COLORADO COMMISSION ON AGING



ANNUAL REPORT State Fiscal Year July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Information about the Colorado Commission on Aging

The Older Coloradans Act provides authority for the Colorado Commission on Aging to carry out the following purposes:

- Conduct, and encourage other organizations to conduct studies of the problems of the state's older people;
- Assist governmental and private agencies to coordinate their efforts on behalf of the aging and aged in order to reduce duplication and waste of effort;
- Promote and aid in the establishment of local programs and services for the aging and aged. The Commission shall assist governmental and private agencies by designing surveys that may be used locally to determine needs of older people; by recommending the creation of services; by collecting and distributing information on aging; and by assisting public and private organizations in all ways the Commission deems appropriate;
- Conduct promotional activities and programs of public education on issues facing the aging;
- Review existing aging programs and make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly for improvement in such programs; and,
- Advise and make recommendations to the State Department, the State Office on Aging, created pursuant to part 2 of this article, on the problems, programs, and services for the aging and aged.

SFY 2007-2008 Membership

The Commission consists of seventeen members appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate. Two members must be appointed from each congressional district (one from each major political party and when a vacancy in District 4 occurs, one member must be from west of the continental divide). One member must be appointed from the state at-large, one member must be appointed from among the membership of the senate and one member must be appointed from among the membership of the house. All members are appointed for terms of four years each, commencing July 1 in the year of appointment. The 2007 - 2008 Commission membership includes:

Congressional Districts

Vivian Stovall (District 1-D) Joseph Sims (District 1-R) Harriet Edelstein (District 2-D) Barbara Martig (District 2-R) Sheila Casey (District 3-D) Mary Jane Hangs (District 3-R)

Mark Shelton (District 4-D)

Gerald "Jerry" Wathen (District 4-R)

Steve Bender (District 5-D)

Linda Sanden (District 5-R) Maureen Robinson (District 6-D)

Russ DenBraber (District 6-R)

Frank Lay (District 7-D)

Gretchen Cerveny (District 7-R)

Member At-Large

Karl Aguilera

Senate Representative

Honorable Paula Sandoval-D

House Representative

Honorable Tom Massey-R

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SFY 07-08 Commissioners:

Front Row (seated) – left to right: Mary Jane Hangs, Jeanette Hensley

Back Row (standing) – left to right: Steve Bender, Maureen Robinson, Barb Martig, Linda
Sanden, Jerry Wathen, Russ DenBraber, Mark Shelton, Sheila Casey, Gov. Bill Ritter, Jr., Harriet
Edelstein, Jamie Malone, Gretchen Cerveny, Karl Aguilera, Vivian Stovall

Not Pictured: Sen. Paula Sandoval, Rep. Thomas Massey, Joe Sims, Frank Lay

Mission

The mission of the Colorado Commission on Aging (CCOA) is to inform and advise decision-makers and to advocate for better quality of life for all seniors.

Authority and Appropriation

The CCOA is established under the authority of the Older Coloradans Act (C.R.S. Sections 26-11-100.1 to 26-11-106) to serve as the primary advisory body on all matters affecting older persons. The CCOA is a volunteer organization of seventeen people appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate committee to serve for four years and not more than two terms. There is a Republican and a Democrat representing each of the seven Congressional Districts, one at-large Commissioner, and one member each of different parties from the State Senate and House.

In fiscal year 2007-2008, the Legislature appropriated federal and state general funds to the Commission to carry out its statutory responsibilities. The source for federal funds is the Older Americans Act. Members of the CCOA do not receive compensation for their services, but are reimbursed for expenses incurred by the performance of their official duties. Reimbursements are provided in accordance with the State's fiscal rules and policies.

Officers

Officers for Fiscal Year July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008 were: **Sheila J. Casey,** Chair; **Maureen Robinson,** Vice Chair; **Barbara Martig,** Legislative Chair; and **Stephen M. Bender**, past Chair.

Commission Roles and Responsibilities

Following are the roles of each committee.

