



Celebrating Montana's Centenarians



54th Governor's Conference On Aging



**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**



Edna Minkler Phillips 105 Years Old

Edna was born on January 26, 1918, in Great Falls, Mont., and was raised in Teton County. She graduated from Augusta High School. In 1939, Edna married Lawrence Minkler, and the couple went on to have five children. Her commitment to both family and work is evident as she balanced her roles as a mother and a worker in retail dress shops and restaurants. Edna's enduring marriage to Lawrence is truly touching. They were married for an impressive 61 years before his passing in 2000. The depth of their connection and partnership is a testament to their strong bond. After experiencing loss, Edna's life took another turn when she remarried at the age of 88 to Wendell Phillips. This demonstrates her openness to new experiences and her ability to find happiness even later in life. Their 10 years of marriage before Wendell's passing added another chapter of companionship and joy to her life. Edna's legacy extends to her role as a grandmother and great-grandmother. Her affection for her family is beautifully captured in the nickname "Cinnamon Roll Grannie," which reflects the care and love she showered upon her grandchildren through her delicious treats. Her dedication to work is evident in her commitment to employment even into her 80s. Furthermore, her volunteer work at the hospital and for the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies program showcases her compassionate nature and her desire to contribute positively to her community. The long lifespan of her parents and siblings indicates a strong genetic foundation, emphasizing the importance of family health history. Edna's favorite quote, "Life is wonderful," encapsulates her optimistic outlook on life.



Bill Skorupa 100 Years Old

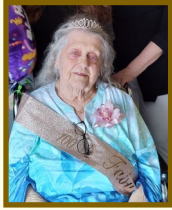
Bill was born on April 5, 1923 in Montana. He currently resides in Bridger, Mont.



Kathryn Waters 100 Years Old on Dec. 21st

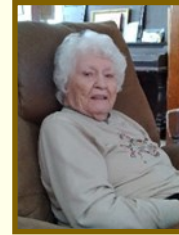
Kathryn "Katy" Waters, born on December 21, 1923, in Froid, Mont. She attributes her longevity to maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle, as well as keeping herself occupied with work, which left little time for getting into trouble. A few of the most significant and cherished events in Katy's life was the birth of her children and traveling to Scotland. Katy's favorite quote, "you get what you get and you don't throw a fit," reflects a pragmatic and accepting outlook on life. It emphasizes the importance of being content with what comes your way and not complaining about it.





Edna Hamrell 100 Years Old

Edna Hamrell was born on May 13, 1923, in Great Falls, Mont. Edna's marriage to John Hamrell in 1941 marked the beginning of a lifelong partnership, and together they raised five children. Edna worked as a nurses' aide, a profession that involves providing essential care and assistance to patients in healthcare settings. Edna states her secret to longevity is "clean living." Her favorite quote, "Que, Sera', Sera', what will be, will be," reflects a sense of acceptance and a belief in destiny. Edna's passion for travel, having explored many different states and experienced the diversity of the country, shows she has an adventurous spirit and a love for new experiences. Lastly, it's remarkable that Edna Hamrell still resides only three blocks from her place of birth.



Louise Edwards 101 Years Old

Louise (Soderquist) Edwards was born on March 17, 1922, in Hobson, Mont. She was the oldest of four children. After graduating from Hobson High School, she left for the state of Washington to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher. During World War II, she paid for her college education by welding ships. Upon completing college, Louise returned to Montana and began her teaching career in Lodge Grass and Buffalo. Subsequently, she moved to Judith Gap, where she continued teaching while earning her master's degrees from Eastern Montana College in Billings during the summers. Her commitment to education spanned 38 years before retiring from teaching. She was married to John Hajenga for over 25 years and had four children with him. John passed away in 1977. Later, Louise married her high school sweetheart, Vern Edwards, and they settled in Bozeman. In her retirement years, Louise remained actively engaged in her community. She dedicated significant time to the senior center in Bozeman, contributing over 10,000 hours of community service to the city. Additionally, she used her skills and talents to make newborn hats for the hospital, showing her caring and compassionate nature. Louise's journey showcases her resilience, generosity, and lifelong commitment to education and community service.



