

# Clara Belle LARIZ Garcia

Clara Belle Lariz was born on February 23, 1917, in Key West, Florida, to [Clara Dena Knowles](#) (1879-1961) and [Manuel Andres Lariz](#) (1875-1947).

**NOTE: Clara's middle name is spelled alternately 'Bell' and 'Belle' on documents.**



Her brother [Andrew Woodrow \(Bubby\)](#) was born on July 3, 1919, in Key West, Florida, when Clara Belle was 2 years old.



## HALF- SIBLINGS on father's side

- Bernaldo Domingo b. January 16, 1895, in Key West, Florida (PARENTS: Manuel Andres LARIZ and Leonora Pazos Gonzales)
- Mercedes b. July 7, 1897, in Key West, Florida (PARENTS: Manuel Andres LARIZ and Leonora Pazos Gonzales)
- Leonora "Nora" b. 1904 in Key West, Florida (PARENTS: Manuel Andres LARIZ and Leonora Pazos Gonzales)

## HALF- SIBLINGS on mother's side

- Rosina Violet b. December 27, 1896, in Key West, Florida. (PARENTS: Enrique Manuel RODRIGUEZ and Clara Dena KNOWLES)
- Manuel Canizares Rodriguez b. 1902 (PARENTS: Manuel RODRIGUEZ de CANIZARES and Clara Dena KNOWLES)
- John Andrew Rodriguez b. 1903 (PARENTS: Manuel RODRIGUEZ de CANIZARES and Clara Dena KNOWLES)
- Anna Maria b. 1906 (PARENTS: Manuel RODRIGUEZ de CANIZARES and Clara Dena KNOWLES)
- [Clarie](#) b. September 22, 1911, in Florida (PARENTS: Manuel RODRIGUEZ de CANIZARES and Clara Dena KNOWLES)

In 1920, Clara lived with her parents and siblings at 1023 United St in Key West, Florida. Her father worked as a cigarmaker.

NAME of each person whose place of abode on January 1, 1920, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on January 1, 1920. Omit children born since January 1, 1920.	RELATION. Relationship of this person to the head of the family.	SEX.		PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.				CITIZENSHIP.			EDUCATION.			Place of birth of each person.
		Home owned or rented.	If owned, free or mortgaged.	Sex.	Color or race.	Age at last birth- day.	Single, married, widowed, or di- vorced.	Year of immigra- tion, if natu- ralized or alien.	Naturalized or alien.	If naturalized, year of natural- ization.	Attended school any time since Sept. 1, 1919.	Whether able to read.	Whether able to write.	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Blary	Son			M	W	8	✓				460			Florida
Clara B.	Daughter			F	W	24	✓							Florida
Andre	Son			M	W	5	✓							Florida
Antonio Manuel R.	Son			M	W	18	✓							Florida

1920 U.S. Census

In 1930 and 1935, Clara lived with her parents and brother, Andrew (Bubby) at 1120 Margaret St in Key West.

11208080	Lariz, Manuel	Head	R 800	No	Y	W	53	M	25	No	Yes
	Clara	Wife	H	✓	F	W	49	M	16	No	Yes
	Clara Belle	Daughter		✓	F	W	12	S		Yes	Yes
	Andrew	Son		✓	M	W	10	S		Yes	Yes

1930 U.S. Census

Lariz Manuel	1120	✓	✓	X	59	✓	Father
Clara B.	"	✓	✓		54	✓	Mother
Bell	✓	✓	✓		17	✓	Daughter
Andrew W.	✓	✓	✓		15	✓	Son

1935 U.S. Census

Clara Belle married Jose Evelio Garcia Bello in Monroe, Florida, on November 19, 1936.



