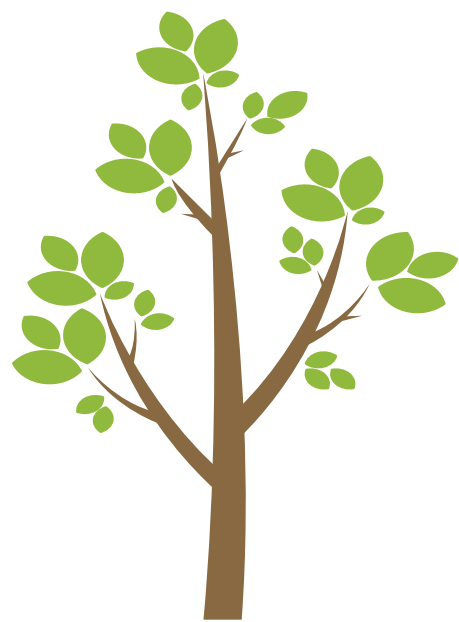


Community CHRONICLES



Never out of fashion

Atwell celebrates 108th birthday

By **JENNIFER MOONSONG**
Jobe Publishing Regional Features

Lora Webb Atwell, who turned 108 years old last week, is still sharp, outspoken, and concerned with fashion. She celebrated the occasion in the warmth of friends and family at NHC where she resides.



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Jobe Publishing Features

"I see more people here than I expected, I see people I didn't expect to see," she commented.

Born in 1910, the widow, retired Sunday School teacher and mother to one son - who is now 85 - has lived through countless changes in the world. During her lifetime, the Titanic sank, she lived through both World Wars, the Great Depression, and saw fads such as the color television come into existence.

Atwell's son, Jimmy, says that no matter what changing times have brought, his mother's personality trait of not being prone to worry about the world's dramatic changes has contributed to her longevity.

"One thing I remember her saying in Sunday School was that a lot of people take their troubles to the Lord, but they go back later and pick them up," he recalled. "She left her worries with the Lord."

Many family members, including her nephew Bobby, shared memories and sentiments about her.

"She is like my second mother," Bobby explained.

Bobby's own mother, Lora's sister Lily, lived to be 102. Until the two sisters were both well into their 90s, they would go on long shopping expeditions together.

"They would leave in the morning, drive themselves, and be gone all day. They'd look at everything in the store," Bobby recalled.

Bobby describes his Aunt Lora's demeanor as jovial and easy going, but added that she was always ready to share her opinion. "If you don't want to know her honest answer, don't ask her" he said, laughing.

Until only a few years ago, Lora lived alone and cooked all of her own meals. Her fierce indepen-



Lora at her 108th birthday celebration.

dence is still evident.

Many might think that a lady who has survived eight years beyond the mighty milestone of 100 years wouldn't be interested in things like fashion anymore, but it isn't so.

"She likes clothes and likes getting dressed up," said Jimmy. "But she says she doesn't want anything that looks like an old woman would wear it. Shoes, too. She loves them, but she doesn't want to wear old woman shoes."

At 108, Lora Atwell is the oldest living woman in the region.

Word from the writer: I believe every person and place has at least one story in them, and I love helping them share their stories in their own words, with the people of South Central Kentucky. If you have or know someone who has a story to share in Metcalfe or Monroe counties, please email me at jupitermoonsong@yahoo.com



Lora, a friend, and her son Jimmy open gifts.

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