



WSRAR Photo
Charles Miller

Realtors

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honor was established in 1990 to recognize realtors for their contributions to the betterment of their community through outstanding public service.

MacIntosh has been in real estate since 1985. He is a broker with Leonard Ryden Burr Real Estate. He currently serves on the Business 40 Task Force Committee, the Peters Creek Community Initiative, the Living Room Board and the Advisory Board for the Holly Avenue Neighborhood Association.

"Jeff has volunteered in many capacities for our Association as well as in the community," Farrell said.

Cook

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alphabet. The family's primary mode of transportation was a horse and buggy.

"When we went to a big to-do, we went in the wagon," she recalled.

The family cooked their meals over the fireplace.

"Grandma always baked a pancake in the skillet and flavored it with brandy. All of us youngins would have a piece," said Cook, remembering one of her favorite treats. "It was nice."

In the warmer months, they would place a large washing tub in the yard to heat in the sun, an opportunity for mischief that Cook says her brothers could scarcely resist.

"The meanies, they'd pour it out and put in cold," she said.

Cook spent much of her childhood living alongside her future husband, the late Larn Cook, who was her childhood neighbor. The two wed on Easter Monday in 1922 and enjoyed 62 years of marriage before his death in 1984.

"I was crazy, I reckon," she said when asked what made her want to marry the dapper Mr. Cook. "We had four good looking youngins."

When The Great Depression struck in 1929, the Cooks, like families across the nation, were forced to get creative in trying to make ends meet.

"It was very hard," recalled



Photos by Layla Garmes
Ina Cook celebrated her 109th birthday on Nov. 18.

daughter Sue Vogler, 86. "It was tough because the banks closed, and what little money they had, it was gone, so they rented, they share cropped."

Even in the times of great adversity, Cook remained steadfast, employing her near-legendary work ethic to bridge the gaps and provide for her family.

"She sold butter, she sold eggs, she sold milk. They grew their grain and they had it ground. She canned all of her hog meat, and that carried her through," said Vogler, a retired US Airways reservationist. "I never remember a time that we were hungry, nor wasn't we clean. She sewed us

clothes out of food sacks - all of that stuff. It was phenomenal. What a life!"

Cook often credits her industrious nature - and the fact that she is a praying woman - as primary contributors to her longevity.

"She usually says her hard work kept her going, and I imagine that's true," Vogler said. "She didn't have time to think about how bad the situation was."

Cook drove a car until age 97 and lived on her own on the farm where she had reared her children - now grandparents and great grandparents themselves - until she made the decision to join her late son at a local retirement community. In September, she attended the homecoming of Old Westfield Friends Church, where she enjoys the distinction of being the oldest living member. Cook joined the congregation 88 years ago.

In 2004, Cook relocated to Danby House assisted living facility, where she is well known for her sweet tooth, her love of Bingo and coffee (she drinks three to four cups a day) and her uncommonly sharp intellect. Danby House med tech Jennifer Aguilar describes her as "a very determined little lady" who often dispenses parenting advice to staffers and knows each employee

by name.

"She can remember all of my pregnancies since I was here," related the 33 year-old. "She knows that me and her each have two boys and two girls and she tries to compare how she raised her kids to how I'm raising mine. She's very with it; she knows all my children's names ... It's just been wonderful working with her all these years, cutting up, laughing and joking."

The only centenarian in the home, Cook is thought to be the oldest of the 5000-plus residents in Meridian Senior Living's nationwide network. Longevity is in her blood; Cook's own father lived to be 102. Her 88-year-old daughter Kathleen Satterfield said having her mother still in the land of the living is virtually unheard of among her peer group.

"When I tell people that, they don't believe me," she said.

Aguilar, who has served the Danby House for more than eight years, said Cook's sense of independence and cognitive clarity distinguish her even more than her advanced years.

"Most of our residents are 30 years younger than her and they need way more help than she does," she declared. "It's incredible to see somebody that old be able to do so much."



Jennifer Aguilar

Teacher

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understand. I think she is nice. She tries to make you comfortable ... I am excited to come each day because she has different stuff for us to learn. She likes to make you laugh."

She takes care of the students, said third-grader Alan Jaimes. She makes sure that everyone treats each other well, and if someone is sad, she tries to make them not sad, Alan said. And, when people don't understand, he said, she goes around and helps those who need it while everyone else waits patiently. Plus, she makes everyone laugh.

"She makes funny jokes; sometimes she even tap dances," he said.



Lauren Parmley with her class.

The parent of one student was so impressed with Parmley that she nominated her for a local fea-

ture for WXII television, and the station followed up. Parmley is from Connecticut.

Her older brother, Justin, came to North Carolina to attend N.C. A&T State University. He liked it and North Carolina and, looking into possibilities, Parmley saw that Winston-Salem State University offered a strong education program.

In a sense, teaching found her early on. When she was 9 or so, one of the younger children at Archer Memorial AME Zion Church in Windsor, Conn. started sitting next to her during the sermon. Soon, others joined them.

"The kids started to pile up," she said.

Eventually, the group got big enough that she moved the group to the back of the church and she would look after them during the service.

"I loved the fact that they were looking up to me," she said.

By the time she was 11, she was teaching a Sunday School class. By the time she was 16, she was helping out in a preschool program after she got out of high school each day.

Parmley graduated from Winston-Salem State with a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a concentration in English. She still maintains the part-time job at Piedmont Advantage Credit Union that she landed as a WSSU student.

She is quite happy as a classroom teacher. She can imagine herself becoming a speech pathologist or reading specialist one day. One way or another, she knows she wants to continue working directly with children.

"My biggest thing is staying with the children," she said.

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