



## THE KAY RESIDENCE BY GARLAND & FITZGERALD

Victor and Cornelia Kay were proprietors of J.C. Biegert Machine Works, a company that contributed to Seattle's industrial landscape and operated during a critical period of civic growth. As children of notable Washington Territory pioneers, one or both witnessed Seattle's rapid industrialization and unforgettable events: the Great Seattle Fire, the Klondike Gold Rush, and the 1909 World's Fair.

Victor's father, Wladyslaw Von Kozlowski (later William Kozlowski), immigrated from Prussia to Washington Territory in the early 1860s. He returned to Prussia to marry Victor's mother, Augusta, in 1875, after which they returned to Seattle. They invested in land, and he was involved in the lumber trade. Victor was born in 1882 when Seattle's population was only 3,500. The Kozlowski family papers are held at MOHAI and include a circa 1878 photo showing the family posing on the front steps of their home at 523 Columbia Street.

Cornelia's parents were Joseph Biegert, an immigrant from Germany, and Josephine Bomm, of German descent and born in Ohio. They married in Seattle in 1887 and welcomed Cornelia in 1891. Joseph was an

engineer at the Seattle Electric Company and Seattle City Railway before opening his own machine shop, J.C. Biegert Machine Works, in 1902. In 1909, he built a new home for his shop at 2910 1st Avenue South, which still stands today. Cornelia attended Whitworth College in Spokane in 1907 and 1908.

Victor Kozlowski was also a machinist at Seattle Electric Company, making him a perfect addition to the Biegert family. He and Cornelia married on April 20, 1910, and soon changed their last name to Kay. Victor became foreman and vice-president of Biegert Machine Works, while Cornelia was its longtime secretary. When Victor became president in 1926, the Kays commissioned Garland & Fitzgerald to build their dream home at 2615 Mount Saint Helens Place South in Mount Baker. This neighborhood reflected their success and was one of Seattle's earliest planned residential communities, where nature integrated with residential lots, streets, boulevards, and parks. Neighborhood homes, primarily built between 1905 and 1929, reflected a range of architectural styles and were designed by many prominent builders and architects.

# CHAIN OF OWNERSHIP

1907

Hunter Tract Improvement Company

1908

T. P. Lindsay

1910

Frank G. Dewar

1914

Alfred M. Rhoads and Elizabeth M. Rhoads

1926

Victor Kay and Cornelia Kay

1944

Joseph M. Glantz and Fanny Glantz

1951

Arthur Michelson and Rose Michelson

1951

John A. Kahl and Irene M. Kahl

1952

Charles D. Harlow and Grace B. Harlow

1955

John A. Kraski and Helen Kraski

1976

Jay D. Reynolds and Shirley M. Reynolds

1978

Albert Jeffrey Berger and Marilyn Joan Berger

1980

John Epler and Jean Epler

# VICTOR AND CORNELIA KAY



Telephones: Works, John 3791. Residence, Black 5121.

## J. C. BIEGERT MACHINE WORKS

MILL, MINING AND MARINE WORK A SPECIALTY  
STEAM FITTING AND ELEVATOR REPAIRS

515-517 First Avenue South, SEATTLE, WASH.

E. B. 108 106 11-28 L&BCo 17000 255094

**CITY OF SEATTLE—DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS**  
APPLICATION AND BUILDING PERMIT

| OWNER'S VALUE | BLDG. DEPT. VALUE | CLASS. (OWNER'S) | BLDG. DIST. | USE DIST. | AREA DIST. | HEIGHT DIST. | PLANS FILED | LIFE OF PERMIT | CLERK |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|-------|
| \$ 8000.      |                   | Hr               | 4           | 12        | A          |              | YES         | NO             | PL    |

Application is hereby made for permit to do the following work:

*Build Residence per plan.  
Garage 18 x 30 - Semi-attached to house.  
D. 7441*

At *2615 Mt. St Helens Ave.*, on Lot *3*, Block *26*  
of *St. Mary's* Addition. Lot is *30 x 40* Alley *5* wide.  
Building will be *2* stories in height, in addition to *1* basement. Occupancy will be *Residential*.  
No part of the building may be nearer than *3* feet inches to any adjoining lot line.  
The under-side of the joists must be at least *18* inches above the ground.

Owner *Cornelia Kay* Address *3210 West Tern*  
Contractor *Garland & Fitzgibbon* Address *2735 Mayfair*  
Architect \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(Owner) *Cornelia Kay*  
Application made \_\_\_\_\_ 192\_\_\_\_\_ By *J. M. Wilson* His Authorized Agent.

Permission is hereby given to do the above described work, according to the conditions hereon and according to the approved plans and specifications pertaining thereto, subject to compliance with the Ordinances of the City of Seattle. SUPERINTENDENT OF BUILDINGS.

Permit issued *3/25* 1926 By *J. M. Wilson*

**REINFORCING STEEL MUST BE INSPECTED** after placing and before covering.  
**BE SURE YOU ARE FULLY INFORMED ON THE BUILDING AND ZONING LAWS** before beginning your work.

