

James Colbert Lovier was born on August 2nd, 1921, in Fulton, Kentucky as the second child of James Coy Lovier and Winnie Thelma Johnson. He had four siblings: Dorothy, June, Jane, and Sue. He died on May 23rd, 2005, in Peoria, Illinois. When he was 20, he married Frances Lorene Dale, the daughter of Willie Dale and Mamie Estes, on November 19th, 1941, in Cleveland, Ohio. He was educated at Rosiclare Community High School in Rosiclare, Illinois and he was a captain of the boys basketball team up until his graduation in 1940. After the Rosiclare "Bears" won two district titles in back-to-back seasons in 1934 and 1935 James took over as captain and led them to a Metropolis regional runner-up game in the 1938-39 season. They had beaten New Columbia 33-20 and won the semi-final against Golconda 35-23, but lost the title game to Metropolis 27-24. He received his basketball letters for the 1937 and 1938 seasons. After high school he was employed as an American Beauty products salesman in 1941 in Cleveland, Ohio and then he was employed as a salesman for E Blankenship company selling automotive parts and equipment in 1943 in Mount Vernon, Illinois under the supervision of store manager Lee Busch. He was also a tenor singer in a barbershop quartet called the Egyptian Keys that he had formed with Lee Busch as the chorus director and performed mainly from 1950 through 1953 in the Mount Vernon area. He lived with his family at 2403 Perkins Ave, Mount Vernon in 1950, then 530 S 25th, Mount Vernon in 1952 and at 816, maple, st, Mount Vernon in 1952. In 1958 the family moved to Peoria, Illinois as he became employed as a salesman for Bowman Distribution where he sold bolts, nuts, electric cable, wire, and conduit. The company was based out of Cleveland, Ohio. James worked for 32 years in this field before starting his own business as J&L Distributors where he sold fasteners at his residence on Heinz Lane in Edwards, IL. In his later years he worked as a car salesman where he cofounded a small used automotive sales and repair business with his daughter Jean Heinz (Lovier) that they named L (Lovier) & H (Heinz) Automotive in Peoria. He also worked as a courier for Central Illinois Courier and lived in Peoria up until his passing in 2005.

James Colbert Lovier and Frances Lorene Dale had the following children:

1. Jim Lovier was born on 21 Apr 1943 in Hardin County, Illinois, USA. He married Meow Lin Lovier on 04 Jun 1968 in Taipei, Taiwan.
2. Billy Dale "Dugan" Lovier was born on 14 Jul 1947 in Mount Vernon, IL. He died on 13 Oct 1999 in West Columbia, SC. He married Dixie Warrington on 02 Dec 1967 in Peoria.
3. Jean Ann Lovier was born on 03 Jun 1957 in Mount Vernon, Jefferson, Illinois. She married Edward Peter Heinz on 30 Sep 1977 in Peoria County, Illinois.

Excerpt is from the Harmonizer magazine September 1950 volume 10.

"Barber Shop quartets are here to observe their 1st Anniversary. About a year ago a small group of Mt. Vernon men met at the American Legion Home and organized a chapter of The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. Today, after a year of activity, they have a membership of 40, a chorus of 25 men who sing barbershop harmony in unison and an organized quartet, "The Egyptian Keys," The barber-shoppers will cut their first birthday cake Monday evening, June 19. when they will serve as hosts to their wives and friends at a meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall. The S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. chorus has made steady progress from its first public appearance at the Elks memorial services through their appearances at Christmas time on Santa Claus Lane, the Parade of quartets and appearances at the Veterans Hospital in Marion. They have also entertained at many schools and civic affairs. The "Egyptian Keys" quartet has enjoyed an active year, singing for many civic clubs, P.T.A. groups, in the Kiwanis Minstrel Show, Parade of Quartets and at the charter presentation show of the Paducah, Ky. chapter. The chapter members feel proud of their first year accomplishments and are looking forward to the coming year, in which they hope to give this community a better interpretation of barber shop harmony. Entertainment at the first anniversary party will be furnished by the chorus under the direction of Lee Busch, Jim Lovier and the Egyptian Keys. Men interested in becoming members of the chapter are invited to attend."