

MARY MARGARET (COLE) LEE

CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

JULY 22ND 2014

Mary Margaret (Cole) Lee



Celebrating 100 years — July 22, 2014

In lieu of the planned birthday luncheon for July 19th, Mary's children, Jack, David, and MaryAnn request that you send birthday greetings to Mary at her home: 330 10th Avenue S.W., Ephrata, WA 98823.

We would like to honor Mom by compiling a book of remembrances including photos and written memories from family members which we will present as a gift from her family. Please send this information to David Lee at 5970 S.W. 47th Street, Miami, FL 33155 or e-mail leed@fu.edu.

Mary will be accepting visitors for short visits on the days prior to and after her birthday (July 22nd). Jack, David and MaryAnn (+ their children) will be in the area July 17-23 and would so very much enjoy seeing cousins, other family and friends at this time also. Please coordinate visits with Mary by calling MaryAnn (801) 900-1166.

Looking so forward to seeing family and friends in July.

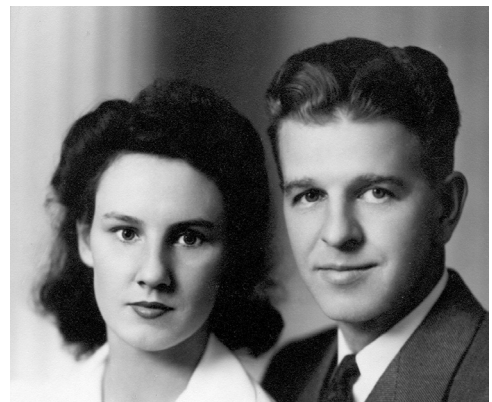
With love from Jack, David & MaryAnn

Mary's Centennial Birthday Announcement
prepared by Mary Ann Lee,
sent to family members and close friends

Mary's Life, So Far

Mary Margaret Lee, a long-time resident of Ephrata, celebrated her centennial birthday on July 22nd, at her home in Ephrata. Mary was born July 22nd, 1914, in Seattle, to Clarence “Baldy” Cole and Martha (“Nellie”) Sloss Cole. Baldy was a civil engineer, and the family (Mary had four brothers and two sisters) lived in many cities in the state, including Sunnyside, Yakima, Seattle, Lake Stevens, Everett, Rock Island, Almira, and Grand Coulee, where Baldy worked on various public works projects. She graduated from Wenatchee High School in 1932, and she attended Kinman Business College in Spokane later that year. While living in Almira and Grand Coulee, where her father worked on the dam and surveyed the plans for the irrigation project, she worked briefly as a secretary and dedicated the Grand Coulee Railroad, built to support the dam construction. She met her husband, John Lee, at the Dam. They married in June of 1936 and moved to Ephrata (then a small town of about 700 people) the following month. There, they established a movie theater business, starting with a single theater in Ephrata and a travelling business in area grange halls (“The Sagebrush Circuit”), culminating in a network of 15 theaters and drive-ins in the area— the Columbia Basin Theaters. The largest of these theaters, the Lee Theater in Ephrata, was dedicated in 1952, and is still operating. Together they participated in the growth of the town and region during the completion of the Columbia Basin Project. While raising a family and participating in cultural activities in Ephrata, she assisted her husband in all aspects of his businesses. She became an accomplished pianist, and she served as the organist at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for 40 years. During their time in Ephrata, they lived together on southwest 10th Avenue until John’s death in 1997, and she continues to live there to this day. Mary is interested in the world around her, maintains a love of classical and liturgical music, an enthusiasm for bridge, and a love for, and close involvement with, her family. She is a loyal fan of the Seattle Mariners and Seahawks. She has vivid and accurate memories of the development of the mid-Columbia region that she has experienced over her long life.