Berytle O'Connor 106 Years Old

Berytle, or "Blackie," was born on December 14, 1916. Her dedication to playing the piano and her strong work ethic are admirable qualities that likely contributed to her ability to take care of herself for most of her life. Berytle stated the best thing in her life was her mother.



Nelson Seeley 102 Years Old

Nelson was born on June 4, 1921, in Chalk Butte, S. Dak. He faced challenges at a young age, losing his father and having to start working early to support his family. Despite these difficulties, he persevered and pursued education and a successful career. His love story with Eva began during his time in Chicago, and they got married before he went off to serve in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Nelson's service overseas in Iwo Jima and Saipan highlights his dedication to his country during a crucial period in history. After the war, Nelson achieved great success, earning both a CPA and law Degree. He eventually became the Director of the IRS in Montana, which led him and his family to settle in Helena in 1958. Nelson's involvement in various community activities, such as becoming the head of the United Way campaign and being part of the U of M Grizzly Riders, showcases his commitment to giving back and helping others. His love for sports, especially Carroll basketball and golf, has remained with him throughout his life. He still attended Carroll basketball home games and enjoyed playing golf until he was 98. The fact that the Green Meadow County Club fitness center was named after him is a testament to his dedication to staying active and healthy. Not only has Nelson been a hard worker and dedicated to his career and community, but he also has a philanthropic spirit. He established endowed scholarships for several educational institutions, including Baker High School, Jefferson High School, Mariah's Challenge, and Carroll College, demonstrating his belief in the importance of education for everyone. Additionally, Nelson's adventurous spirit shone through when he had the opportunity to make a dream flight in Bozeman in 2021. Flying in a Boeing Stearman biplane, the same type of aircraft he trained in during World War II, was a memorable and symbolic experience for him.



Peter Cladouhos 100 Years Old on Oct. 25th

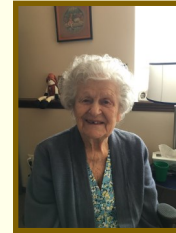
Peter Cladouhos was born on October 2, 1923, in Great Falls, Mont. He served as an Army Infantry Medic during World War II in Saipan. Despite being hit by a bullet in the back of his shoulder, which miraculously entered backward and only penetrated about 1/4 of an inch, not causing much damage, the impact knocked him to the ground. Peter had numerous close calls during the war and often reflects on his comrades who sang their favorite songs with him in fortification bunkers. He wonders if any of them are celebrating their 100th birthdays. One of Peter's favorite quotes is, "You always have to be different." He learned how to make candies from his uncle, who was a candy maker, but Peter always had his unique way of doing things, always striving to be different. Peter attributes his longevity to enjoying music, nature, and a whole lot of luck.





Homer Christensen 101 Years Old

Homer Christensen was born on August 28, 1922, in Grass Range, Mont, in a log cabin on his grandparents' ranch. After graduating from Great Falls High School, he wasted no time and started working for Gerbers of Montana the following Monday, where he would spend an impressive 50 years of his life. During World War II, Homer served in the Army Air Corps. He was stationed in Florida, and Cucaracha, India, where he participated in the Burma campaign. In addition to his professional career and military service, Homer had a passion for antique cars. He was a member of an antique car club and even held the position of President in the club for a period. His love for old cars extended to restoring vehicles that were at least 30 years old. Another remarkable aspect of Homer's life was his involvement in cross-country tours with fellow club members. These tours would have allowed him to explore different parts of the country while enjoying his passion for antique cars. One of Homer's proudest accomplishments was his family. He successfully raised a son and a daughter and supported them through their college education. Additionally, Homer's skills extended to construction, as he built three houses entirely by himself.



Eva Seeley 100 Years Old

Eva was born on June 21, 1923, in Chicago, Ill. She grew up in a family with two siblings. Eva worked as a secretary in the Chrysler Building before the war, showcasing her skills and dedication in her professional life. In 1943, Eva met Nelson Seeley, and they got married before Nelson was deployed for war. Despite the limited time, Eva managed to put together a wedding in just six days, with the help of friends and family who donated their ration cards for a special wedding dinner. Due to Eva's diligent saving from her secretarial job, she and Nelson were able to make a down payment on their first home. They moved to Helena, MT in 1958 when Nelson became the Director of the IRS for Montana. Eva joined the secretarial pool for the legislature in Montana during the 60s and early 70s, further showcasing her work ethic and skills. Eva was a famous cook known for making family dinners and dinner parties for friends delightful. Her favorite quote, "of course you must stay for dinner," reflects her generous and hospitable nature, always willing to welcome others with open arms. She enjoyed playing in three bridge clubs, one of which she belonged to for 52 years. Eva had a love for travel and organized trips, leading a group of 30 Montanans to Ireland and England as the head of the Friendship Force, promoting international understanding and goodwill. Recently, Eva and Nelson celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary, a testament to their enduring love and commitment to each other.



