

# CROSSED THE BAR

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## Josephine Fusz Connett

Josephine Fusz Connett was born on December 7, 1917, in Saint Louis, Missouri. She was the fourth of five children of Eliza Ring and Eugene August Fusz and was named for her paternal grandmother, Josephine Desloge. She attended Saint Mary's Academy in South Bend, Indiana, from 1931-33 (the French Lick story), but then returned to Saint Louis to graduate from John Burroughs School in 1935 (the scandalous poem story). In 1935-6, she attended Trinity College in Washington D.C. (the Eleanor Roosevelt story). In the summer of 1936 she returned to Saint Louis to make her debut. Two years later, she married William Carroll Connett, IV, July 5, 1938 (the hottest night of the year story). The young couple celebrated their wedding with her first trip to the Belvedere, little realizing how important that community would become in their future lives. She spent the war years in Edenton, North Carolina (the turtle story), Carlyle, Illinois, and Saint Louis, Missouri (Too many stories to list, for example the horseradish for the hungry story.) When her husband returned from the war (the earthquake story), he set up a legal practice in Saint Louis, and they raised their family there. In the late nineteen fifties they began to spend their summer vacations on the Belvedere where they eventually retired.

There was an adventurous self-confidence to Josephine that led her to celebrate her fiftieth birthday by earning her private pilot's license (the arch is gone story) and to celebrate her ninetieth birthday by hosting her own funeral and wake. She was very active in the Belvedere community for over thirty years (Again too many stories to list about this period. Suggestions welcome.). At one time or another she owned six different cottages in the Summer Home Association. She was an avid golfer and a skilled, unorthodox, and ruthless bridge and backgammon player. On October 15, she left the Belvedere for her home in Ocean Ridge, Florida, where she died peacefully on 21 October, 2009.

She is survived by her daughter Charring Scoular of Houston, and her two sons, Squire and William, of Saint Louis. She is also survived by five grandchildren, one great grandchild, and her younger brother, Louis Fusz. There will be a memorial service on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at 515 Lowell Park on the Belvedere, where, I am sure many of the above stories will be (re)told, and perhaps some new stories will emerge. Instead of flowers donations can be made to the Belvedere Memorial Foundation.