

She's 90 years young and still going strong

Mrs. Mel Black of Port Elgin is the absolute personification of that phrase "90 years young". She turned 90 last Sunday and doesn't look or think a day more than 70.

Mrs. Black is alert, keenly interested in those about her. Her wrinkles are few and her soft gray hair becomingly styled.

She attributes longevity to being happy, eating nutritious food, hard work and "never drinking or smoking". Also, she has lived a good part of her life in Bruce and on a farm where hard work and the good pure air helped also.

She was honoured at a family gathering in Elderslie Township Hall, Saturday night. Here, all her children, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and great grandchildren paid tribute to this fine little lady.

Mrs. Black lives in Pineview Senior Citizens' apartments and walks downtown almost every day but admitted she "missed a few this winter". She especially likes trips to the local post office for she always sees someone she knows there.

One of her favorite past-times is playing the violin and she uses her bow with great dexterity. Her favourite tunes are country and Scottish.

She and her husband farmed not far from Southampton then moved to the fourth of Saugeen, where they remained nine years. Sometime after her husband's death, she moved to town.

Her one son was killed serving overseas, her other is a machinist in Toronto. One daughter, Mrs. Angus McIntosh who arranged the

birthday celebration, is in nearby Elderslie, and the other, Jean, is a resident of Toronto.

Mrs. Black was one of the ladies

in waiting to the Port Elgin Centennial Queen three years ago and she enjoyed every minute of it.

Her brother, two and a half

years younger, also lives at Pineview. When Mrs. Black isn't visiting with others in the building, she hooks rugs, reads a lot and of course, does a little "fiddling" to keep in practice. This winter she bowled each week to keep in trim for summer lawn bowling which she intends to keep on with.

She has travelled to both the east and west coast of Canada and has also visited abroad in Britain, England, and France. She also took in Expo 10 years ago. She would like to see Nodwell Village completed: It's dragged on too long. She enjoys shopping in Port and finds the merchants friendly and helpful.

Mrs. Black is a great believer in education and feels community colleges are filling a great need. She hopes government at all levels will get to use a little more wisdom in their decisions.

Mrs. Black is known as the 'mother' of South-Saugeen Women's Institute, an organization which she helped found. She attends the meetings and enjoys them.

Where would she like to travel next? The Grand Canyon, of course! And she may just get around to that for she told The Reporter her grandfather and

grandmother lived to be 94 and 95.

Mrs. Black has also travelled a long way in the road of life. She has, by her own admission, had good and bad times but would like to be able to do it all over again.

In the meantime she is an attribute to the Golden Years group. She enjoys giving of herself and her talents and in return gains in the richness of life and friends.

May she enjoy many more years and birthdays!



Mrs. Mel Black loves all music but especially violin and here she plays a short tune for The Reporter. She whiles away many an hour with the bow and fiddle and also entertains those who live about her. (Staff Photo)



Lisa and Heather's 'Experiments with Plants' won them a berth on the Bruce County team to attend the 1977 Canada-Wide Science Fair in Victoria B.C. later this year.



Two Port Elgin Saugeen Central School students, Heather Schildroth and Lisa Watke receive their overall winners plaque from Superintendent, N. McConnell at Walkerton last Friday.