Report and recommendations:

*Plans Read  
10-24-26  
H. D. Garland*

This permit is issued subject to the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance. You must comply with the requirements thereof.

PLACE OF MARRIAGE: King  
County of: King  
Town of: Seattle  
City of: Seattle

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

GROOM: Victor G. Kozlowski, Seattle, 27 years, White, Single, Wash, Machinist, Father: Wm Kozlowski, Germany, Mother: Augusta Storgat, Germany.  
BRIDE: Cornelia Biegert, Seattle, 22 years, White, Single, Wash, Josephine Biegert, Germany, Mother: Josephine Komrsal, Ohio.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That *Victor G. Kozlowski* and *Cornelia Biegert* were joined in Marriage by me in accordance with the laws of the State of Washington, at *Seattle, Wash* this *20* day of *April*, 1910.

Signature of Witness to the Marriage: *J. C. Biegert*, Residence: *Seattle*  
Signature of person performing the ceremony: *J. M. Wilson*, Official station: *Minister*, Residence: *Seattle*

FILED 19 \_\_\_\_\_ County Auditor. Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Seattle, Washington, City Directory, 1926

## KAY

" Cornelia Mrs sec J C Biegert Mach Wks Inc h2615 Mt St Helens pl

" Victor G (Cornelia) v-pres-mgr J C Biegert Mach Wks Inc h2615 Mt St Helens pl

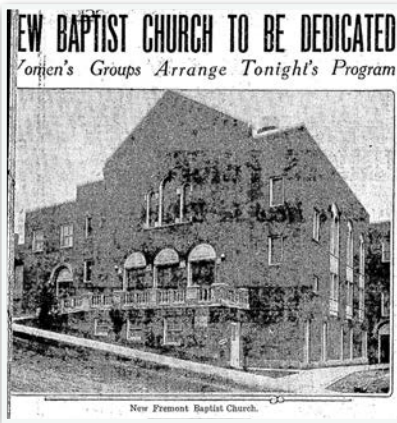
**BIEGERT J C MACHINE WORKS INC,**  
Joseph C Biegert Pres, Victor G Kay V-Pres-Mgr, Cornelia Kay Sec 2910 1st Av S, Tel MAIN 4579

Kozlowski family, 523 Columbia Street, circa 1878, Victor, front left, MOHAI; Polk Directory advertisement, 1902  
Marriage Certificate, 1910; Building Permit, 1926; Polk Directory, 1926

# GARLAND & FITZGERALD



**REAL ESTATE**  
**\$230,000 IN BUILDINGS**  
 APARTMENT HOUSE, CHURCHES  
 AND THEATRES INCLUDED.  
 Occidental Lodge No. 72, Masons,  
 Plans Erection of New \$40,-  
 000 Lodge Home.  
 One new apartment house, two  
 church edifices and a motion picture  
 theatre, were among offerings in new  
 construction news last week.  
 The apartment, to cost \$70,000, will  
 be erected by William Madsen at  
 1804-10 Bigelow Ave. and will be  
 four stories, of ordinary masonry  
 construction.  
 The church buildings include a  
 \$45,000 home for the Fremont Baptist  
 congregation at 717 N. 36th St., to be  
 two stories high, 89 by 78 feet. Arch-  
 itect Howard H. Riley designed the  
 building and the contract has been  
 awarded to Garland & Fitzgerald.



Fremont Baptist Church  
*Seattle Daily Times*  
 April 20, 1924  
 December 2, 1924

Garland and Fitzgerald built the stately home at 2615 Mount Saint Helens Place South in 1926, and it features quintessential Georgian Revival elements: a symmetrical brick facade, sash windows, a hipped roof, and a prominent front door flanked by side lights. Above, three blind dormers maintain the rhythmic, balanced aesthetic while creating the illusion of an additional third floor.

This carpenter/contractor duo partnered from about 1922 to 1926. Several of their Colonial Revival residences are listed as "Historical Sites" on [seattle.gov](http://seattle.gov), and some were gleaned from newspaper archives, including: 2737 33rd Avenue; 2812 32nd Avenue South; 3319 37th Avenue; 3017 Cascadia Avenue; and 2808 33rd Avenue South. (Garland & Fitzgerald also reconfigured the attic at 2706 Mt. St. Helens and did renovations at 2647 Cascadia Avenue.) On April 20, 1924, *The Seattle Daily Times* named Garland & Fitzgerald as the builders of the Fremont Baptist Church at 717 North 36th Street. Designed in an Italian Renaissance style, the brick church remains a beloved neighborhood landmark.

Harmon Garland, the son of a carpenter, was born in 1870 in New Brunswick, Canada. He moved to Seattle around 1907. David Arthur Fitzgerald, the son of a contractor, was born in 1871 in Junction City, Kansas. He moved to Seattle around 1918.



Above: 1937 WPA photo of  
 2615 Mt. St. Helens Pl. S.  
 Center: Fitzgerald and family,  
 circa 1909, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)

