

Mintz Lives 102 Years Not 'Bothered By Men'

BY DORI COSGROVE GURGANUS

Perhaps the secret to a long life is to remain unmarried.

Miss Mina Mintz, a new resident of Autumn Care Convalescent Center in Shallotte who turned 102 years old last Monday, gives that as one of the only things she can think of that's kept her alive and well so long.

"I guess I was just never bothered by men," she says when people ask.

Born Oct. 28, 1889, in Brunswick County in an area she refers to as "this side of the Waccamaw River (near what is Ash today)," Miss Mintz never felt enough of an urge to marry and have children of her own.

Instead, she helped her sister, Cora Mintz Vance, and brother, Newman Mintz, raise at least two of their 13 children.

Pat Bellamy of Ash, Miss Mintz's niece, attended the birthday celebration given last week by the staff of the care facility. She recalled Miss Mintz often referring to those children as being "scared up" instead of brought up.

Miss Mintz claims not to miss never having had children of her own.

"I got that niece. She's mine," she said.

Miss Mintz says she "had a big time" as a young girl, with plenty of boyfriends, but none suited her for marriage.

"I had hundreds of 'em," she

said.

Miss Mintz almost married a few times, but then, she says, "I just lost the notion to marry."

The last time she almost tied the knot, she was 40 years old and just "kept putting it off and putting it off," until neither of them were very interested in the prospect.

"And I'm glad of it," she said.

When she was around 30 years old, Miss Mintz helped some friends of hers find a minister to marry them.

Lucas Marie Simmons, daughter of the bride, said that Miss Mintz drove to Conway, S.C., with Winson and Addie Smith in the early 1920s to witness their marriage, but the minister was a bit late.

The groom insisted on waiting until the minister arrived, and decided to sleep in the car to await his arrival.

Mina and Addie stayed at the minister's house, crowding together in the same small bed on a night that they all had hoped would turn out differently.

"That boy said he'd wait until moss grew around the car if he had to," Miss Mintz recalls.

Soon after, Miss Mintz recalls heading west "as far as I could go," somewhere around 1922 or 1924.

She settled in Port Townsend near Seattle and worked for more than two years in a Catholic hospital preparing meals for patients.

Miss Mintz remembers looking across the Puget Sound in Seattle and seeing Victoria, Canada, in the distance and wishing she had a somebody to take her over to that unfamiliar land.

Women didn't travel unescorted at that time, so she never got the chance to visit the United States' northern neighbor.

She counts that as one of the things she regrets not having accomplished in her long life: making her way across to Canada.

She headed back to North Carolina soon after, and lived the rest of her life in quiet, rural Brunswick County raising nieces and nephews and helping out on the farm.

Several years ago, she moved in with her nephew, Hugh Vance, who lives in Sunset Beach.

After two serious falls, breaking her hip and then her pelvis, Miss Mina now lives at Autumn Care. She was relocated to Shallotte after a few months' stay in Cape Fear Memorial Hospital in Wilmington and Ocean Trail Convalescent Center in Southport.

She claims to have no advice for younger people, and says she has no secret for living so long, except for her theory about staying single.

As for special medicines or treatments for long life, she says she enjoys a "nice toddy" now and then.

When asked if she's glad to have lived 102 years, Miss Mintz simply replied, "I reckon so."



MISS MINA MINTZ (right) listens closely as Wanda Ammons of Autumn Care reads letters from the offices of the governor and the president to the Brunswick County native congratulating her on her 102nd birthday.



Jamboree A First At BCC

The Catawba River Boys will be featured at Brunswick Community College's first Country Bluegrass Jamboree Saturday, Nov. 9 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Student Center (ALS Building) on BCC's main campus north of Supply. Admission is free, with refreshments available from the Brunswick Interagency Program. A casual atmosphere is planned, said Gaye Fulford, who is organizing the event with the help of emcee C.O. "Hayseed" Thomas of Leland. If local interest is sufficient the college hopes to expand the jamboree and make it an annual event. Members of the Catawba River Boys are (front, from left) Clyde (Shorty) Robinson, Harold Killiam and Marcus Miller and (back, from left) Jack Tanner, Curtis Ballard and Bud Rainey.

Blood Drive Set At Trinity Church November 11

A blood drive is planned by the Cape Fear Chapter of the American Red Cross Monday, Nov. 11, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport.

Hours will be from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., said Jean Maiwald, consultant.

Ms. Maiwald said that over the past 10 weeks blood donations have declined sharply, creating a potentially dangerous blood shortage.

As of the end of October, all blood types except AB positive were in short supply.

If donations don't increase, she said, supply projections indicate there will be an emergency blood service shortage during the holiday season.

Blood donors must be 17 to 76 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. Donors can safely give blood every eight weeks, up to six times a year.

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