



Find Super Family

**Discovering
My Aunts
Ties To
Superman
Creator**

BY JAMES ROBERTSON

It isn't every day that you just so happen to stumble across an incredible piece of your family history by doing a Google search. But back in March, I was preparing some family notes to share with my mother when I searched the name of my great aunt and found something that was out of this world.

Faye Lewis Trowbridge was always a quiet soul. I remember seeing her at random special times of the year growing up. An Easter here or a Christmas there. Taking the train to San Antonio when I was around 5 or 6 years old to spend a week or two at her house exploring or pretending to be a super hero.

Faye was stationed at Hickam Field in Hawaii during World War II as a member of the Woman's Army Corps. She was 20 years old and had just met Corporal Jerry Siegel. The same Jerry Siegel who created Superman with Joe Shuster in 1934. Siegel was now working on plans for a comic called Super GI.

Just as Superman has his Lois Lane, Super GI would feature a ravishing beauty by the name of Corporal Jane Troy. Faye would play that part. My aunt was married for 59 years to my uncle, John Trowbridge,



who was a real life Superman. He spent three decades working for the San Antonio Light.

It was in 1944 that Siegel contacted the Army Special Services at Hickam looking for a model to play Jane Troy. Faye's commanding officer contacted her for the part. The Midpacifican introduced "Super GI" on December 30, 1944 and it ran for several months in 1945.

While my aunt remembers Siegel being a sweet man, she never thought her comic-strip alter ego was very rosy.

"What I see and what I read in the comics, she wasn't at all like I am," Faye told the San Antonio Express News in 2006. "Unlike Corporal Jane Troy I was very



shy myself. I was shy like Siegel was. She seems to be a little, looking through these comic strips, maybe a little smarty, and I didn't like that. Because that didn't depict me, you know, my personality."

During the first strip that Corporal Troy appears in she rebuffs Super GI's invite for lunch on account of him being "a fascinating much-pursued specimen of masculinity." Because of this, Super GI sends out a "mental command" to all the ladies on the post, except for Troy, to see him as their favorite film stud. When Troy notices this she changes her tune. The 1940's, am I right?

Faye's favorites include the strip where Super GI is pretending to drown so she can garner the attention of nearby WACs and another where he pulls off "the greatest jitterbug dance in all history, one man and a hundred girls."

Although the Midpacifican named her the "Most Beautiful Servicewoman In The Pacific" she stands by thinking that she didn't look anything like Jane Troy.

"As you well know," said Faye, "a comic strip doesn't make you look like what you look like."

But, she certainly thought she knew where Super GI got his looks from.

"As soon as I saw the comic strip and after knowing Jerry and how shy he was, I just had a feeling that he was the model for Super GI," says Faye. "Because he had that wonderful imagination. Anybody who can do Superman has a wonderful imagination."

The rarity of this comic makes this story even more intriguing and mysterious. Super GI only ran for a few weeks and finding any information about the comic itself has proven tough. But the fact remains that my aunt was given the opportunity to sit down with a culture icon and have him offer her a spot in one of his comics.

Last month marked the 77th anniversary of Superman and although Super GI was a short lived comic my family has a place in its history. Faye Trowbridge might not have been Lois Lane but she certainly had her own special connection to Superman.

