

OurCommunity

Posey County woman turns 102

Ashworth recalls a century of history

By Kelsey Schapker

Imagine living to the age of 102 and experiencing the development of electricity, automobiles, the internet, air conditioning and more. Posey County resident Augusta Ashworth has done just that as she celebrated her 102nd birthday on June 17 with family and friends.

"I'm not as young as I used to be," Ashworth laughed and said.

Born in 1914 in Perry County, Ind., her family migrated to Posey County by a horse and wagon. Ashworth has seven other brothers and sisters and said her favorite memory as a child was popping popcorn over a stove-fire with her siblings. She graduated from the eighth grade with high honors from St. Matthews; instead of attending high school when she turned 15, she decided to work at the overall factory located on Main Street.

"I started out by putting the bib pocket on the overalls. A lot of women worked there. I worked my way up and eventually was one of the women who used scissors to cut the excess thread off of the overalls."

Her family did not purchase their first automobile until the 1920s, so Ashworth would catch a ride with a neighbor who owned a vehicle in order to get to work.

Ashworth married her husband, Wilber, in 1936. The two lived in Mount Vernon where they raised their three children, Melba Jean, Jerry and Thomas. Wilber and Ashworth were married for 46 years before Wilber passed away. Ashworth said some of her favorite memories are raising her children, dancing every Saturday night at the Eagles Club with her husband and traveling to Florida and California.

"I loved to dance with Wilber. We could really dance. I still enjoy spending time with my family."

Ashworth was a farm wife and took care of a garden as well as pigs and chickens. She said she also made her own clothes, as well as her children's clothes.

"I had to learn to be a farm wife. I was used to rough stuff. I would bring the boys lunch while they worked on the farm. We

lived on a dirt road because the highway didn't exist yet, so when it would rain, we would have to try to get back to the house."

Ashworth said she remembers lighting a kerosene lamp at night and reading books by the lamp when her children went to bed as she loved to read. Her favorite color is pink and she used to enjoy crochet and making quilts.

The biggest change from 1914 to 2016, Ashworth said, is that everything is completed by machine.

When asked what is her secret to living to age 102 Ashworth said she was a worker. "Well I didn't know I was going to live this long. My husband used to say that I am tougher than a pine knot. I never sat down, I worked and stayed busy."

Ashworth kept her driver's license until she was 98, and during her lifetime she was actively involved in Blacks Chapel Church and the Grafton Community Club. She said she enjoyed babysitting her grandkids and all the grandbabies slept in a family baby bed.

Her daughter-in-law, Becky Ashworth, described



Democrat photo by Kelsey Schapker

Augusta Ashworth celebrated her 102nd birthday with her family and friends and enjoyed cake, ice cream and punch.

the family's favorite story of Augusta.

"She was about 94-years-old when she went out one night to water her flowers. She stepped off the edge of the sidewalk, fell and broke her hip. She dragged herself around to the backdoor on the sidewalk but she could not reach up to grab a hold of the door handle, so she laid outside all night. She laid out there until about 4 p.m. the next day. Her son

had just been there the day before to check on her, so when he came back the next day, he found her lying on the sidewalk. She would always tell everyone her asked her about it, "Well it was a beautiful night. The moon and the stars were shining bright." She went to rehab and then went back home afterwards. We always tell the story because she wasn't upset about it, she said she enjoyed laying

there looking at the stars and the moon."

Ashworth recently received a letter from Michelle Obama at The White House wishing her a Happy Birthday.

Ashworth has seven grandkids and eight great-grandkids.

Recipient of Elizabeth D. Baier Youth Spirit Award announced

Isaac Mayer, a student at North Posey Senior High School, has been selected as the recipient of the Elizabeth D. Baier Youth Spirit Award for 2016. The Award, in the amount of \$500, is given annually to a high school junior who resides in Posey County and who is involved in community activities in Posey County. Isaac is the son of Barbara and Joseph Mayer and is involved as a volunteer and leader in many school, community, and church activities. He says that coaching in Special Olympics is the most important thing in his life in which he is involved. Isaac has been a volunteer and leader for Special Olympics for the past two years and has encouraged and inspired others to get involved. He has participated in many Special Olympics games and tournaments and organized a game in his

own community. In addition to his involvement in Special Olympics, he also coaches Little Kids Football. He said he tries to be a good role model for younger kids.

Isaac also participates in 4-H, is a member of National Honor Society, and participates in both football and track, receiving honors in both sports.

Isaac plans to attend college after high school and would like to become a teacher/coach.

The Elizabeth D. Baier Youth Spirit Award will be presented to Isaac at the United Way of Posey County Leadership Giving Recognition Dinner on August 24, 2016. The Elizabeth D. Baier Youth Spirit Award was created in September 2007 in honor of Elizabeth D. Baier's 25th Anniversary as Executive Director of the United Way of Posey County. Michelle Hudson, chairperson of the selection committee, said, "The United Way of Posey County wanted to recognize Elizabeth for her service to the United Way, but we also wanted to honor her for her many years of leadership,



Mayer

community involvement, and volunteer services to Posey County. An award recognizing exemplary volunteerism by young people had been a dream of Elizabeth's for many years, so the creation of the Youth Spirit Award in her name seemed to be the perfect way to honor her."

For more information regarding the Award or the United Way's Leadership Giving Program, please call 838-3637 or email uwposey@sbcglobal.net or visit the United Way of Posey County website at UnitedWayPoseyCounty.org.



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