**Evelio (Joe) Bello**

**Marriage License** 20574

CENTRAL BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

C. J. No. \_\_\_\_\_

**State of Florida,** Monroe **County**

To any Minister of the Gospel, or any Officer Legally Authorized to Solemnize the Rite of Matrimony:

Whereas, Application having been made to the County Judge of Monroe County, of the State of Florida, for a license for marriage, and it appearing to the satisfaction of said County Judge that no legal impediments exist to the marriage now sought to be solemnized, These are, therefore, To authorize you to unite in the

**Holy Estate of Matrimony**

Jose Evelio Garcia and Clara Bell Lariz.

and that you make return of the same, duly certified under your hand, to the County Judge aforesaid.

Witness, my name as County Judge, and the seal of said Court, at the Courthouse in Key West, Fla., this 15 day of November, A. D. 1936

Raymond R. Low, County Judge.  
By Jose S. Ponce, Clerk.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

I Certify, that the within named Jose Evelio Garcia and Clara Bell Lariz were by me, the undersigned, duly united in the Holy Estate of Matrimony, by the authority of the within License. Done this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, A. D. 1936, at Key West, Fla. 32-511, Florida.

Witness Chai Gonzalez M. L. Smith  
Witness J. V. Woodson 1209 United St.  
ADDRESS

Returned this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November, A. D. 1936, and recorded in Marriage Book 12, Page 172. Raymond R. Low, County Judge.  
Jose S. Ponce

NO. 48

They had four daughters:

- [Jane Ann](#) was born on April 26, 1938, in Key West, Florida.
- Josephine was born on July 20, 1940, in Key West, Florida.
- Delores Matilda was born on November 28, 1942, in Key West, Florida.
- [Rosamaria \(Rosemary\) 'Meme'](#) was born on December 11, 1947, in Key West, Florida.





***Back row: Blanca Garcia (Joe's sister), Delores, Clara Belle. Front row: Josepha Diaz, Jane, Josephine***

### ***From the memoirs of Josephine Garcia:***

"Mummy always had a smile for everyone, and she loved to sing. She also loved to walk, and we never had any problem talking her into going for a walk. At Christmas time we would pick a different street every night and walk down it to see the Christmas lights. The town always had a contest to see who could put up the best Christmas display. We could never afford a tree and lights so these walks were very special.

I remember a time when my mother stood up for me - she always did that. We used to play baseball with the neighborhood kids, and we would use a bat to determine who got to be captain. One boy pushed me and told me girls couldn't be captains, so I took my fingernails and scratched him. Well, his mama came charging up to our house and threatened to beat up my mother. My mother stood on the porch and said, "Come on then. Your son started it, my daughter finished it. If you want to start something, I'll finish it."



Clara Belle with daughter, Jane



Clara Belle with daughter, Rosemary



Clara Belle





In 1940, Clara and her husband, Evelio lived with her parents and their daughter, Jane, at **1227 Royal St** in Key West. Her father and husband worked for the WPA doing general labor.

In 1945, Clara and Evelio (Joseph) lived at **913 Watson St** in Key West with Clara's parents, Manuel and Clara Dena. The couple's daughters, Jane, Josephine, and Delores also lived there.

Manuel	Clara	1					
"	Franklin	"	69			6 grade	Clara
Manuel	913 Watson	"		63		5 "	Blind
"	Clara	"	28			6 grade	Nancy
Joseph	"	"		28		2 "	H. W.
Clara	"	"		7			
"	Jane	"		4			
"	Josephine	"		2			
"	Delores	"	47			7 grade	Gardner
"	913 Watson	"		48		9 "	H. W.

1945 Census



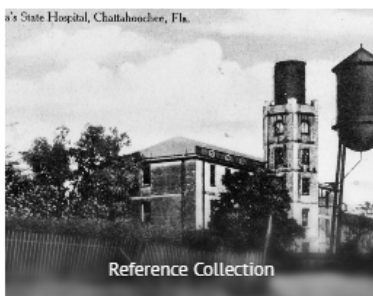


***913 Watson St, Key West. Painting by Karen Yvonne Hamilton.***

In 1950, Clara was listed as a patient at Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee, Florida.

