



**THE ANDERSON FAMILY** included, row 1, (from left) Preacher Edd and “Cap”, Myrtle (Warner) and Goldie (Anderson). his wife, Ellen. Row 2: Florence (Wenger), Herbert R., Arvida (Wenger), Edwin

# Woman to celebrate 100 years

By MARY LOU OLSON

“I am very thankful to be born in this part of the world, where we have freedom of speech and travel and can worship our Lord,” said Myrtle Warner, who will celebrate her 100th birthday on June 18.

Her family will honor her with an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday at Sappa Manor in Oberlin.

She said she grew up in the Lund community, southwest of Oberlin, and was the daughter of a farmer and preacher.

The sixth in a family of eight children, she was the first to be born in their new frame house in Prairie Dog Township, which replaced the soddie. Her parents were Edd and Ellen (Anderson) Anderson

“I was the youngest for many years, until my little sister, Goldie, came along 13 years later, followed by our little brother, Joe, who died when he was 22. I also had two other sisters, Florence and Arvida, who married brothers John and Alvin Wenger, respectively, along with three other brothers, Herbert R., Hugo, who was killed when he was 3 in a buggy accident, and Edwin “Cap,” who was just 13 months older than I,” she said.

“From the time we were young, my brother, ‘Cap’ and I were playmates and I was always a ‘Tom Girl.’ He was an inventor and we enjoyed getting out Dad’s tools and he would make some wonderful creations out of wood,” she said. “One time he made a four-wheeled cart, which would run when we pulled the handle back and forth. We also had fun trapping skunks, which we skinned and then sold the hides.

“Among other playmates were our close neighbors, Joe and David Carman. We always enjoyed having water fights with them when we got together.

“With two older sisters to assist with the housework and cooking, I helped with the milking, chickens and other farm chores. At harvest time when the wheat was ready, it was cut with a binder, then the bundles were pitched later into a

threshing machine. We hauled the wheat to town in a lumber wagon.

“Growing up two miles south of the Lund Covenant Church, our family attended services there. We all rode to church in the buggy, pulled by one horse, until Dad bought a ‘surry with a fringe on top,’ which required two horses.

“My father, who was known as “Preacher Edd,” was ordained as a pastor of the United Brethren Church through correspondence,” she said. “The last church he served was at Sabetha.”

“I attended Bellview country school 3/4 of a mile from our farm and we always walked to school. Later, when we transferred to Swede Home School, we usually rode a horse. One of our favorite teachers was Frances (Dawson) Knitig.

“My dad’s first car was an Overland, and after I learned to drive I had one mishap. When driving to town one day, I fell asleep and hit a fence post. Fortunately, no one was hurt,” she said. “Our first radio was operated with a car battery and was very ‘squawky.’”

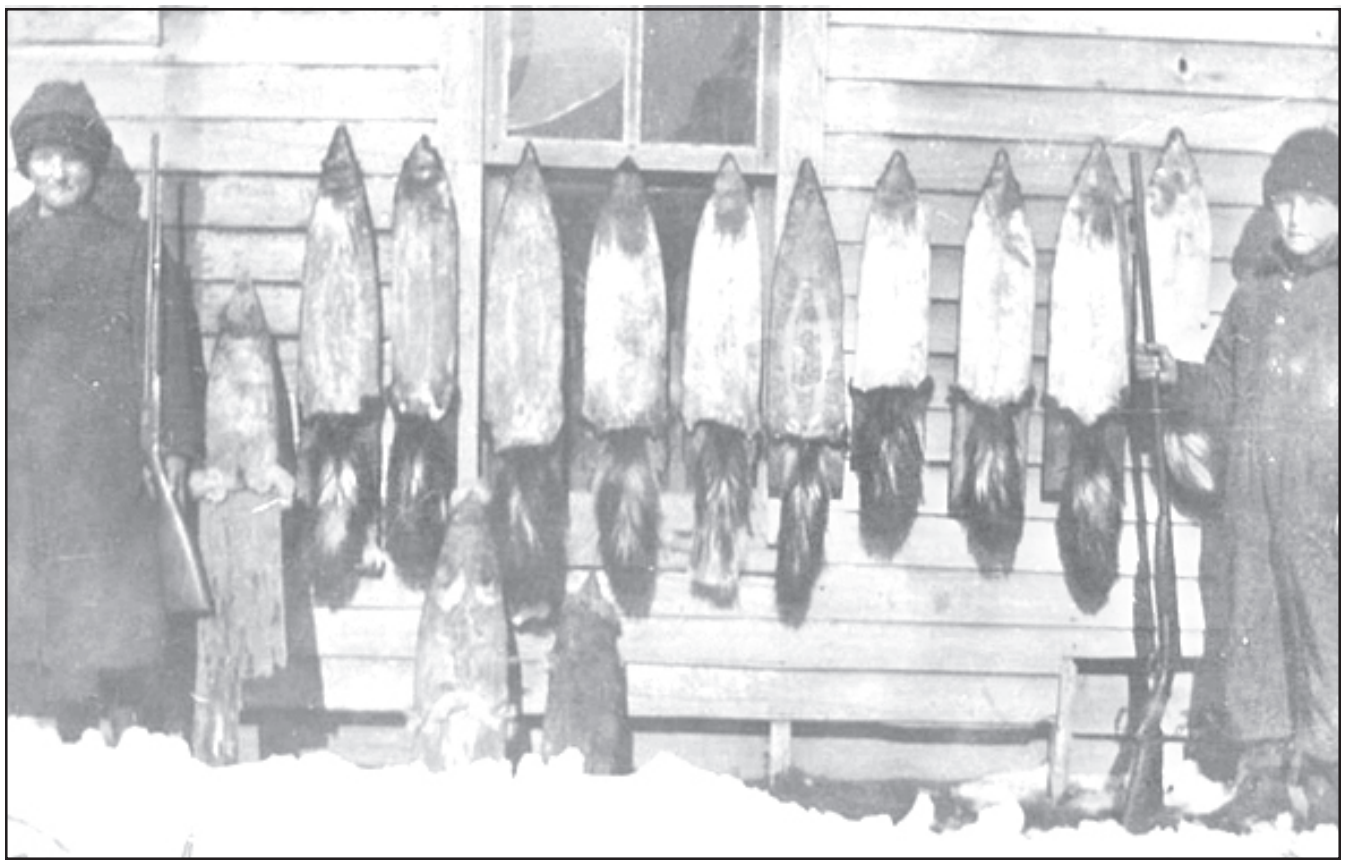
She said, “Things were different when we grew up than for kids today because we depended completely on ourselves to make our own entertainment.”