Louis Ventrell 102 Years Old

Louis Ventrell was born on July 7, 1921, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He joined the Air Force and eventually met a woman from Montana. They fell in love, got married, and decided to move to Montana. Louis attributes his longevity to a rather unconventional secret – eating a lot of frozen TV dinners.



Armina Joos 100 Years Old

Armina Fandrich was born on September 21, 1923, in Miles City, Mont. She was the only girl among five siblings and graduated from Miles City High School. Armina's college journey began in her hometown before she attended Montana State University-Billings, known then as Eastern Montana Normal School. In 1941, Armina met Arthur Joos, and they got married the following year in Miles City. During World War II, when Arthur was drafted into the Navy, the couple moved to Washington state and experienced several relocations due to his military service. While in San Diego and Portland, Armina worked in shipyards. Once Arthur was discharged from the Navy, Armina pursued her teaching degree at the University of Washington. Following her mother's footsteps, she became an elementary school teacher and devoted several years to this profession. Throughout their lives, both Armina and Arthur shared a deep love for music, and Armina expressed her passion through singing, recording songs, and creating albums in various formats, including records, tapes, and CDs. In Washington, the couple even established their music business, Joos Music. However, they later moved the business to Bozeman when they semi-retired in 1966. Despite semi-retirement, Armina's passion for music never waned. In fact, a few years back, she was featured in the Bozeman Chronicle for her involvement in playing the bass guitar at the cowboy church. Her dedication to music is evident as she continues to play every Thursday to this day. Armina also has a strong and unwavering belief in Jesus Christ, which has been a central part of her life. Her favorite quote, "I'm old. I've earned it," reflects her perspective on life, appreciating the experiences and wisdom that come with age.



John "Bob" Nauck 100 Years Old

John R. "Bob" Nauck was born on September 20, 1923, in Simms, Mont. In 1941, Bob completed his education at Simms and was drafted into World War II in 1942. For the initial three years of his military service, he served diligently within the Army Medical Corps at Fort Irwin, Calif. Later, he was reassigned to a special unit known as the medical hospital ship platoon. Bob's duties took him overseas on troop vessels, where he helped transport wounded soldiers back to the United States, with the Army's medical team providing care during the journeys. Bob went on five trips to Glasgow, Scotland on a transport vessel named Queen Mary. He had the opportunity to visit a family friend in Scotland, someone his mother had maintained correspondence with since her immigration to the U.S. in 1910. This visit brought immense joy to Bob, knowing that his mother would be delighted to hear about it. Following the war, Bob pursued higher education at Montana State College in Bozeman and achieved his degree in 1949. In December 1952, he entered a new chapter in his life, marrying Thelma, and together, they welcomed two children into their family. Beyond his family life, Bob developed a deep passion for fly fishing and spent countless hours with his friends on float tubes in local ponds and the lakes of the Blackfoot Indian Reservation. On June 1, 1950, he became a proud member of the Lions Club, a commitment that has made him the longest-serving member in the club's history since its charter in 1927. Bob firmly believes in the importance of being an active and dedicated citizen, serving one's community with pride. Even today, from his room in the extended care section of the Chateau Hospital, Bob continues to contribute to the community as a Lions Club member, occasionally attending meetings outside the hospital. When asked about the secret to his remarkable longevity, Bob attributes it to his unwavering commitment to staying active and maintaining good health. He faithfully rides a stationary bike, covering two miles each day, five days a week.



