

*Recollections from a Niece*

**Subject: Re: Miss Margie**

**Date: Wed, 19 Jan 2000 01:11:44 -0600**

**From: Jane Baker** ~~mailto:jane.baker@wku.edu~~

**To: Connie Mills** <Connie.Mills@wku.edu>

When my daughter was sixteen, I got A. Margie out of the car- she did move slowly at age 94- And I had just shut the car door when my daughter- started to turn the car around. I screamed stop which she did. A. Margie patted me on the arm and said, "don't worry Jane, she was just going to hit an old woman". I choked and said not more. (My daughter was frightened and learned her lesson to look to be sure the car is clear to move of its passengers. It was taught in a loving way rather than by chewing her out.)

A. Margie always said that is fine -no matter what you said or what you did. She always saw the bright side of life and forgave or forgot or overlooked the bad. She was still listening to Western Basketball games at age 96. She lived to be 97.

Her birthday was Aug 21 and as a child she learned that what ever day of the week her birthday was on - Christmas would be on that same year.

She had cataract surgery at age 80 (1974) and at that time her brothers and all learned that she had been blind since age 6 (1900) from an ulcer on her eye. When asked why she had never told anyone she said, " I was not ~~there~~ concern." After her death I learned that she had been rejected by the Navy in 1944 (her age would have been 50) because of poor eye sight.

In 1916, President Wilson invited all college students to visit the White House during Spring Break. So she and a couple of other girls from Randolph Macan went to Washington D.C. and knocked on the White House front door for a visit and did get in. Rather interesting when we think how things are today.

Aug. 21, 1894 - Dec. 19, 1991.--

Bowling Green HS -1912

Randolph Macan College -1916

Came back to Bowling Green and taught Latin before joining Western.

In 1920, President Cherry asked her on a train between Louisville and Bowling Green to join Western and be the Librarian. She did and Western sent her to Pratt Library School in NYC and later to Univ. of Chicago for her masters in Library Science in the 30's.

I guess I now have given you too much. She was a favorite to all in the family.

Good Luck- I wish I could be there but I have to go to Frankfort that day.

Jane Helm Baker- She was my father's sister. We in the family are always telling A. Margie stories.

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yes- Aunt margie as I called her never lost her sense of humor- even at 90 after she was nearly blind - on april fools day she would ask you "did you drop something" as you entered the room.

One time she went to the Helm library after she retired and wanted to check out a book but did not have a library card. the person asked her for some ID and she just pointed to her picture hanging on the wall.

I will send more later.

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She loved books and during the 30's and 40's she would check out books and then lend them to her black friend or help so they could have access to books and learning.

She always gave books or magazine subscriptions as gifts to all her friends and nieces and nephews and brothers and sisters.

I am through thinking of stories- jhb