Colorado Commission on Aging's role is to:

- 1. Represent all of Colorado's 60+ population and their caregivers with specific focus on rural and frail elderly.
- 2. Address health and social needs and issues, using a broad-based approach.
- 3. Support or oppose issues through education, dialogue, and advocacy activities.
- 4. Focus on understanding the issues and needs of Colorado's 60+ population; understand federal policies as they impact Colorado and its 60+ population; and maintain awareness of other states' programs as these may provide ideas or models for serving Colorado's 60+ population, including the study of demographic changes.
- 5. Collaboratively work with the Colorado Department of Human Services and the Aging and Adult Services Division, recognizing that occasions may arise at which time Department/Division and Commission perspectives may not be in harmony. Recommend state aging priorities to the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Colorado Department of Human Services, Governor and Legislature.
- 6. Take positions on selected issues and collaborate with the efforts of other community-based senior organizations.
- 7. Support activities such as public hearings and recognition programs as available and appropriate.
- 8. Review issues related to the Old Age Pension Health Care Program.
- 9. Support changing the \$10 million cap of the Old Age Pension Health Care Program through broad-based support to be sought from Colorado's aging services network. This includes the possibility of recommending a constitutional amendment to address this issue.
- 10. Participate in public hearings in conjunction with the Area Agencies on Aging and the State Unit on Aging in the development of the State's four-year plan. Review Area Agency on Aging's (AAA) programs and funding to address issues and priorities for Planning and Service Areas (PSA) in Congressional Districts.
- 11. Be knowledgeable of priority issues in aging at the National Level and make recommendations when appropriate, including the review of long-term care reform in reference to Medicare/Medicaid changes.
- 12. Conduct Older Americans Month event. Sponsor and promote the Centenarian Program. Commissioners are actively involved in identifying Centenarians, and participate in the recognition for seniors who are celebrating their 100 or 100 plus birthdays.
- 13. Co-Sponsor the Senior Day at the Capital Event along with other aging network groups. Senior Day invites seniors from around the state to come to the capital to meet and greet their legislators, attend the morning legislative sessions and tour the capital.
- 14. Sponsor the Allen Buckingham Senior Leadership Legacy Awards luncheon. This award is given to a senior that has been nominated by their peers and have made great contributions to the senior population in Colorado or in their local areas.

Committee Roles and Responsibilities

The Colorado Commission on Aging is comprised of four committees:

Executive, Policy/Legislative, Community Relations, and Strategic Planning.

Executive Committee role is:

- 1. Provide leadership to Commission members concerning duties/responsibilities and strategic planning.
- 2. Provide input in the hiring of a new State Aging and Adult Services Division Director when necessary, and serve as the liaison with the Division of Aging and Adult Services.
- 3. Be empowered to act on emergency matters between regular Commission meetings, such actions will be reviewed at the next Commission meeting.
- 4. Develop the CCOA meeting agendas.
- 5. Write letters to constituents, legislators, or the Governor when requested by the commission.

Policy/Legislative Committee role is:

- 1. Stay informed and involved on legislative initiatives for older citizens of Colorado.
- 2. Collaborate with organizations that represent the interests and needs of Older Coloradans.
- 3. Monitor initiatives for Improving Quality of Care in Nursing Homes/Assisted Living Residences.
- Provide input to Colorado Department of Human Services, Aging and Adult Services
 Division and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing in maintaining existing
 programs for older citizens in Colorado.
- 5. Participate and educate public officials, the general public and older citizens in Colorado on senior issues and initiatives pertaining to legislation.
- 6. Review and provide input on Long-Term Care Reform.
- 7. Participate in legislative action organizations/groups as appropriate.
- 8. Advocate for Old Age Pension recipients as well as programs.

Community Relations Committee role is:

- 1. Sponsor the annual Allen M.A. Buckingham Senior Leadership Legacy Lecture Award.
- 2. Sponsor the Older Americans Month Centenarian Celebration. .
- 3. Participate in Senior Day at the Capitol.
- 4. Participate in the Eastern Plains Legislative Speak Out.
- 5. Participate in the Western Slope Legislative Speak Out.