Josephine Duffey 101 Years Old

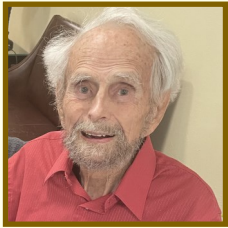
Josephine Duffey was born on September 16, 1922, in Long Island, N.Y. She went on to serve in the military during World War II. She spent three years as a Sergeant in the General's Office of the Army Logistics for the Army Air Corps, which later became part of the Air Force, stationed in Malden, Mo. Her service during this pivotal time in history was a significant and memorable part of her life. After the war, Josephine made a move to Montana in 1949 and pursued a degree in Accounting. She put her accounting skills to use by becoming the Accountant and Office Manager for Hertz in Great Falls. Josephine was not just focused on her career; she was also an avid outdoors enthusiast who relishes the natural beauty of Montana. Her favorite activities included hunting, hiking, golfing, and camping, allowing her to make the most of the scenic landscapes and recreational opportunities that the state had to offer. However, two of the most remarkable aspects of Josephine's life were her military service and the success of her two children. Her daughter's achievement as a college professor and her son's role as the CEO and part owner of multiple national and international companies have been a source of great pride and happiness for her. In addition to her career and family accomplishments, Josephine is deeply rooted in her faith. She was one of the founding women of her church in Great Falls more than 70 years ago, underscoring her strong religious convictions and her commitment to her community.



Lorraine Blank 100 Years Old

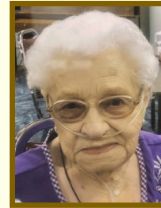
Lorraine (Ullman) Blank was born on April 29, 1923, in Glendive, Mont., where she was raised as one of five siblings. After graduating from Glendive High School in 1940, she embarked on a journey that would see her contribute significantly to the World War II effort. Her journey took her to Seattle, where she installed fuel lines in B-17 bombers. Her work contributed directly to the aviation and defense industries, supporting the efforts of the United States during the war. Lorraine's patriotism and dedication led her to proudly join the Navy as a First Class Seaman during World War II. She served with honor and distinction for three years, contributing her skills and efforts to the service of her country. In 1950, Lorraine married Lloyd Blank, and, together, they shared a loving partnership for 25 years until his passing. Afterward, she faced the challenge of raising four children on her own, a testament to her strength and resilience. Lorraine's commitment to an active and healthy lifestyle is truly inspiring. Engaging in activities like yoga and water aerobics, up until the age of 88, demonstrated her determination to lead a fulfilling and vibrant life. Her favorite quote, "If someone asks you to go somewhere, go!" reflects her adventurous spirit and willingness to embrace new opportunities and experiences. Lorraine's deep sense of commitment to her country's service members was evident through her participation in the Honor Flight, where she was rightfully recognized for her contributions during the war. This recognition held significant emotional value for her, showcasing the pride she felt for her service and her country.





Paul von Reichert 102 Years Old

Paul was born in Greenville, Texas. He grew up with a half-sister, but the neighborhood kids were more like his brothers and sisters. His childhood was marked by his involvement with raising baby chicks, a venture he managed from the age of 10 until his high school graduation. He ordered these chicks through Sears and Roebuck and nurtured them to sell as friers to local women and grocery stores. With the earnings from his chicken business, Paul managed to have a rowboat built, which he used to venture out to an oyster reef with his friend Junior. They would thong for oysters to sell, keeping some to eat for themselves and enjoy the fruits of their labor. This endeavor allowed Paul to have some financial independence during his early years. When the United States entered World War II following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Paul joined the Navy. He was assigned to a destroyer in the Pacific theater, specifically participating in battles near Alaska's Dutch Harbor. His unit was saved by the thick fog that provided cover during the battle. The conditions were intense, with the fog and rough seas making the fight even more challenging. Paul served in the Navy throughout the entirety of World War II, from 1941 to 1945. After the war, he had two daughters from a previous relationship. He later met the love of his life, Christiane, whom he married in 1985. The couple moved to Missoula, Mont, in 1992 when Christiane accepted a faculty position at the University of Montana. Paul's love for life and people, and his curiosity about the world led him to travel extensively, exploring various places around the globe. He attributes his longevity to good genetics and having eventually married the right person. His favorite quote, "The price is the same," reflects his perspective on how life's value depends on one's perception.



