

Still a working woman at 90 years old

By **HARRIETT GILL**
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At the age of 83, Margie Applegate applied for the part time homemaker position that was open with the Norton County Health Department. She was interviewed and hired.

Now at age 90, she is still there. Margie does housework, laundry, linen changes and errands. The work she does enables patients to remain in their homes.

Some of the individuals Margie helps are much younger than she. Without dedicated people like her, many of the patients would have to leave their home and go into assisted living or nursing home.

Applegate's family is one of the early residents of Norton, she remembers living in a tent until the sod house was built. Her family moved to Norton from Lyford, Texas, she said.

"I was just a baby, months old, when we moved. Mom and the children were on the train and Dad left the train in Henessy, Okla. and brought a covered wagon into Norton," she said.

Margie went to school in Calvert and later Bunker Hill. She is a graduate of Norton County High School.

She was in the National Youth Association during the depression and received janitorial

training in Hill City from the work project.

In 1941, she married Wayne Applegate. During World War II,

Wayne was in the Army and before he shipped overseas, they were stationed at various places in states.

When he went overseas, she came back to Norton. Applegate has two sons, Stanley and wife, Carolyn of Norton. Stanley also has a farm in Norcatour. Jim lives in Norcatour. He works at Norton Animal Health and does custom haying.

Margie has three grandchildren, Amanda of Norton, Kelli and Jamie of McCook, Neb. Her husband, Wayne died in 1999.

Her constant companion at home is her dachshund, Hannah.

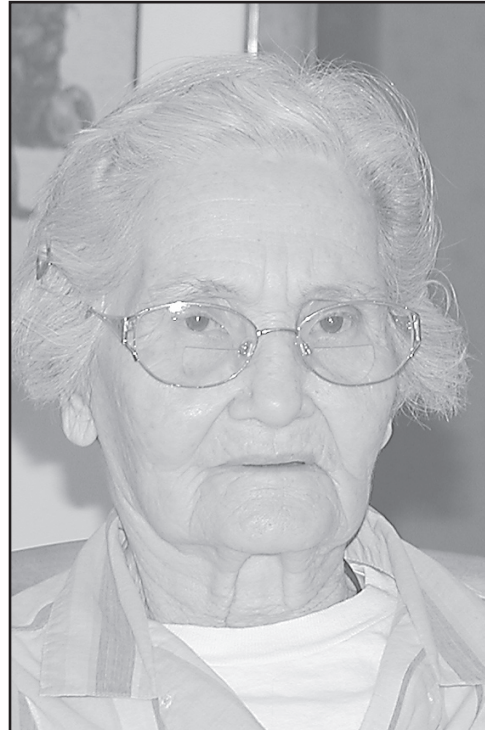
Applegate can still remember her first job at a chicken processing plant.

"I remember one of my first jobs, it was at Seymore's chicken processing plant, it was over by where the county shops are.

"The chickens were killed and a machine took most of the feathers and I had to hand clean the rest. I was lucky and didn't have to dress any chickens," she said.

The Applegates ran a dairy farm for 40 years. She was a farm wife and hand.

"I would get up at 5 a.m. and milk cows," she said.



Marjorie Applegate

"We had about 30 head of dairy cows."

Amanda Davis, her granddaughter, speaks fondly of the orchard where she picked apples

and cherries on visits to the farm.

"There were a lot of cherries that were picked and eaten," Davis said.

"Grandma, made the best jelly, and she always baked her own bread", she said. "I remember asking for bread and jelly when I went to see her."

Davis said "She still uses a wringer wash machine, in fact, when her old one broke down, my grandfather went to an auction to buy another. "She still has it, it sits right next to her washer and dryer."

"I like clothes dried outside," Applegate said.

Gina Frack, Norton County Health Department administrator, said, "Margie is my hero, my idol. Her people love her. She is always bubbly and helpful."

"In the home health care field, the needs of patients fluctuate, there is not always enough work to cover the full time and part time employees, and as a result, Margie has been cut back." Frack stated.

She currently does not have any patients. She is looking forward to going back to work.

"I would rather work, than sit around. You have to work if you want anything." Margie said.

Applegate is very active in her church and has been attending Maple Grove Church of the Brethren for many years.

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Pictured from left to right, front row: Cheryl Meyers (holding the company dog, Tootsie), Lisa Henderson, Karen Wright and Sharon Batson; second row: Rachell Thomas, Cheryl Farr, Linda Becker; back row: Sandra Kaiser, Diana Smith, Pamela Harper and Becky Graham. Not pictured: Stephanie Cookson and Mary Herring.

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