Strategic Planning Committee role is:

- 1. Set direction and priorities for the Commission.
- 2. Establish goals and objectives.
- 3. Establish action plans on achieving the goals and objectives.

2007-2008 Meetings

CCOA meetings for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

| July 12 & 13, 2007 | Annual Meeting | Denver |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| September 13 & 14, 2007 | Allen Buckingham Award Event | Colorado Springs |
| November 9 & 10, 2007 | | Denver |
| February 27 & 28, 2008 | Senior Day at the Capitol | Denver - Capitol |
| April 4 & 5, 2008 | | Denver |
| May 20 & 21, 2008 | Centenarians Celebration | Alamosa |

These meetings provided the Commission the opportunity to review legislation, state and federal public policies of social programs for citizens sixty years of age and older in our state. As a result of these meetings the Commission was able to meet its mandated purpose by advising the Departments of Health Care Policy and Financing and Human Services, Division of Aging & Adult Services, concerning program changes, budgetary issues, and policy issues.

2007-2008 Year Review

Fiscal year 2007-2008 presented another year of significant fiscal challenges for social programs to support the quality of life for older Colorado citizens. The Commission's focus was to collaborate with state-wide senior advocacy representatives to support the Statewide Strengths and Needs Assessment of Older Adults in Colorado; to celebrate and recognize the centenarians in our state; and to work with our state Legislators, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, and the Colorado Department of Human Services to keep existing Medicaid programs intact; to encourage state departments to maintain the integrity of programs for the frail, elderly, blind, handicapped, disabled, most vulnerable populations, and low-income seniors.

I. 2007-2008 Legislation/Policy Decisions Impacting Older Citizens of Colorado – Barb Martig, Chair

During the 2007-2008 legislative session, the Colorado Commission on Aging collaborated with statewide stakeholders by informing state legislators about the strengths and needs of older citizens in our state; the importance of funding senior programs; and the need to focus on preventive health care supportive programs such as Home and Community Based Services; and to keep individuals in their homes and out of costly health care settings.

The Commission reviewed all bills pertaining to aging issues, and voted to either support, monitor or oppose the various bills. The Commission advocated for the legislation that was chosen.

The Commission studied and advocated for Federal legislation pertaining to the Older American Act program and issues.

The following bills were supported, monitored or opposed by the Colorado Commission on Aging. Most of these bills have been signed by the Governor and have become law.

HB08-1032 – Medicaid Pharmacy Payments
HB08-1038 - Assisted Living Residence Regulation Fee

HB08-1108 - Increase Funds For Older CO Cash Fund

HB08-1116 - Rules Dental Assistance Program Seniors

HB08-1242 - Medicaid Home Care Service Providers

HB08-1310 - Deferred Deposit Loan Transactions HB08-1356 - Residential Landlords & Tenants

HB08-1389 - Fair Accountable Insurance Rates

HCR08-1002 - Senior Prop Tax Exemption Eligibility

HCR08-1003 - Senior Prop Tax Exemption Eligibility

HCR08-1004 - Redistricting Commn GA & Congress

SB08-050 - Elder Driver's License Renewal Mail Elec

SB08-058 - Alzheimer's Coordinating Council Act

SB08-090 - Medicaid Mail-order Prescription Drugs

SB08-131 - Increase For Suppl Old Age Pension Fund

SB08-153 - License Home Care Agencies By The CDPHE

SB08-187 - Carbon Monoxide Alarms In Res Properties

SB08-200 - Expand Discrimination Prohibitions

SB08-214 - Local Government Medicaid Provider Fees

SCR08-001 - Expand Existing Property Tax Exemptions

SCR08-002 - Protect Transportation Funding

SCR08-003 - Limit Change Init CRS & Filing Deadline

II. Strategic Planning Committee - Mark Shelton, Chair

The Strategic Planning Committee has continued to meet quarterly with the goal of setting direction and priorities for the Commission, as well as establishing goals and objectives that are in the best interest of older Coloradoans. This Committee spends a majority of its time and

energy exploring issues that require a long-term approach and focus. In many situations, the Committee may ask other senior advocacy organizations to collaborate in research and study of complex issues affecting seniors across the state of Colorado.