Virginia Olson 101 Years Old

Virginia Olson was born on October 10, 1921, in Wales, North Dakota. She completed her education through the 8th grade which was considered normal at the time for girls. Virginia's life took an interesting turn when she visited an aunt and uncle in Portland, Oregon. Through a friend in North Dakota, she was able to secure a job in the shipyards, which were highly sought-after positions at the time. It was during this period that she met her future husband, Walter Olson, at a Chamber of Commerce dance. However, their budding romance faced a temporary separation when Walter had to leave for the war. Fortunately, after his return, they reunited and decided to tie the knot on April 28, 1947. Walter's father, Elis Olson, asked Virginia and Walter to return to the family ranch in Warrick, Mont. They spent many happy years there, raising four children together. Throughout her life, Virginia had a love for various activities, such as playing Pinochle and Bingo. She also enjoyed fishing and was an avid crocheter. Virginia considers the most amazing part of her life to be her marriage to Walter. In terms of her approach to longevity, Virginia emphasizes the importance of a good diet, including wholesome garden foods and Montana beef. Her favorite quote, "just live a good, clean life," reflects her simple and positive outlook on life. Even in her later years, Virginia remains active and engaged in her community. She regularly attends the Chinook Senior Center on Thursdays for lunch, visiting with friends, and playing Bingo. The staff at the center notes that she always wears a smile and brings joy to those around her.



Edith Bilger 100 Years Old on Dec. 20th

Edith was born on December 20, 1923, in Missoula, Mont. In 1948, she married William Bilger Jr., and their marriage was a source of happiness until William's passing in 2018. One of Edith's keys to a long and fulfilling life is her dedication to hard work on the farm. Beyond her agricultural efforts, Edith's creative talents shine through her beautiful embroidery and needlework.



Jessica Zemsky 100 Years Old

Jessica Zemsky was born on July 26, 1923, in New York. Her passion for art began at a young age, as she knew from the age of 7 that she wanted to pursue a career in the arts. She honed her skills and creativity at the Pratt Art Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y., where she received formal training and developed her artistic abilities. Jessica moved to Big Timber, Mont., to be with Jack Hines, whom she had known in New York. The two of them got married, and together they embarked on successful careers in the art world. Their artistic endeavors included paintings, art instruction books, cars, and prints created during their travels across the United States and around the world. Their collaboration in the world of art demonstrates their shared passion for creativity and exploration. One of Jessica's notable talents as an artist is her unique ability to connect deeply with her painting subjects. Her portraits were not just visual representations; they also captured the essence and personality of the individuals she painted. This skill allowed her to establish meaningful connections with people of all ages, turning her subjects and collectors into friends. In addition to her artistic pursuits, Jessica also played significant roles as a wife, homemaker, mother, and grandmother. Her dedication to her family and her art showcases her multi-faceted talents and responsibilities. Jessica has a zest for life, with a motto that every day is the best day of her life and a thirst for new experiences. Even at the age of 100, she continues to engage with people, learn new things, enjoy delicious food, and make the most of every experience.



Elmer Zoeteman 100 Years Old on Oct. 22nd

Elmer Zoeteman was born on October 22, 1923 in Wyoming. He moved to Montana when he took a job for a mining company in Stillwater. The most amazing event in his life is when he proposed to his wife in 1951. He says the secret to longevity is living a clean life, but it is hard when people pass away.



Mazie Squires 101 Years Old

Mazie Lanham Squires was born in Oregon on December 9, 1921. She played a significant role in World War II as a "Rosie the Riveter" at Douglas Aircraft. Mazie then became the first woman to drive a UPS package car in May 1943. At the time, men who drove for UPS were referred to as the "Brown Buddies." The women became known as the "Brown Betties." Mazie started the trend of women drivers for UPS with other women drivers soon to follow. Mazie's choice to stay in Montana after visiting her daughter, along with her dedication to square dancing as a way to maintain her health and longevity showcase the importance of community, physical activity, and a positive outlook on life.



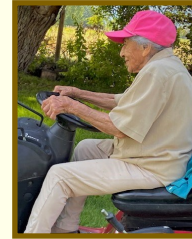
Myrtle Hould 100 Years Old

Myrtle Hould was born on August 8, 1923, in Lawrairie, Mont, and was instilled with important values from a young age, such as being loving, honest, kind, fair, and tidy. Her favorite quote, "Do unto to others as you would have them do unto you," underscores her belief in treating others with respect and empathy. One of the most cherished aspects of Myrtle's life is her relationship with her beautiful grandchildren. Their presence brings her immense joy and likely serves as a testament to the importance of family in her life. Her friends also hold a special place in her heart, as they contribute to her personal growth and well-being. Myrtle's approach to longevity involves a combination of hard work and a disciplined daily routine. Myrtle has always followed the adage, "early to bed, early to rise" suggesting a commitment to maintaining a healthy lifestyle by ensuring sufficient sleep and starting the day with energy.



