

# 101-year-old Helen Weaver looks back on a busy life

## Trolley rides and 10-cent ice cream

BY DAVID O'CONNOR  
Staff Writer

She can remember taking the trolley from Rohrerstown to Lancaster, and spending 10 cents for a "big dish of ice cream," Helen Weaver said.

"We thought that was big fun. ... Kids back then were glad for the simpler things," she said with a smile.

A soprano, she sang for 32 years in her church choir, and is someone who knows she "owes everything to God."

Strengthened by her faith and filled with a love for life, Weaver celebrates her 101st birthday today at Brethren Village, the Lititz Pike senior community where she has lived since 1993.

She was married for nearly 59 years to Roger Weaver, an industrial engineer who worked for the U.S. Air Force. He died in 1999.

The daughter of the late Philip and Naomi Sload Starr, the former Helen Starr graduated from



Helen Weaver

the old Rohrerstown High School and Lancaster Business College in downtown Lancaster.

She then went to work in the "case office" at the old Hamilton

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Watch Co. on Columbia Avenue, handling the orders for watch parts.

She met her future husband at a friend's house.

"And that Saturday night, he called me to see if we could go on a date, so that's how we started to go together," she said.

They were married in 1940, and lived at first in Lancaster, at the old Cadillac Apartments on East King Street, before moving to Elizabethtown, where she worked for E-town's Continental Press, which published school books.

Before retiring and moving from E-town to Brethren Village, the Weavers took a trip out west, seeing sights including the Grand Canyon and Mount Rushmore and also seeing Mexico.

The couple had no children, but have a close extended family, said Weaver's niece, Geraldine Rehm of Lititz.

Weaver also said she "loves life," and has enjoyed hobbies ranging from bowling to playing piano, with some tennis thrown in.

She was the youngest of five children, with three brothers and a sister: Ruth, Walter, Raymond and Ervin, all deceased.

Weaver recalled around age 13 going with a cousin, Esther Starr, to downtown Lancaster after her mother had given her 50 cents, enough to have at least a little fun.

Feeling precocious, the teen bought a bracelet and some lipstick.

"I thought I was big" and all grown-up, she recalled, but when she walked out of her room to go to school the next day, her mother asked, "WHAT do you have on your lips?"

Lipstick, young Helen replied.

"Well, you go wash that off ... You don't go to school with lipstick on!" her mother commanded.

Weaver's husband worked at the former Olmsted Air Force Base, Middletown, for 25 years. He also was a pitcher for several Lancaster baseball leagues, and Weaver remains a baseball fan, following the Philadelphia Phillies and, locally, the Lancaster Barnstormers.

Weaver has been a long-time member of First Church of God, Elizabethtown, and with her husband also volunteered with Meals on Wheels.

dconnor@lnpnews.com