

Lueneda Johnson
by Larry J Pellet



Lueneda Johnson in her 20's

If there is some magical value in peanuts, 100 yr old Lueneda Johnson would know about it. Citing Planter Peanuts as one of her secrets to longevity, the Fruitport resident of 6 decades only frets about her newly gray hair these days.

Born on Sept 15, 1919 in Mississippi on her father's farm – about the same time Woodrow Wilson was trying to sell the idea of "A League of Nations" to the rest of the world, Lueneda went on to work at her father's general store before eventually coming to Muskegon to help her brother at the popular C & E Restaurant during WWII.

As love and fate would have it, she later met her future husband Loren in the late '50's, and assisted him as salesperson at Farr View Dairy at the time that yogurt was first introduced locally. Upon his death 20 yrs ago, Luenda ventured to Florida for the winters to spend with her daughter, author Diane Christenson.

In an age where women stayed home more often and held the household together, Diane describes her mother as a "good wife", who's core beliefs included balance, spirituality, and above all integrity, which she impressed on to her progeny.

Fruitport Township thinks favorably about her as well. At a touching ceremony Sept 9 at Township Hall, the centurion was honored by the Board of Trustees. The grateful birthday girl was presented with a card, flowers, and "Resolution 9 of 2019", proclaiming her a "fine citizen, wife, mother and neighbor". Festivities were planned for a party at Olive Garden the following weekend involving family, fun and pictures.



Lueneda and her family during her 100th birthday celebration

Diane, along with her brother Craig and Lueneda's 3 grandchildren all graduated from Fruitport High School and went on to successful careers. Lueneda also has a great-grandchild.

Despite her reservations about graying, Lueneda has been described as "looking pretty for 100" by those that know her. Before an unfortunate fall left her with a neck brace last June, she got around "real well with a cane or walker", and spent a lot of time in her garden.

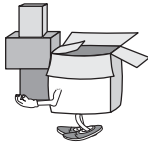
"She's always been sharp as a tack", declared Diane, and then added with a laugh, "Always preaching at us kids to stand up straight".

Still involved in her kids lives, and as a critique to her journalist daughter's published writings, one thing is clear to her loving family and friends... life is still good to Lueneda Johnson.

Fruitport Lions OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS



Friday, December 13 - 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm,
Saturday, December 14 - 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Fruitport Pomona Park
(Third & Park)



Cardboard
Sled Design
Contest



FREE!!!

• Santa Claus will be at Each Night

• Hayrides (dress warm)

• Cardboard Sled Design Contest - Saturday at 4:00 pm

• Food & Hot Beverages

• Holiday Music & Art on Display from the
Local Schools Each Night

FREE!!!

THE NUTCRACKER

The Frauenthal Center and the
West Michigan Youth Ballet present

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019
3:00pm
Frauenthal Theater

Tickets: \$23 Adults
\$12 Children 12 & under
Online: FRAUENTHAL.ORG
Box Office: 231.727.8001
425 West Western Ave.



Make West Michigan Youth Ballet's "The Nutcracker" part of your holiday tradition this year! "The Nutcracker," a wonderful ballet for the entire family, tells the story of a little girl named Clara who is given a magical nutcracker doll on Christmas Eve. She encounters the frightful rat king before embarking on a journey through the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets. Bringing to life this beloved story will be youth from twelve West Michigan dance studios, ranging from 8 – 18 years of age.

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