

105 and going strong

August 5, 2023



July 29, 1918 Marjorie Mitchell was born in Long Beach, California; nothing too unusual about that vital statistic...but to recognize and honor Marge's 105th birthday, well... that's quite spectacular. Marjorie's family was present at Tsunami Lanes for this momentous occasion, last Saturday.

To experience this super centenarian's status is quite amazing. No assisted walker for this special lady. Marge is a healthy, vibrant super centenarian who lives in truly rarified air. In the United States, a country of 338 million, just 10,946 folks, about 85 percent female, have reached 105 years of age. That's one in every 300,000 folks.

Marjorie Mitchell came to Crescent City in 1945 with husband / engineer Jack Pedersen. Jack worked on the construction of the Randolph Collier Tunnel in the early 1960s.

Octogenerian daughter Joanne Pedersen was born first. Joanne lives in Pasadena and couldn't make the trip north. Son Larry was born in 1947 and a current Hornbeck, California resident was also not able to help his mom celebrate her birthday. On hand to recognize her extraordinary day were the Crescent Fire Protection District, Del Norte Sheriff and Crescent City Police and lots of friends, grand and great-grand offspring.

Granddaughter Janaka Pedersen-Haycook is Marge's primary care family member. Janaka's son, Damian lives with his great-grandma. Both attend to her every need.

Marge has experienced a quite interesting life. After arrival in post-WWII Del Norte County, she promptly joined the fisherman wives' club, helped organize and present the annual Miss Del Norte Pageant,

volunteered as a poll worker and for recreation, Marge was quite the bowler. She sustained a solid 190 average with a 260 high game during her prime bowling years, 1968-78.

When one ponders Marge Mitchell's life has covered 19 Presidents, one must reflect on this incredible experience with absolute awe: Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Joe Biden. The list compiles about 43 percent of American history. In 1973, Marge's two sisters moved to Crescent City. The trio dominated Tsunami Lanes. In those days, ladies were called chicks. Language and gender have changed a bit in the last half-century.

After husband Jack passed away, Marge traveled some with her two sisters, met and married John Gaskin in 1990. She hung up her bowling shoes in 1996.

The Triplicate asked Marge what's her secret of long life? Marge says she took good care of herself, ate well, laughed a lot, bowled, was blessed with good genetics and had lots of fun. " Oh, yes. I've enjoyed and continue to love life and my wonderful family. I'm so blessed."

Marjorie has a lofty record to set if she plans to be the senior citizen of the world; that record of 122 years, 164 days belongs to French woman Jeanne Calment.

Hobbies? Marge loves to go dancing and enjoy an occasional vodka and orange juice.

Marjorie Gaskin is going pretty strong at 105. Good health to you, young lady!