Mary and John Lee, shortly after their marriage



Some Historical Photos



Cole family around 1920, Mary on the lower right

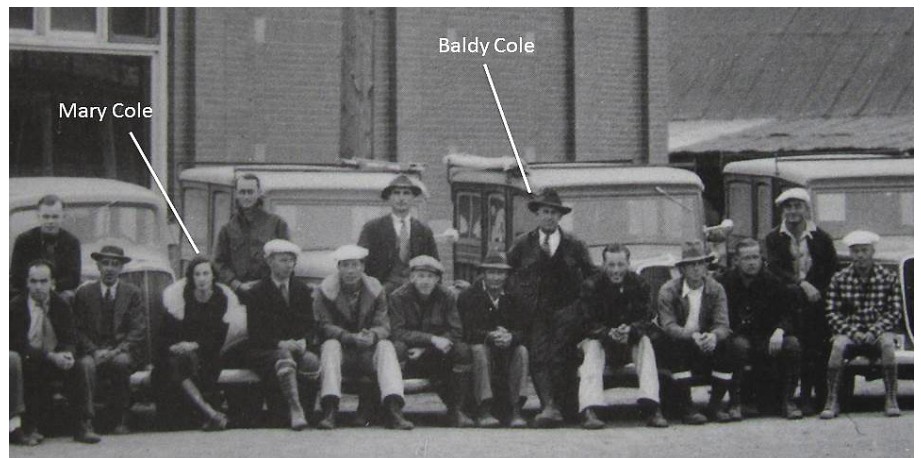


Mary's graduation picture from Wenatchee High School in 1932



Mary and her sisters, track athletes, 1929

Mary and her dad Baldy Cole, pointed out in this photo of the initial dam construction staff in Almira, in 1934





Mary helped to dedicate
the Grand Coulee Railway
in 1934



wedding photograph, 1936



Mary portrait, taken by her sister Marty
ca. 1939



Mary and John Lee, with baby Jack,
1939



Mary and friends at Blue
Lake, around 1949



John and Mary Lee at the dedication
of the Lee Theater in Ephrata in 1952



Mary with her family, 1954



Mary with the Lee family, ca. 1956



With her brothers and sisters, around 1970



With family, around 1994



with Marty and Johnny, 1990



Mary, another family dinner at Don's, 2003



Family picnic at Cutlips, in Vantage,
2007



Mary Ann, 1948

Mary Ann Lee: on Childhood and Family

Mom, you and Dad were wonderful examples to me and my brothers as we grew up: examples of love, generosity, patience, appreciation for art and music, the value of hard work and doing a job well, love of learning, and the enjoyment of recreation and playing games together. I have so many wonderful memories, but I especially recall the wonderful summers as a young girl growing up in a safe neighborhood in a small town.

You said that I looked like a little “Kewpie” doll as a baby. I didn’t know what a Kewpie doll looked like until much later, but I loved hearing that I looked like one anyway. You made me beautiful Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls, and taught me to sew at an early age. You taught me by your example to be a gracious hostess, and to plan a special menu and set a lovely table for special family and holiday occasions. Of all the gifts you have given to me, Mom, by far the most valuable is the magical childhood you provided for us. I thank you with all of my heart. I couldn’t love you more, Mom,



Mary Lee's birthday was celebrated in the local press

The Wenatchee World
Friday 17 July, 2014



her interview by Kim Jorgenson

100 years of history

Not many of us reach 100, but Mary Lee of Ephrata celebrates her centennial on July 22. She carries a load of history in her time.


Her father, Baldy Cole, was one of the early engineers working on Grand Coulee Dam.

Her son David Lee reports that Cole led the crews "that established the footprint of the dam."

He later led the surveyors in laying out the canal system of the Columbia Basin Project. Mary married John Lee in 1936, and they ran Columbia Basin Theaters in Ephrata as well as an aluminum fabrication company. There aren't many who can match that kind of history.

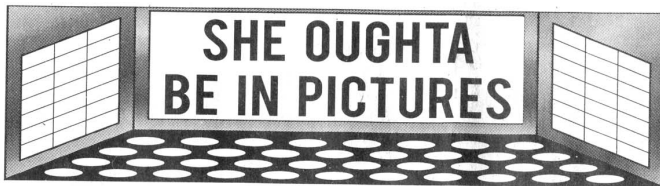
So it's "Happy Birthday, Mary."

Talking it over



Wilfred R. Woods
Chairman emeritus,
The World

The Grant County Journal
Thursday 24 July, 2014



BY KIM JORGENSEN
of the Journal

EPHRATA — If Mary Lee's life was a movie, it would be a heartwarming love story. A love of family, a love of community and a love of Hollywood films that led Mary and her husband of 61 years to a successful career in

the movie theater business.

The long-time Ephrata resident and Washington native celebrated her 100th birthday on Tuesday, surrounded by her children, a living room full of flowers and not one, but two cakes, including an orange confection made by Lee's daughter from a recipe Mary cre-

ated decades ago.

Lee — spry and bright-eyed, sporting a string of pearls she received from her husband, John Lee, on their 50th wedding anniversary — seemed delighted to have reached the century mark.

"Today is my actual birthday," she confided. "Can you believe I'm 100 today?"

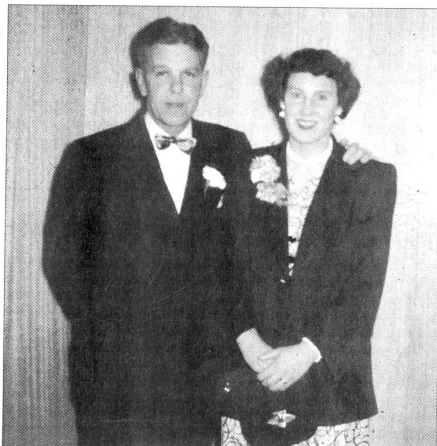
To look at Mary, slim, elegant and sitting ramrod straight in her comfortable living room, the answer would be an emphatic no.

