

Boone County's oldest living resident celebrates birthday

■ *Nancy McCann, who turned 108 years old on Saturday, is honored as a Distinguished West Virginian*

By **JOANIE NEWMAN**
EDITOR

On July 25, 2009, Nancy McCann, the oldest living resident of Boone County, became a Distinguished West Virginian. Surrounded by family, friends and fellow residents at the Meadow Brook Assistance With Living Facility at Camp Creek, McCann celebrated her 108th birthday.

Eddie Belcher, of Gov. Manchin's Office, presented McCann with the honor of being designated a Distinguished West Virginian.

"I've been coming to celebrate Mrs. McCann's birthday since she was 100 years old, and on behalf of the Governor, we would like to give God the Creator, from whom all blessings flow, the thanks for the many years that Mrs. McCann has been blessed with.

"A lot of people help to care for her, but the bottom line is that God is the giver and taker of life and for that we give Him thanks," Belcher said.

Belcher said the Governor's Office over the years had felt as though they were running out of things to give her for her birthday.

"The Governor realized we hadn't

bestowed a Distinguished West Virginia on her and he asked me, 'Why haven't we?' I told him, 'I guess we've been waiting until she turned 108,'" Belcher said.

"This is the highest honor that can be bestowed on a West Virginian," he explained.

In a soft voice, and with blue eyes brightly lit, McCann gave Belcher a "thank you."

"I hope you continue to be around for a few years," he told her.

"I hope so, too," she replied.

McCann has been a special resident at the Meadow Brook facility, sharing stories of her youth growing up in the hills of West Virginia with the staff and residents.

"I remember her telling us stories about how she went to the outhouse and was chased around by a black bear," staff member Debbie Huffman recalled.

McCann continues to remain an inspiration to her community and family. "We're the only ones living in her family," son Lawrence Richmond, 84, said, introducing members of the family and sharing the names of McCann's descendants.

Nancy had four sisters, Snoma Ferrell, Florence Williams, Nora Jarrell, Holly Henderson, and had one brother, Sullivan Jarrell. She had three children, Mabel Meadows, who resides in Michigan, Carson Richmond, who was killed in World War II when he was 21 years old, and Lawrence Richmond, who resides at Twilight.

■ Turn to **McCANN/A6**



Family members Charles McCormick, Teresa Sutton, Beulah Henderson, son Lawrence Richmond, and Kelly Titensor visit with Nancy McCann on her birthday.

around a pond," he said.

The accident happened at the Catenat Samples Mine sometime around 10 a.m., according to officials.

Boone County Sheriff's Office Chief Chad Barker, who responded to the accident, he did not believe the accident was caused by faulty equipment, though a state agency has begun an investigation into the accident.

At the time of this printing, the names of the deceased had not yet been released, as they had not been notified.

Officials were able to confirm that the victim was an employee of the coal mine.

Dolan is placed home confinement

■ *Judge says Dolan "does not pose a threat" then issues the 22-year-old to wear an ankle bracelet during confinement.*

By **LAWRENCE KEENEY**
and **JOANIE NEWMAN**
CVN STAFF WRITERS

A "Madison" woman was facing an uncertain future last week in Boone County Circuit Court, however an unanticipated change in one of the charges changed her luck for the better.

Chelsea Dolan, 22, of Madison was in court Thursday facing a possible prison term, accused of violating the terms of her probation.

Dolan was originally implicated with Morris, and Jerry Messer II, in connection with a series of 2007 burglaries that were apparently conducted to obtain funding to purchase drugs. A break led sheriff's deputies and officers to identify the trio and the local police believe they sold stolen goods to them.

Over several months in 2008 and 2009, Dolan eventually entered into plea bargain agreements to probation for the two young women, while Morris was sentenced to prison time for the young man.

Morris and Dolan pleaded guilty to the charges and as part of their probation we

McCann

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"She has two granddaughters who live in Michigan and they have families and then I have two sons, Roger and Larry, and they have families," Lawrence said.

According to family, McCann grew up on farmland above Twilight and had been working in a garden up until she was 104 years old.

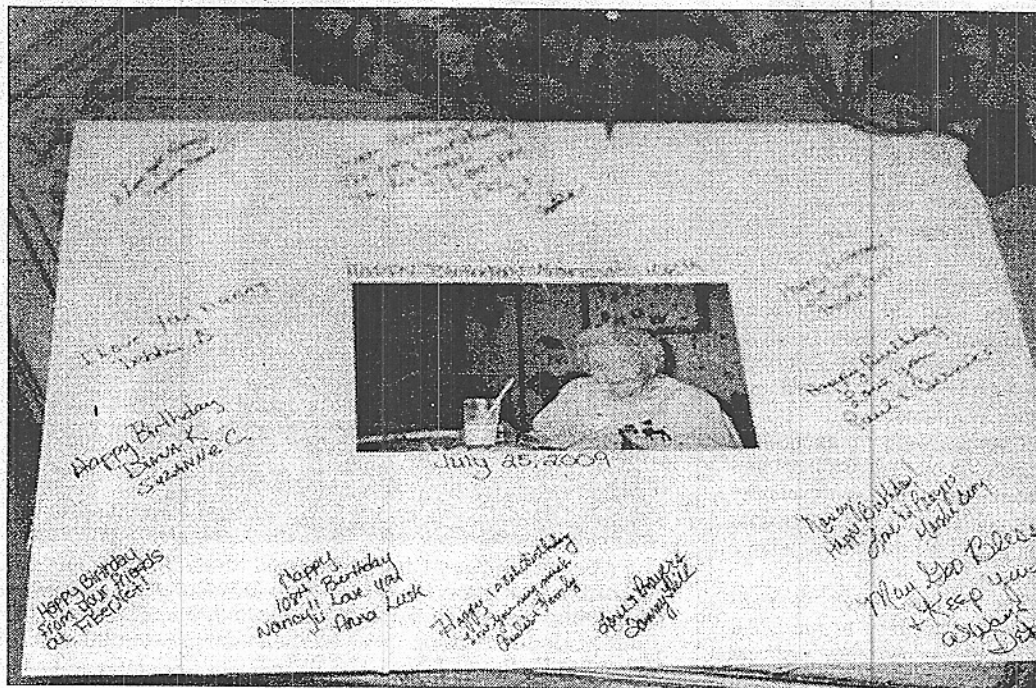
McCann's has told the nursing staff several stories of walking down the mountain to a one-room schoolhouse called the Bill Brown School.

She has been married twice. Her first husband, the late Harvery Richmond, from Twilight, and the late Nelson McCann — both of whom were men of faith.

Richmond was a preacher and McCann a Bible teacher. Through the years, Nancy McCann has continued attending the Church of Christ at Matts Creek.

Though not a member of their congregation, the Bible Baptist Church in Danville recognized McCann for her longevity. Pastor John Barker said one of the nurses who worked at Meadow Brook, Marsha Hess, told him of McCann's birthday celebration and he and his wife wanted to help her celebrate her 108th birthday.

The Coal Valley News is asking any of our readers who would like to send a birthday greeting to McCann, to send them to our office at: Coal Valley News, Attn: Nancy McCann Birthday, P.O. Box 508, Madison, WV 25130. We would like to present her with at least 108 birthday cards from readers to honor her in this special year.



Family and friends were invited to sign this photo memorabilia during McCann's birthday. JOANIE NEWMAN/COAL VALLEY NEWS



Pastor Barker recognizes McCann on her birthday.



McCann displays papers identifying her as a Distinguished West Virginian.