She spent time off and on there from 1948 to 1952, receiving shock treatments and other types of therapy.

Chattahoochee is located on the far northern border of Florida. It touches the Georgia border and is only a few miles from the Alabama border.



Originally called Florida State Hospital for the Insane, the hospital became nationally known when the O'Connor v. Donaldson case in 1975 went to the Supreme Court. Due to this case, mental institutions around the U.S. were forced to revise their practices.

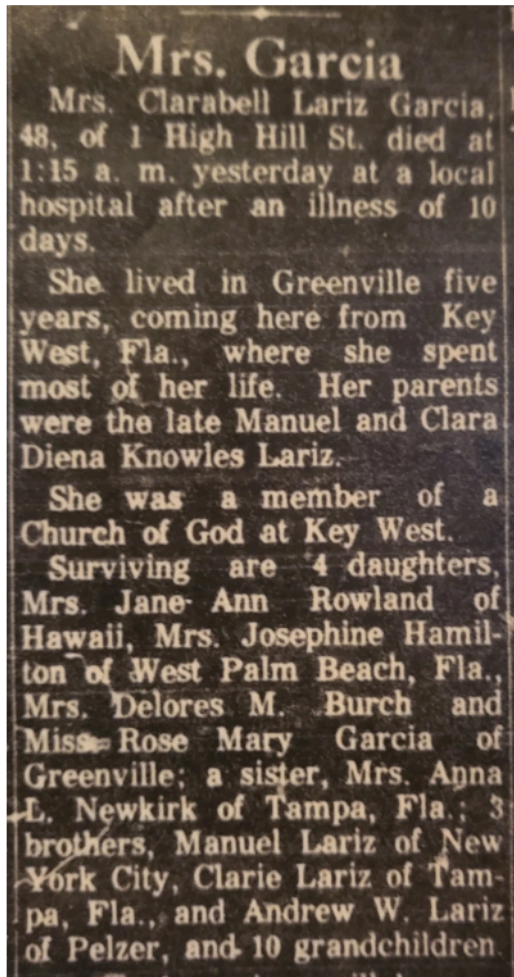


There are several books and even a movie depicting the horrors of medical practices at the hospital. Clara Bell would have been there during the time of the worst of it. I have noted on several death certificates that many elderly people were sent there due to dementia, Alzheimer's, etc.

You can read more about this institution and find links to patient records, etc. here [Exploring Chattahoochee \(Florida State Hospital\)](#).

Clara Belle and Evelio (Joe) divorced in 1953.

In 1965, Clara was living in Greenville, S.C., near Josephine and Delores, when a cyst was discovered on her pituitary gland. The doctors decided to remove the cyst and scheduled the operation for the next day. Overnight, the cyst burst, and Clara Belle died on November 11, 1965. Josephine recalls, "When Mummy died, we found a handkerchief in her pocket that had my father's initials on it. She loved him until the day she died."





Clara Belle was laid to rest at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Greenville, South Carolina, Section H.

## SOURCES

1920 United States Federal Census; 1930 United States Federal Census; Florida State Census, 1867-1945 (1935); 1940 United States Federal Census; 1945 United States Federal Census; 1950 United States Federal Census; Florida Marriage Collection, 1822-1875 and 1927-2001; Florida Divorce Index, 1927-2001; South Carolina, U.S., Death Records, 1821-1972; USGENWEB: Report of Inspection & Survey of Florida State Hospital, Chattahoochee, Gadsden Co., FL; USGENWEB: 1961 Report: Findings on Conditions at Florida State Hospital, Chattahoochee, Gadsden Co., FL; USGENWEB: Testimony from Patients, Florida State Hospital, Chattahoochee, Gadsden Co., FL; USGENWEB: Testimony from Attendants, Florida State Hospital, Chattahoochee, Gadsden Co., FL; USGENWEB: Testimony from Physicians, Florida State Hospital, Chattahoochee, Gadsden Co., FL; Personal memoirs of Jane and Josephine Garcia.