

Dorothy Louise (LaBarge) Morrison

Dorothy Louise LaBarge was born on June 19, 1918. Her birth certificate lists her name as Loulou Dorothy LaBarge, a fact that most of her children never knew till Keith passed away and we found the birth certificate. Dorothy was named for her grandmother, Louise Thebeau Lauck, who was also called Loulou. However, from the beginning, her parents always called her Dot, and that's what we remember.

Dot grew up in South St. Louis and remembers surviving a horrific tornado that destroyed her grade school.



The picture above from the 1927 tornado that killed more than 70 people and cut a swath 12 miles long in central and south St. Louis. At age 9, she remembers walking and seeing people injured in the streets. Her parents, Pierre and Elsie, took in neighbors and fed them for many days after this disaster.

Later, Dorothy attended Cleveland High School and excelled there in grades and in sports. She was a star in tennis and softball, received Honors in scholars, and was voted the best girl dancer. I believe her parents must have made her study very hard, because she never let up on her children.