chester Kazalski that has led me to write to you.

I got your name from the Brooklyn telephone book in one of our local libraries. My search was motivated by the need to see if I can determine, for our high school alumni association, what happened to Gene Dembinski, as none of his classmates still alive has had any contact with him in more than 20 or 25 years. It occurred to me recently that perhaps Felicity Kazalski might know his whereabouts or what happened to him. The problem with somehow reaching her directly is that she married during or after WWII and, I think, moved away from Brooklyn. I have neither her married name or any address for her. Thus my search for the name "Kazalski" in the phone book, and this letter to you.

If you are, indeed, the brother or possibly a nephew of the Felicity Kazalski described above, I would appreciate your passing this letter along to her if she is still alive, so she might have the opportunity to respond to my inquiry. Or, if you are related to Felicity but she is deceased, please use the enclosed self-addressed envelope to drop me a short note to that effect.

I hope that this letter does not inconvenience you in any way, and I express my appreciation for anything you can do to help me in resolving my quest.

Respectfully,

Francis Shields

Francis J. Shields