

"This one will stick," said Councilwoman Jean McDonnell as she planted a kiss on the cheek of Naomi Stewart who celebrated her

97th birthday at a party at McDonnell Tow-ers. (Staff photo by Gary Friedman)

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Naomi's 97th birthday had all the trimmings

By SHIRLEE IDEN veryone clapped when the birth-girl was introduced and so did

she. Naomi Stewart is a lively, alert woman who likes to be with lots of people. She's diminutive, white-haired and wears thick glasses. For her 97th birthday party at McDonnell Towers, the Southfield resident wore a bright blue dress imprinted with white flowers.

bute uses un, united to the state of the sta

health, peace of mind and all my blessings." Mrs. Stewart's party had all the trimmings. The celebrants at McDon-nell Towers were in a happy frame of mind, all joining in or "Happy Birth-day" and digging into generous help-ings of birthday cake. Company of the property of the pro-sented a memento from Mayor Fra-cassi and the key to the city to Mrs. Stewart and sealed it all with a warm kiss.

kiss.

The lengend on the cake read:
"Happy birthday, Naomi Stewart,
Southfield loves you."

ter Laura Haist, jost 92 years-old and a resident of Pigeon.
Mrs. Stewart's daughter Mrs. John Dunham said her mother came to live in Southfield in 1953.
"She has her own little bouse next to the Glen Levy School," the daughter explained. "I have two sisters but they live out of town."
In addition to two daughters and son-in-law, Mrs. Stewart has 35 or more grandchildren. All 7 or 18 great-grandchildren and 17 or 18 great-grandchildren and 18 rot lated. "They grew up in Bad Axe where their parents ran the county farm for old folks. They grew up working on the farm, sewing quilts, baking bread, cooking and helping care for all those people."

all those people."
Widowed for 45 years, Mrs. Stewart supported herself and her children by working as a practical nurse for 27 years

"She didn't quit until age 81." he daughter said. "And her sister still does sewing for people in Pigeon."
Not to be outdone, the birthday girl said she has taken up crocheting

It's been a long time since Naomi Stewart and her family all gathered in one place. As her daughter recalls, it was for her Mom's 88th birthday.





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