

Happiness is key to longevity for Annie



Annie's life was a busy one—one and off the reservation and often included traveling to "Watsuts" (Lone Pine) to butcher fish.



Annie married Wesley "Wack" in 1906. Their marriage lasted until his death in 1969.

by Donna Behrend

Annie Smith has lived enough years to see two world wars, two "police actions," suffer through a depression and adjust to the current era of electronics and automation. Annie recently celebrated her 100th birthday with relatives and friends at the Warm Springs Community Center.

Annie's birthday, registered with the Tribal Vital Statistics department, as June 10, 1887, which would make her 95. But, according to Zelma, Annie's youngest daughter, Annie was 87 at the time of Wesley's (Annie's husband) death in 1969. "I've just been counting year-by-year since then," says Zelma.

Annie was born in The Dalles to Jim and Mary Jackson. Early on, Annie, her parents and her brother Charlie and her sister Ruth moved to Warm Springs where they lived on Shitike Creek, the Deschutes River (the "Wukmup" area) and in the Dry Hollow area.

Her family lived in a tent in the Wukmup area. The old Smith barn still stands where her family "worked the land". The property, which was owned by Wesley's parents Robert and Annie Smith, was later purchased by Wesley and Annie, according to Zelma.

Annie and Wesley were married in 1906 and received a helping hand—a few head of cattle—from Annie's parents.

"Dad had the horses and Mom had the cattle," says Zelma. Wesley worked with his father-in-law, farming and ranching.

Wesley's parentage is unusual. His father was Jewish and Wasco and his mother was Oriental and Wasco. Because of the Jewish ancestry, Zelma says their name should have been Grostein instead of Smith.

Annie's life hasn't been centered only on the reservation. She and Wesley and other family members traveled to the Columbia River to fish near "Watsuts" or Lone Pine. Her sister and brother-in-law, Ruth and Joe Estabrook, used to live there and all would butcher fish at the site.

Zelma has lived all her life with her parents and has always been involved in the farming and ranching duties. After her father's death, Zelma assumed all the responsibilities, which included caring for her mother, keeping tabs on the cattle herds and harvesting the crops. "I

owe it to her," says Zelma. "She gave me life."

Annie has had her tough bouts with bad health within the past few years. Just when she appeared to be going, Annie would bounce back, amazing family members as well as doctors. Within the last year, doctors have diagnosed diabetes and a heart ailment.

Annie appears to be very happy and contented for her one-hundred years. "We joke around alot," Annie stated recently. It's that "joking around," the quiet life and her family's constant loving care that have contributed to Annie's longevity.

**Old Photos
courtesy
of Annie and
Zelma Smith
Birthday
Celebration
Photo by Behrend**



Annie often spent times with her sister-in-law Georgianna Jackson (at left in photo). In center is Annie's young son Stanley.



Friends and relatives helped Annie celebrate her 100th birthday in June. She sang a song and expressed her appreciation to all who attended. Also in photo are three of Annie's six living children. (left to right) Alvis Smith Sr., Myrtle Monroe and Claude Smith Sr.