Pearl Swank 100 Years Old on Oct. 19th

Pearl (Pedersen) Swank was born on October 19, 1923, in Conger, Minn. She was one of five siblings. Her family moved to Montana when she was just five years old, and she grew up attending schools in Circle and Malta. She completed her education at Malta High School. Pearl's determination to pursue higher education was supported by her brother, who promised to help pay for her college expenses. She attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn, and earned a teaching degree. Following her college years, Pearl embarked on a career teaching Home Economics at various high schools in Montana. Her dedication and hard work even allowed her to repay her brother every penny he had contributed to her education. In 1952, Pearl married Eugene Swank, and together they became parents to four children. Beyond her teaching career and family responsibilities, Pearl was also involved in the community, particularly in teaching sewing for the 4-H program. Her passion for sewing extended to creating numerous quilts and quilt tops, showcasing her creativity and skill. Remarkably, even as she approaches the age of 100, Pearl's enthusiasm for sewing persists. She continues to sew quilt tops for blankets, producing two or three every week. Pearl's longevity has often been attributed to her healthy lifestyle, which includes cultivating her own homegrown vegetables in her gardens. Her commitment to nurturing her garden likely contributed to her overall well-being. Her favorite quotes, "With winter done and spring begun, my autumn work is almost done" and "Old quilters never die, they just go to pieces," reflect her wisdom, humor, and the way she approaches life.



Donna Maria Gonzalez Gandara 107 Years Old

Donna Maria Gonzalez Gandara was born in El Gran Janal, Michoacan, Mexico, on September 7, 1916. She grew up as one of 10 siblings. Her family immigrated to the United States, first to New Mexico and then to Bell Flower, Calif. (now Los Angeles), where her parents worked as migrant farmers. Despite the challenges of moving and working as laborers, Donna Maria and her siblings attended school in California. In the winter of 1929, her family embarked on a journey, by train, to the Bitterroot Valley, in Montana, to work in the sugar beet fields as laborers. The harsh Montana winters presented challenges, but the kindness of their supervisor, who provided blankets and rubber boots, left a lasting impression on Donna Maria's family. Settling in Stevensville, Mont., at the age of 12, Donna Maria faced adversity, including teasing and bullying at school, but she continued her education until eighth grade. At the age of 18 in 1935, Donna Maria snuck away from the dinner table, supposedly to visit the outhouse, and ran through a field to meet her fiancé, James Gandara, in order to elope. They were married in Wallace, Idaho, and soon returned to the Bitterroot Valley where they lived the first few months in an old smoke house. Donna Maria and James raised six children while working as farm laborers during the 30s and 40s. Around 1950, they leased land from the Bitterroot Stock Farm and eventually purchased their own farm in Corvallis in the spring of 1963. They diversified their farming operations, raising grain, hay, cattle, and pigs, and running a dairy. Donna Maria's love for music is evident as she enjoys singing hymns in Spanish and Mexican folk songs. She has been very active in her life, even, remarkably, climbing St. Mary's Mountain (9,351 ft. elevation) with family members at the age of 92. Her active lifestyle continues even as she ages, with her driving and cutting grass on a riding lawn mower, even at the age of 107. Her secret to longevity, she believes, is a positive and humble attitude, a strong faith in God, hard work, and having a big heart. Donna Maria also emphasizes the importance of education, believing that it empowers individuals to take care of themselves in the future.



Leo Pattison 100 Years Old

Leo Pattison was born on January 12, 1923, in Glasgow, Mont. He played one season of football for the Montana Grizzlies. He took care of the team's laundry and slept in the locker room. However, he decided not to continue playing football because he declined the coach's requirement to attend school. In his 20s, Leo survived a serious car accident that resulted in a broken back. Despite the initial prognosis that he might never walk again, he made a remarkable recovery and was able to lead a full life. During World War II, he served in the military and was stationed at Bataan in the Philippines. Longevity runs in Leo's family with his father living to be 104.