Mary Lee was born July 22, 1914, in Seattle to Clarence "Baldy" and Martha "Nellie" Cole, the fourth of seven children, including three little brothers "who were a thorn in my side!" Baldy, who got his nickname after being stricken with diphtheria as a young boy, was a civil engineer, and the family moved many times, living in Sunnyside, Yakima, Seattle, Lake Stevens, Everett, Rock Island, Almira and Grand Coulee, while Baldy worked on various public works projects.

She completed her freshman and sophomore years at Garfield High School in Seattle for two years, and graduated from Wenatchee High School in 1932. Mary briefly attended Kinman Business College, and worked



Mary Lee celebrated her 100th birthday on Tuesday, July 22. She told the photographer, "if I don't look 75 in the picture, don't use it in the newspaper."



as a secretary at Grand Coulee Dam, where she met her husband, John.

John and Mary opened the Lee Theater in Ephrata in 1952; it is still in business, and the current

THE CELEBRATION

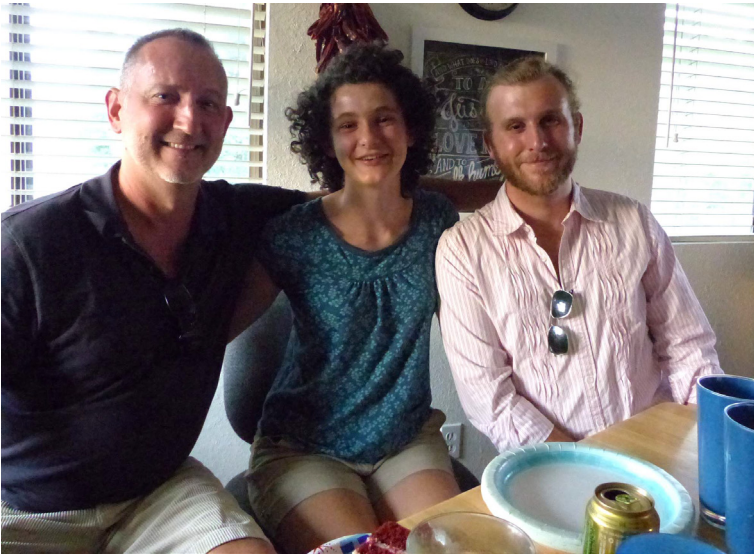
Mary Lee's Centennial celebration took place over four days, from Saturday through Tuesday, during which she was visited by family members in small groups at her home. The actual birthday was celebrated at a small early evening dinner at Don's Restaurant in Soap Lake, the place of family celebrations since its opening in the late 1940s.

- Thursday evening celebration of Jack Lee's 75th birthday and Katy Lee's 35th birthday at the Cutlip home in Vantage.
- Friday evening dinner with Michael and Susan Cole, family and cake with mom.
- Saturday visit by niece and nephew Michael and Susan Cole, followed by nephew John Cole and sister-in law Millie Cole, with her sisters and assorted adolescent kids, lunch at Rama Inn.
- Sunday visit by Mary's niece Diana Lee, nephew Mike Lee, Diana's husband Bill Taylor, and grand-daughter Susan Cutlip. Luncheon at nearby restaurant, the Taqueria RKA.
- Monday visit by Mary's niece Dale Easley, and her niece-in-law Grace Easley, luncheon at the Country Deli.
- Tuesday, family dinner at Don's Restaurant in Soap Lake. Followed by Mom's favorite orange cake baked by daughter Mary Ann and served at home.

Thursday Evening

Katy and Jack blowing out the birthday candles





J. David Lee, Caralyn and Wesley Cutlip



Jaelle Cutlip played the cello beautifully

Friday Evening



Dinner at Mama Yum-Yum's restaurant (owner Bin Dhang is old family friend) with Mary's children, some grandchildren, and Michael and Susan Cole.



Mamie's favorite orange cake, the first of two baked by Mary Ann

Saturday

morning visit by niece and nephew Michael and Susan Cole



Lunch with Michael and Susan, and with nephew John Cole and sister-in law Millie Cole, with her sisters and assorted adolescent kids. Afterwards, they visited Mary.



Sunday

Diana Lee and Diana's husband Bill Taylor





Susan and brother David at Mary's



Luncheon at Taqueria

Monday

Visit by Mary's niece Dale Easley, and her niece-in-law Grace Easley. Luncheon at the Country Deli.





Grace brought photos to share.

