One hundred reasons to have a party

By Linda Vance Gordon Feature Writer

Ruth McAnally had a very special reason to celebrate on August 3, 2011 it was her 100th birthday. Family and friends gathered at Appalachian Christian Village to congratulate her and mark the occasion.

Asked if she had any advice for anyone who aspired to live 100 years, she quipped, "Don't do it." Amidst the laughter that followed her answer, she adds, "I've been very fortunate."

"As far as we know, she's the first in the family to make it to 100," says her first cousin Evelyn Colley. "There's nobody

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that I know that's come anywhere close," Mrs. McAnally concurs. "My mother was about 82. My father died in his 60s." "I don't know why I'm left here, but I'll find out one

She grew up on Maple Street and remembers walking to Science Hill where she graduated in 1929. The retired elementary school teacher and principal continued her education at East Tennessee State's "teacher college" graduating in 1932. She later earned a master's degree there as well.

She met her late husband Hartsell while they were in high school. "We started dating and didn't have much money," she recalls. "Well, this is sort of silly," she says remembering one of their favorite early pastimes, "but it's parking your car, when you had a car, downtown and watching the people money to spend and not was a quarter." much to do."



McAnally with her cousins, Geraldine Dugger, left, and Evelyn Colley, who traveled from Hickory, NC to share in her birthday celebration.

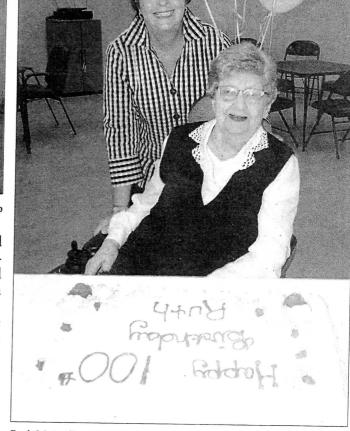
and growing up on Maple become principal at An-Street, they liked to walk nie Wilder Stratton School downtown to go to the from where she retired in movies and get a hamburg- 1973. er from a "hole in the wall" place near the square.

erty at 11 and get in for a come a lifelong friend. dime to see the western," "We've been friends for says Mrs. Colley. After- a long time now and it's wards, they'd go either to just been a wonderful ex-"the Majestic or Sevier to perience. She's a beauti- Ruth McAnally and Clarinda Jeanes (Photos by Linda Vance Gordon) go by. There wasn't much watch a musical. And, that ful lady," says Clarinda

aldine Dugger, remembers ementary when she was 21 celebration.

when all three were young years old. Later she would

While at Stratton, she met a young first grade "We'd go to the Lib- teacher who would be-Jeanes, who along with



retired. She is the oldest old.

An avid golfer, Mrs. member of First Christian Mrs. McAnally began her husband, Don, hosted McAnally enjoyed read- Church, which she joined Another cousin, Gerteaching at Keystone El- Mrs. McAnally's birthday ing and travelling once she when she was eight years