Gloria Taylor 105 Years Old

Gloria Taylor was born on October 2, 1918, in Malta, Mont. Throughout her life, she has witnessed and experienced numerous events, but two stand out as particularly amazing to her. The first is the day her son returned home from his service in the Vietnam War. The second is her 100th birthday celebration in 2018, surrounded by her loving family. Gloria's character is marked by her selflessness and caring nature. She has dedicated herself to caring for others, often putting their needs before her own. Her generosity, kindness, and love have made her a beloved figure among her family and those who know her. Despite the passage of time, Gloria has shown remarkable resilience, outliving most of her immediate family members. She stands as the sole surviving sibling in her family. One of Gloria's endearing qualities is her favorite saying, "I love you. You're so pretty." This saying not only reflects her deep affection for others, but also highlights her ability to find beauty and positivity in those around her.



Jean Livermont 102 Years Old

Jean Livermont was born on December 7, 1920, in Bloomfield, Neb. One of her most cherished memories is from her teenage years, when she worked at Mount Rushmore while it was being carved. Her connection to the project was through her brother, who assisted the sculptor Gutzon Borglum during the initial phases of the carving. Jean, on the other hand, worked at the cafe located below the worksite and resided in a cabin nearby. Jean got married at the age of 21 to a South Dakota cattle rancher and went on to raise a family of five children. Her family continued to grow, with 11 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and even six great-great-grandchildren. Outside of her family life, Jean has a passion for playing bingo and was actively involved in her church until she left her home at the age of 94. Jean made a 700-mile road trip from Rapid City, S.D., to Dillon, Mont., riding in her son's convertible. Her motivation for this journey was to be closer to her daughter. Despite her age, Jean has embraced technology and enjoyed witnessing her family's growth through the social media platform Facebook. She also engages in virtual conversations with her family using FaceTime, marveling at how this technology allows her to connect with loved ones.



Isabel Prowse 100 Years Old

Isabel Prowse was born on October 1, 1922, in Butte, Mont., at Deaconess Hospital. Her father's hospital bill of \$7.20 for a 10-day stay for her birth provides a glimpse into historical healthcare practices. Isabel attributes her longevity to clean living. One of the most remarkable moments in her life was her 100th birthday party, where she celebrated with all 24 members of her family. Her favorite quote, "God bless us," reflects a sense of gratitude and well-wishing, indicating her positive outlook on life and her appreciation for God.



Shirley Lincoln 100 Years Old on Dec. 29th

Shirley Lincoln was born on December 29, 1923, in Missoula, Mont. She attended and graduated from high school there. Later on, while living in Sacramento, Calif. she pursued a career and attended nursing school, eventually obtaining her LPN license. She put her nursing skills to use at Mercy San Juan Medical Center in Sacramento. However, after some years in the nursing field, Shirley decided to transition from her career and focus on being a housewife. Her passion for cooking and baking, particularly pies, became a notable aspect of her life. It's clear that she has a specific preference when it comes to enjoying her pies – she insists on having vanilla ice cream with them. Shirley's attitude toward her longevity is rooted in her faith. She attributes her long life to "the Good Lord." Shirley says the most amazing event in her life is living to 100 and seeing all the world changes.



Alton Sept 100 Years Old

Alton Sept was born on May 3, 1923, in Twin Falls, Idaho. After serving in World War II, he embarked on a career as an electrical engineer working for the federal government on the Fort Peck project. During his career, he had the opportunity to work on engineering projects around the world. One of the aspects of Montana that left a lasting impression on Alton was the quality of hunting and fishing available in the state, particularly in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Alton attributes his longevity to making significant lifestyle changes in 1963, when he quit smoking and drinking. He also emphasizes the importance of education and hard work. Alton believes that studying hard in school can lead to good grades, which, in turn, can open doors for attending college and achieving great accomplishments later in life. Furthermore, Alton advises individuals to save money for their later years, as it helps ensure financial security and comfort. during retirement.



