

Former columnist still inquisitive at 80

By Loraine McGlash
staff writer

Marie Long's crop of red hair has slightly faded, but her eyes are still bright and her mind as inquisitive as it ever was when she was a columnist for the Farmington Enterprise and, later, the Farmington Observer.

Nearly 80 years old now, Long is a resident of Beverly Manor Nov. She came to the facility to receive special nursing care after suffering a stroke.

"I wrote about anniversaries, birth, trips, anything that was," she said of the social events she compiled for the newspapers from 1953-71.

"I WAS always interested in writing. I never studied it. But I just love people and I was always interested in people," she said of her two interests that dovetailed together for her career of 18 years.

"Her friendships are mutual," said Barbara Jablonski, who is social worker for the residents at 24500 Meadowbrook Road.

"In the nursing home, she's gathered some close friends in the three years she's been here. She attends all of the activities and especially enjoys sing-alongs. She's always visiting other residents and talking with staff members."

PICTURES OF Long's family decorate her room, along with a key to the city given to her in 1974 when she was honored as Sequenential Queen during that year's Founders Festival activities.

"More than 3,000 people voted for me," she said.

The pictures are of her three children, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Long was born and raised in eastern New Jersey where she lived in an historical Civil War-era home with her five brothers and one sister. Her family and grandparents often vacationed in an upstate log cabin, a favorite pastime that left pleasant memories.

After living briefly in Florida, she came to Farmington, where she raised her family. In 1953, she moved to Farmington.

"Her finest possessions, however, are not displayed in her room. Those are the many friends she's made, which she keeps close to her heart," Jablonski said.



Marie Long spends more time visiting residents and staff than she spends in her room, say staff members at Beverly Manor Nov, where she's lived for the past three years.

Bus trip set for matinee

Farmington Community Center is sponsoring a bus trip to the Birmingham Theatre to see "They're Playing Our Song" March 2. The play by Neil Simon with music by Marvin Hamlisch and Carole Bayer Sager enjoyed a long and successful run on Broadway and has been a favorite of theatergoers throughout the country.

The tour begins at the Farmington Road parking lot of Oakland Communi-

ty College at 10:30 a.m. when the bus will leave for downtown Birmingham for a morning of shopping. The center will supply guests with a list of restaurants in the area and directions to the theater, all within a four-block area.

After the play the bus will return to the college at about 5 p.m. Reservations at \$20 each are taken in the center.

3 area teens take spot on fashion panel

Kim Galasso, Julienne LaFleur and Kathleen A. Keller, all Farmington Hills residents, have been selected to sit on Fairlane Town Center Fashion Panel.

There were 40 semifinalists competing in a talent, personality and poise contest, and 25 of them were chosen for the 1993 panel that will be active until next November.

Kim is an eighth grader at Our Lady of Sorrows High School. Julienne is a ninth grader at Harrison, and Kathleen is a ninth grader at North Farmington High School.

Members of the panel gain experience in modeling, dancing and other performing arts as they become integral parts of the fashion presentations featured in the center.

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