

NEWS Release



Waterford

Waterford at Fairway Village

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FAIRWAY VILLAGE'S FIRST CENTENARIAN CELEBRATES 101ST BIRTHDAY

(VANCOUVER, Wash.)—Not many people can claim the title of centenarian. Nan Brewster is one of those special few – and the first to live at Waterford at Fairway Village. She moved into the Devonshire section of the active adult community five months ago.

On February 9, Nan celebrated her 101st birthday, surrounded by well-wishers and mementos from her dynamic life.

That life has included a 62-year marriage, two daughters, three grandsons, and three great grandchildren. Be sure to throw in her love of hunting for antiques, traveling, caring for dogs, and volunteering for nonprofits. And don't forget her 15 years as Special Writer to *The Oregonian*.

In 1937, Nan was hired by the daily paper to write and illustrate a weekly column, called "Faces and Places." The column appeared Sundays in the society section and featured stories and cartoons about friends and family. When World War II erupted, Nan incorporated into her column changes prompted by the war, such as rationing, selling war bonds, and rolling bandages for wounded soldiers. A collection of her work was shown in the Portland Art Museum.

A rich family history

Nan's great grandmother, Chloe Clarke, was enrolled in Wilberham Academy, a Connecticut seminary just for women. There, she decided to travel to the Oregon territory

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to evangelize and further the Methodist mission. She soon met and married William Willson in Nisqually, Washington. This couple holds the distinction of being the first Caucasian couple to be married in the Washington territory.

The two settled in Salem and established the Methodist Mission as well as a school for Native American children. Their land grant is now Willson Park, adjacent to Oregon's Capital. The school they established became Willamette University, and a Nisqually grade school was named for Chloe Clarke.

Nan's grandfather, Joseph Kaye Gill, founded the J. K. Gill Company, Portland's leading book and stationery store for 75 years. William Montgomery, Nan's father, ran the company until he was nearly 90 years old. He was also a charter member of the Multnomah Athletic Club.

Savoring simple pleasures

Today, even though her eyesight and hearing are fading, Nan still enjoys looking at pictures of her family as well as cartoons she created more than six decades ago. She likes visits with her daughters and appreciates it when daughter Ann Clarke brings Sara, her giant schnauzer. Always a strikingly attractive woman, Nan revels in her weekly visit to the hair salon.

Waterford at Fairway Village provides a broad range of services for active adults, including a health and fitness club, apartments and homes, assisted living, memory care, home health care, and respite care. Opened in 1998, the Waterford is home to about 200 people.

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