Strategic Planning, under the guidance of the Commission has focused on the following five areas as long-term issues to study and advocate for:

- Old Age Pension Health and Medical Program after two years of intense study and collaboration with the Colorado Gerontological Society and the Colorado Senior Lobby, the Strategic Planning Committee is pleased to see the passage of Senate Bill 08 131 in the 2008 Legislative Session, which increases funding by \$2.1 million for the Supplemental Old Age Pension Health and Medical Fund.
- Continuing Education Requirement- researching the need for the requirement of continuing education credits for long-term care facilities in light of changing technology and improving standards.
- 3. **Senior Friendly Communities** studying universal design guidelines to make sure there are high-quality, accessible facilities to allow aging in place. Transportation and proper signage that is senior friendly is another focus of the senior friendly community.
- 4. **Silverprint Colorado** increased involvement by Commissioners within subcommittees of the Silverprint initiative, an innovative blue print for aging in Colorado that resulted from the 2005 White House Conference on Aging.
- 5. **Cabinet Position** exploring the need for and benefits of a cabinet level position for Aging within the Governor's or Lt. Governor's office to facilitate communication between state government and senior advocacy organizations in Colorado.

III. SILVERPRINT COLORADO A Strategic Plan for Aging

Colorado Commission on Aging members who served as delegates to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) in Washington, D.C. have been joined by other members of CCOA in supporting the evolution and development of the Silverprint Colorado initiative. Michael Wasserman, M.D. and Janice Blanchard continue in their leadership roles as cochairpersons of Silverprint. A sub-committee structure has been developed, each being led by one of the WHCOA delegates.

Civic Engagement & Volunteerism Janice Blanchard, Consultant

Health & Wellness Kathy Turley, Kaiser Permanente & former CCOA

member

Long Term Care
Professional Training & Education

Professional Training & Education Michael Wasserman, M.D. S Transportation Jeanette Hensley, Aging & A

Eileen Doherty, Colorado Gerontological Society Michael Wasserman, M.D. Senior Care of Colorado Jeanette Hensley, Aging & Adult Services

CCOA members have representation on all sub-committees. Subcommittees have established a regular schedule for their meetings. Plans include enabling conference calls for all sub-

committees so any member of the state's aging network wishing to participate in the meetings of their choice can do so from anywhere in Colorado.

The Silverprint Colorado website, www.silverprintcolorado.org has been created and is seen as a work in progress. The State Office on Aging is providing staff support for the development and management of the website.

Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. and Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper endorsed the Silverprint Colorado Initiative at a public role-out event in Denver in November 2007. Also attending this event and endorsing the initiative as a model for the entire country were Dorcas Hardy, former Chair of the WHCOA and Robert Blancato, of the 2005 WHCOA Executive Committee.

IV. Eastern Plains Speak Out

The Eastern Plains Speak Out was held at the Community Center in Stratton, Colorado, October 4 and 5, 2007. The theme for the Speak Out was "Do Wop", "Do What?" The theme was based on music of the 1950's and 1960's. Some of the breakout sessions were "Thinking Outside the Box", a program on nutrition, and "Keeping a Good Outlook". After the daily seminars, a banquet was held. Entertainment for the evening was a dance duo. Two people performed several dances to music from the 1950's and 1960's.

A legislative forum was held on Friday morning with Rep. Jerry Sonneburg, Rep. Cory Gardner, Sen.Ken Kester, Sen. Greg Brophy, Mac McGraw aide to U. S. Senator Ken Salazar, Debbie Carlstrom, aide to Congresman Musgrave, and Daryl Brenner, aide to U. S. Senator Wayne Allard in attendance. Some of the topics that were covered were water issues and Pinyon Canyon.

