

# Tri-Village NEWS

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Myrtle Bretz

## Grandview woman turns 100 on Saturday

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If you want to make friends with Myrtle Bretz, don't congratulate her about her 100th birthday.

She'll tell you that living to be 100 is not all it's cracked up to be. As she recently told a great granddaughter, "I'm wearing out all over. My ears, my eyes, my legs ...."

"There's nothing the matter with your tongue," the young woman teased.

**BRETZ, WHO** turns 100 Saturday, has spent a lifetime doing for others.

A loving relative can't offer to run and get something for her without it getting on her nerves — at least a bit.

"It hurts," she says, but bad eyesight and poor balance have restricted her commitments. She stays home a lot.

**AT AGE 16,** she met the man who, four years later in 1911, she married.

While raising their own son, Dale, they raised Myrtle's two younger siblings.

Over the past 65 years living in Grandview Heights, Bretz kept busy with volunteer work. A few years ago, she received her 50-year pin from Riverside Methodist Hospitals, where she volunteered her sewing skills, mending and stitching together whatever was set before her.

**UNTIL SHE** was 80, she

drove herself Downtown and served beverages to people who donated blood at the Red Cross, but quit that 21-year volunteer job because her husband worried about her being on the road at night.

At 90, she quit driving altogether.

She and her husband once traveled all over the country, although she's now too frail for more than a trip across town.

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She is a charter member of the Railway Mail Clerk's Auxiliary. She still participates at the Cliff Heights' Senior Citizens' Club, where she is a charter member.

Bretz is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church and the Miriam Circle.

**ONCE SHE** had a vegetable garden in back and flowers in front, but since she can't care for those herself now, she doesn't have them anymore.

She's been a widow since 1981.

She gets dressed by herself, fixes her own meals, tends to her own laundry and does her own grocery shopping. Playing euchre weekly at the senior citizens' center "keeps the cobwebs out of my brain," she said.

Television news, sports and a couple game shows are enough television for her.

"What do you think about Margaret Thatcher stepping

down?" she'll ask, or, "Boy, the Bengals sure got hurt last week, didn't they?"

But if you come to the open house to be held on her birthday from 2 to 4 p.m. at 1205 Elmwood Ave., the home of her sister, Faith, and brother-in-law, Paul Kemper, just don't ask her how she feels about having a birthday and don't bring her a birthday present.

"No gifts, no flowers," she said.

You'll probably be safe bringing or sending a card.

Ditto for the reception to be held at Trinity United Methodist Church on Sunday.

At some of these parties, you may cross paths with her son, Dale, and daughter-in-law, Carmen, co-organizers of her birthday celebration along with the Kempers, or her two caring grandsons or her three affectionate great-grandchildren.

Myrtle says she appreciates the attention she gets from all of them, but still offers this advice: "Don't live to be 100."