Jim Espy 100 Years Old

Jim Espy was born in El Paso, Texas., on August 12, 1923. He was exposed to ranch life from a very young age, even being set on a horse as a form of babysitting by his mother. Growing up during the Great Depression, he witnessed the challenges his family faced, such as selling calves for very low prices. After graduating from high school at the young age of 16, Jim embarked on a career in ranching. He worked for various family members, including his uncle Joe Espy, who managed a substantial ranch in California. Jim took on significant responsibilities at a young age, managing thousands of heads of steer and handling the hiring and firing of ranch help. In 1944, Jim married Nancy, and they went on to have five children. As they started a family, Jim realized that ranching alone wouldn't provide enough income, leading him to work for his uncle in El Paso. However, he didn't stop there. With his brother Joe, Jim ventured into the construction business, buying machinery and establishing their own construction company. In 1955, Jim and Nancy purchased a ranch in Carter County, Mont. demonstrating their enduring commitment to ranching. They were not just ranchers; they were also deeply involved in their community, participating in 4-H and developing interests in roping and later in life, golf. Their contributions to the community were substantial, and in 1970, they initiated the Espy Team Roping event, which grew to become one of the largest team roping events in the Northwest during the 70s and 80s. Their dedication and contributions to their local and state communities earned them a place in the Montana Cowboy/Cowgirl Hall of Fame. Jim and Nancy's love and partnership were remarkable, lasting for an impressive 76 years until Nancy's passing. His favorite quote, "Working cattle is easy if you don't get in a hurry," embodies the patient and methodical approach he applied to both ranching and to life in general.





Inez Pounds 101 Years Old

Inez was born on September 8, 1922, in Charlo, Mont, and graduated from Charlo High School. Inez married Elmer Freshour on August 20, 1942, and they were married for an impressive 52 years. After Elmer's passing, she married Carl Pounds in 2000, and they were together for 11 years. Inez has three children. She dedicated herself to being a homemaker while actively engaging in various community service activities. Her secret to her long life revolves around factors like inheritance, maintaining a healthy diet, cherishing family bonds, fostering love, upholding faith, and finding happiness in life. One particularly remarkable aspect of her life is her close connection to her birthplace. Inez expressed her amazement at having lived her entire life within a mere 10 miles of her birthplace. In her later years, Inez made the decision to move into a house with five sisters when she was 90 years old. This experience has been described as wonderful, with a harmonious living arrangement where everyone contributed and supported each other. The ability to get along and share love within the household was a significant source of happiness for Inez.



Esther Brosseau 100 Years Old

Esther Brosseau was born on March 25, 1923, in Plentywood, Mont. She faced and survived the challenges of polio as a very young child. Esther greatly appreciates the strides made in public health to eliminate such diseases. Esther's attributes her longevity to her commitment to clean living and avoiding drinking and drugs. Esther finds inspiration in the wisdom of Abraham Lincoln, particularly in his quote, "No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar." This quote speaks to the importance of honesty and integrity in one's character, values that Esther cherishes in her own life.



Leonard Odenbach 100 Years Old

Leonard Odenbach was born on August 8, 1923, in Bonesteel, S. Dak. During the difficult times of the 30s, his family faced challenges, prompting his uncle from Montana to come and assist them in moving to Montana. One of the most remarkable events in Leonard's life was his experience working on his sugar beet farm, where he had the chance to fall in love with a "dryland girl". Leonard attributes his longevity to two key factors: his wife and hard work. His favorite quote, "love is patient, love is kind," reflects his appreciation for the values of patience and kindness in relationships, which is a sentiment that many people can relate to. Leonard has been an active member of his community, working to bring positive changes to the area. His involvement in community activities and efforts to make a difference demonstrate his commitment to improving the lives of those around him.



Victor Heinitz 100 Years Old

Victor Heinitz was born on April 2, 1923, in Fowler, Colo. He moved to Helena with his family when he was 6 years old. After graduating from high school, Victor joined the Air Force. On November 22, 1947, Victor married Norma, and together they adopted all four of their children. The whole family embarked on a mission together that lasted 18 months. Their family also enjoyed tent camping. Victor's career was marked by dedication and longevity. He worked as a station manager for Western Airlines in Butte for an impressive 40 years. Aside from his professional life, Victor had a musical talent and enjoyed playing the harmonica. His favorite songs to play, "You Are My Sunshine" and "She'll Be Coming Around the Mountain," brought joy to those who heard him play. Victor is described as a good person who loves his fellow man and has consistently made good choices throughout his life. His favorite quote is singing the song "Pennies From Heaven."