

100 years old and still cooking (for her son)

Hazel Seibert celebrates a century of achievements, love and family

BY JESSICA CLARK

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Martinez resident Hazel Seibert turned 100 years old on August 28. Her church, First Congregational Church in Martinez, held a birthday party for her with 100 helium balloons. "In my 3 years as pastor, she has been one of the most faithful, loyal members of our congregation," says pastor Norm Luecke, "I find her to be a very delightful, articulate and friendly person. I wish we had 100 more of her."

Hazel has two children, Richard W. Seibert Jr of Martinez, and Barbara A. Hand of San Diego. She has two grandchildren, Richard W. Seibert III of Berkeley, and Alisa R. Panalagan of San Diego. She has one great-grandchild, Alexander Panalagan. "I am blessed, at the ripe old age of 48, to still have a grandmother I can call and ask for a recipe for something she cooked forty years ago." Says grandson Richard III, "and if it is any key to longevity, she taught me to decide what you want *before* you open the refrigerator door. It saves time and energy as well as keeping the PG&E bill down!"

As a girl growing up in Portland, Maine, Hazel started studying the violin at age 10 with the best teacher in Portland. She played in school orchestras and after school played for the Portland Municipal Orchestra. She eventually became the First Violinist for the orchestra. Her father, Captain Charles "Harry" Perkins, was a tug-

boat captain, owning the only two tugboats in Portland Harbor, but he never drove a car, so when he bought a new Buick in 1924 she became the family driver. She drove for 68 years with 1 ticket (a speeding ticket in Martinez) and no accidents.

"She has always remained quite active, driving her car up to her 97th birthday, when she elected not to renew her license," said her son Richard, "I encouraged her to renew it to maintain her independence because she was still a good driver, but she decided she had driven long enough."

Hazel came to the west coast in 1939 on the New City of San Francisco Streamliner. She lived in the small town of Clyde for one year with her husband and two children while they had a home built in Walnut Creek, and later moved to Martinez in 1947. Hazel retired from the Contra Costa Health Department in 1970.

Hazel's son now lives with her. "She still cooks dinner for me, and insists on a balanced meal," says Richard. "A green vegetable, yellow vegetable, meat, salad, and, of course, always dessert!"



The Seiberts in 1937.