

A VISIT WITH A CENTENARIAN

Many people simply count years to keep track of age: a fortunate few measure it with experiences and memories and interactions added. For them aging is something to revel in rather than to fear or try to hide; in Marion, we have one of those fortunate few.

Born in New York City, Marion's experiences and adventures were well underway while she was living in Staten Island, where the family moved when she was six. She met her husband, Joseph Frederick Robinson, at a party that a high school friend held where both were in attendance. Some years later, after marriage in 1940, Fred and Marion lived in Philadelphia where Fred was associated with the Manhattan Project. After leaving the navy, the family moved back to Staten Island where they raised their two children, a son and a daughter.

Marion contributed her skills to several endeavors as she took care of her family. She taught Sunday school, served as County Commissioner of Richmond County, New York, for several years and was designated as an observer to the United Nations from an adjunct of Rotary International.

Traveling with a small group of women friends was a special joy for Marion. They visited Italy, Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria, the Suez Canal, Israel, Jordan, Yugoslavia, and the British Isles. Egypt was particularly fascinating for her as she traveled down the Nile, visited the Aswan Dam, the Valley of the Kings and the Temple of Crocodiles. Other trips taken were to Mexico, Peru and Panama.

Marion was one of the "first settlers" of Patriots Colony, moving first to a villa and more recently to a lovely apartment in Patriots Tower.

Marion's considerable contribution to the human race, from her two children, is six grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren, and another on the way. The entire family was here for Marion's 100th birthday weekend from January 23rd to the Big Day on January 26th. As special as this occasion was, Marion says that there is nothing special about having a birthday – everyone has one once a year. However, the special thing about Marion is that she has managed to have a hundred of them and is still counting. Marion's philosophy of life is to "try my best to be the best I can be". We can certainly agree that she has done that.



Marion and Jan

After the interview, Marion remarked, “Now I’ve told you all about me; how about telling me something about you?” If you have an opportunity to sit awhile and talk with Marion, you will indeed hear many interesting stories, and perhaps you’ll have a chance to share some stories of your own.

— *Jan Fanning* --