Before her first marriage to Walter Rogers, she said she attended two years of high school in Selden. The couple had a son, Gerald Rogers, who now lives at Newton with his wife, Leona.

She said that after they divorced, she worked during World War II at the Hercules Powder Company near Lawrence, where they made gun powder.

After her marriage to Jess Warner on May 24, 1947, they lived on a farm at Osceola, Mo., where her husband raised and sold chickens. During that time, she worked for the Siegrist Engraving Co. in Kansas City and commuted by bus.

After her husband died in 1981, she remained on the farm until moving to Oberlin nearly four years ago. Mrs. Warner said, “It was very



**A FAVORITE PASTIME** of Myrtle (above left) and her brother, Edwin “Cap” Anderson was trapping and skinning skunks. They took them to Selden, where they were shipped to Kansas City and sold.

—Myrtle Warner photos



Young Myrtle

hard to leave my farm in Missouri, but I just told my friends, “I might as well move closer to the cemetery (Lund) where I plan to be buried near my parents and grandparents.” The sunny disposition and wit of

Mrs. Warner has always been a delight to her family.

A granddaughter, Tami Carlgren, said, “Grandma has always had a tremendous love of learning. She is curious about everything, and always eager to learn about or see something new. To this day, she is an avid reader and has always done the crossword puzzles in the newspaper to ‘exercise my gray matter,’ as she puts it! No doubt this has helped keep her so mentally sharp to the age of 100 and counting!

“Grandma is also famous for her crispies, a flat cinnamon roll-like pastry which is a family favorite. I also remember getting boxes of fudge from her every Christmas when we were children and that was such a treat.

“When Grandma was probably in her late 80’s and still living on her farm, which was approximately 8 miles from town, she had trouble with her TV antenna one day. So, being the spunky independent woman that she has always been, Grandma got out her ladder and climbed onto the roof to adjust the antenna. It must have been windy, because her ladder was blown down. Undaunted, Grandma slid down the drainpipe on her house to the ground. When I spoke with her about this later, I told her I couldn’t believe she had done that.

“Her response to me was, ‘What do you expect me to do — stay on the roof?’

“Grandma has only recently given up driving her own car. In fact, when she was in her 90’s, she drove from her home in Missouri out to see my sister GERALYN in Goodland. When she got there, she told GERALYN she wanted to continue driving clear across the state of Kansas, so GERALYN got in with Grandma, and they drove over into Colorado. Not many 90-something-year-olds can say they drove across the entire state!

“Lastly, my grandmother has always been a woman of great faith. I know she would tell you this faith has seen her through many hard times, and also brought her great joy and comfort in her 100 years.

“I remember only in the last few years, opening her bedroom door to say goodnight and finding her down on her knees by the bed praying. She has been an inspiration and example for all of us who know and love her.”

She still attends the Lund or Oberlin Covenant Churches and enjoys accompanying her niece, Eris Young, to United Methodist Women meetings. That group also honored her recently with a party to mark her 100th milestone. Karen Metcalf of Oberlin is also a niece.

Besides her son and his wife, Mrs. Warner has five grandchildren, Sherry Watts, GERALYN PARKER, Joe and Scott Rogers and Tami Carlgren, and 12 great-grandchildren, who will honor her at the open house. The public is invited.