

Gym Rat Rantings

by Bob Ring



The Ultimate Senior Moment

My Aunt Elizabeth is a hundred years old! She was born in Farmington, Missouri on September 22, 1908. Her father (my grandfather) Ambrose Ring was working as a mining engineer for the Federal Lead Company in nearby Flat River, where my Dad was born in 1915. Later in 1918, while the family was living at another mining site in Creede, Colorado, Elizabeth survived an acute case of the Spanish Flu during the horrible worldwide influenza epidemic. It looks like that experience “toughened her up” for a long life.

Elizabeth’s husband Gordon is much younger than Elizabeth – all of eighteen days! He turns 100 years old on October 10th. A former doctor and hospital administrator for the U.S. Army, Gordon has taken good care of the family, including himself.

Elizabeth and Gordon were married on Elizabeth’s 25th birthday in 1933 in Louisville, Kentucky, where Gordon was working at a veteran’s hospital. Elizabeth’s 100th birthday was also her 75th wedding anniversary.

Today, Elizabeth and Gordon live in Denver Colorado. They share an apartment in a beautiful retirement home.

Pat and I just got back from Denver where we attended one heck of a party, celebrating both the birthdays and wedding anniversary. The shindig was organized by Elizabeth and Gordon’s two children and included two grandchildren and six great grandchildren, the youngest only four months old. Elizabeth and Gordon were spiffily decked out in clothes fit for New Year’s Eve and looked fantastic. They had a huge white cake and somehow the chef had managed to make a colored picture of Gordon and Elizabeth in the center. The lobby of the retirement home was decorated with photographs from Elizabeth and Gordon’s life together and nearby tables were stacked with family photo albums and even a collection of poems that Gordon had written to Elizabeth a few years ago.

Congratulatory letters were read from the Governor of Colorado and the Head of the Veterans Administration. Photographers (Pat and me included) snapped hundreds of photographs. Local TV recorded the event for the news that night. *The Denver Post* carried a big picture of the happy couple on page one! And Willard Scott “announced” the celebratory event on NBC’s “Today Show.”

Talk about your senior moments. This was truly a senior moment to remember! I’m sure that my Dad, who died three years ago, was looking down at his older sister with a big smile on his face.