Tuesday

Family early evening dinner at Don's Restaurant in Soap Lake., followed by Mary's favorite orange cake at home.,

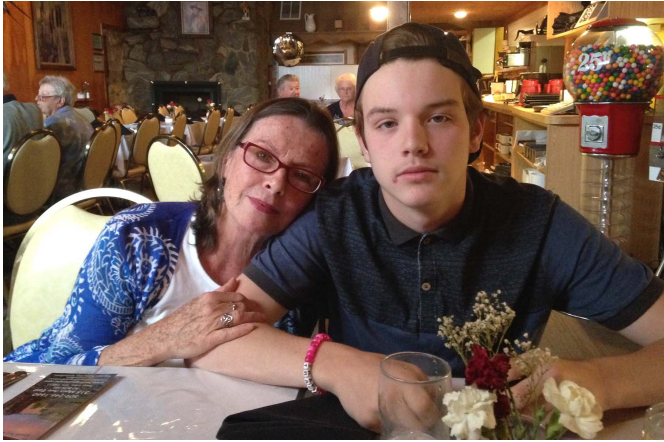


Mary enjoying a small birthday sweet at Don's



Sylvan with Mamie

Some Extra Photos



Shaun Lee and grandma Carol



Mary Ann and Carol



Freya (Sarah) Barlow, Shaun & Katy



Katy Lee and grandma Mamie



Sylvan Lee, Mamie and
Nikka Bassett (caregiver)
before Wednesday departure

CARDS

Mary enjoyed cards of best wishes from many friends.



Bruce and Patti Sue Cameron
Oreana, Idaho

Diana and Mike Lee, and Bill Taylor
Snohomish, WA

Scott and Susan Yarger
Olympia, WA

Susan and Michael Cole
Van Nuys, CA and Raymond, WA

Dale Easley
Bellevue, WA
Grace Easley
Issaquah, WA

Mary Meyer
Missoula, MT

John and Millie Cole
Marysville, CA
Duane Cinnamon

Kennewick, WA
Marilyn Dalesky
Puyallup, WA

Peggy Fish
Issaquah, WA

Carol Sue Rigano
Vancouver, WA

Kirk Hall
Boise, ID

Linda and Pete Hardman
Faywood, NM

A few extra comments were added to the cards, a reminiscence from brother **John Cole** and a poem from niece **Marilyn Dalesky**.

This is Brother John. I'm going back to my growing up time. Remember my dog, Patty? She was very protective of me. Whenever Mary tried to discipline me, Patty would growl at her and Mary backed off.

Another incident happened which I am very sorry for now. Mary and I were in an argument and I punched her as hard as I could in the stomach and I know it must have hurt. Soooo sorry Mamie. That's the name I called her when I was little.

Millie wants to thank Mary for being so tolerant of all our little ones 1, 3, 4 and 6. We had many good dinners at her house and mine.

Mary tried to teach us bridge, but I lost interest. Millie went on and now plays regularly. She thanks you, Mary, for getting her interested.

There are many more occasions we shared, but my mind can't recall them now.

Love you and wish you a very Happy Birthday...all 100 years of them. John



Sent with the story

Ode to Ephrata

The picnics at Soap Lake
always feared I'd see a snake
Movie night down at the "Lee"
lucky us, we got in free
Play all day with cousins three
Jack, David and Mary Ann Lee
Those "healthy" meals we had to eat
but later on we'd get a treat
Lady's bridge in the afternoon
card table set in the living room



Marilyn, Carol Sue and Taffy, ca. 1947

The summer when we had the flu
what a mess but we all pulled through
A backyard birthday on a day so fine
mom thought she was fifty but was only forty-nine
Chocolate cake with icing thick
always wished I knew your trick
When uncle John would look at you
I always knew your love was true
The life you have led so good and honest
You truly are one of the finest
Hope this verse I did mismember
Will bring a smile like the one I remember
Though years have passed and we are apart
These special times are locked in my heart.



Lee, John Cole and Conway
families, 1952

FLOWERS



from Mary's children



from Mary's bridge partners



from Susan Cole



from Nikka Bassett



from Marilyn Dalesky

Flowers from Grant County
Journal not photographed

A Thank You

Mary Lee had an excellent time for her centennial. She thinks she has at least two good years left, and perhaps more! The separate visits with family members made it possible for her to understand the conversations and removed the confusion of excess noise. Even though she complained of the Journal reporter coming to interview her, she had a delightful time with her (and her only quibble about the article was a misquote on a figure caption). She appreciates the time people took out to visit her. David Lee's family came from Miami; J. David Lee came from South Carolina; Freya (Sarah) Barlow came from Oklahoma; and Mary Ann Lee came from Denisport, Massachusetts. Family members also had memorable times mixing with relatives who drove over from Seattle to honor mom, during lunches and dinners at various locales in town.

It was truly a wonderful event.

