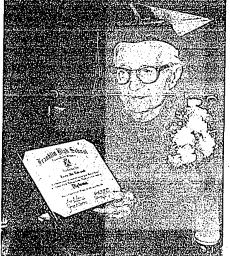
Woman gets diploma at 102

Yet she finally did get that diploma — last week, some 85 years later, through the Livouta School District's Continuing Education for Senior Citizens (CESC) program.
"If my father only incew, he'd be so proud," said Blanche, who'll be 103 years old in September.

James Newman, principal of the Whilman Center for community educa-



itterworth proudly displays the high school, diploma, she ast week — 88 years after she dropped out of high school

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## Late bloomer

tion, said Blanche is the oldest person ever to get a high school diploma in Michigan — and possibly in the nation. She was one of seven scalor citizens who received their degrees during adult education graduation ceremonies at Lironia Churchill High School on Wednesday.

THE NEXT day there was a special celebration for Blanche at the Camelot Hall Convalescent Centre, where she

There were cakes, presents and well-wishers including her daughter, grand-children, great-grandchildren, and five of the CESC teachers who taught Blanche.
Blanche was in fine form for the occasion

Binners was ... casion.
"Tro glad to be here, but I will tell
you this is a big surprise," she said. "I
love all of you, and ... all of you who
know me know I get along with all of

you.
"I get excited sometimes and I have
to be calmed down, but my friends see
to it that I don't go too far."
Asked if she'd like to get a look at
her birthday cake, she replied:

"I only get to look at 187"
She sang, "God will take care of me."
Her faith has always been very important to her, a friend and.
Blanche attributed her long life to hard work and the fact that she "herver had much serjous ticheus."
How does she advise others hoping to pass the century mark?
"Just do their work and keep their moothe... well, we all have to talk," she said.

HELPING others also kept ber young she said.

"I always tried to help people all of my life, from my youngest time," she said. "Course, my mother was a lot like that.

How did she adapt to all the changes she's faced over the years?

"Well, they just come upon you and you make of them what you can."

Born Sept. 19, 1831, in Nelsonville, Ohlo, she was the oldest of 19 children.

### Gospel singer in concert

Emmanuel Productions announces Gospel singer Randy Sults in concert at 7 p.m. Sunday in First Church of God, 25715 Fower Road.

Sults and Peg Schneider's concerts combine the elements of worship, praise and entertainment.

They attribute their success to the originality of the song writing, arrangements, orehestration and sound quality.

Schneider, who plays violin, prefers the extensive use of strings in her arrangements plus the use of her classical music background to set a variety of moods.

Enumanuel Productions was formed to glorify Christ in words and song. The concert will feature new songs in the first of the concert will feature new songs in the concert will feature new songs in the concert will feature new songs in the concert will feature new songs.

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When Stanche Butterworth secured har high school diploms has grack she became the oldest grackets in the siste — and possibly in the nation. If my father only knew, he'd be so proud. said Butterworth, who dropped out c?

Three of her sisters are still alive.
Her daughter Ellen Stoakley of Weet-land said her mother led a undramstic-ellfo as a homemaker, but one filled with love for her late husband, Lonis, and the four children she raised.
"She had a good life," Steakley said-"And her family siways had a good sense of humor and when they get to-gether they have a good time."

BLANCHE'S DIPLOMA was no hon-orary degree. Newman said. She had to attend CESC classes — including aca-demic courses such as English and his-tory — at Camelot for 2½ years in or-der to gradues.

"She'a very alert, very interested,"

said her home economics teacher, Rub Harvey. "Her eyesight len't all too good, but she really trice the best die can. And she never misses a class."

em. And sao brever misses a clean.

Beth McLaughlin, teacher leader of
the CESC programs and Elanchr's linities teacher, said Elanchs abject lead
the English classes lively.

"She has a tremendom memory"
inclessible in a tremendom memory
acomeling from her life.

Achd white her memory in the classes

Asked what her goals are now thet she is a high school graduate, Bianc's said she just would like to read and "have somebody to talk to — as long to they talk reasonable."



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