V. Western Slope Legislative Round up

Western Slope Legislative Round Up was held September 5th & 6th 2007 at the Two Rivers Convention Center in Grand Junction, Colorado.

- Background The Western Slope Legislative Round Up is sponsored by the Area Agencies on Aging on the Western Slope of Colorado. It is designed for the senior citizen leaders on the western slope to come together and discuss issues of importance to seniors, develop a consensus, and have a discussion with Western Slope State Legislators about those issues and learn what is of importance to the Legislators as the next Colorado Legislature convenes.
- Areas of service delivery that are of importance to seniors are:
- The development of a standardized continuum of care that promotes living as independently as possible. This should include:
 - Increased number of providers that accept Medicare and Medicaid,
 - Counselors to advise seniors on supplemental insurance plan and drug coverage,
 - Inclusion of hearing, dental, and vision coverage, mental healthcare and more in-home care.
 - Information on services that are available, and transportation to reach the services,
 - Increased capacity of specialized transit services,
 - Transportation infrastructure that is safe, accessible, and walkable,

- A range of housing that is affordable, designed for the care of Alzheimer's and mental health care, and
- Preventative health care programs.
- The issues that Seniors see as important to their care and support in the next legislative session are:
 - Continuance of referendum C,
 - Continuance and support of the Older Coloradoans Program,
 - The Colorado Homestead Exemption once earned and granted should be allowed to be transferred with the grantee to a new owned residence, and
 - Health care reforms such as the 208 Commission is contemplating that must address access, service delivery, and long term-care for seniors

Energy Impact Assistance funds to local governments should be "De- Bruced" and flexible to allow for programmatic operational expenses.

VI. Centenarians Celebrations

The Commission sponsors the annual Centenarian Celebration during the Older Americans Month in May. The Centenarian event is a promotional activity of the Commission on Aging to celebrate the lives of centenarians across the state, recognize their individual century of achievement, and focus the attention of all Coloradoans on the political and social issues of aging. This year's celebration "EngAged for a Lifetime" was held at the Inn of the Rio Grande in Alamosa, Colorado on May 21st honoring 4 centenarians for their life long achievements. The centenarians were presented with a certificate signed by the Governor and a letter of achievement from Senator Ken Salazar.

Opening remarks were made by Sheila Casey, Chair of the Colorado Commission on Aging followed by the National Anthem, sung by Lara Carbajal, Ms. Senior Colorado 2007. The guest speakers were Carol Refior, South-Central Colorado Seniors Policy Board Chair, and Ferris Berving, Mayor of Alamosa. Carol is an Alamosa native and shared the memories of her childhood and the experiences of the town as they both grew. Mr. Donald Garcia, a local musician provided the entertainment. Sheila Casey conducted the commencement ceremony, with introductions and short biographies given by Commissioners. There was another presentation that took place as well on this festive day; the Commission presented Carol Refior with a plaque congratulating the South-Central Colorado Seniors organization on their 25th Anniversary. Frances Valdez, Director of Region 8 Area Agency on Aging and her team were instrumental in the planning of this annual celebration.

Life Care Centers of America, Homelake State and Veterans Nursing Home, Alamosa County Commissioners, Valley-wide Health Services and the San Luis Valley Federal Bank were the sponsors of the event along with the Commission on Aging.

The State and Veteran's Nursing Home in Trinidad had a function as well, honoring two of their residents that have reached and surpassed the age of 100. They too had a birthday party and were presented by commissioners with the certificate signed by the Governor and letter of achievement from Senator Salazar.



Ms. Senior Colorado 2007, Lara Carbajal, pictured with the 4 honored centenarians at the centenarian Celebration event in alamosa. Centenarians from left to right are: Ruth Coch, Ethel Davis, Claude Albert, and Irma Satterfield.

VII. Allen Buckingham Senior Leadership Legacy Lecture

On September 14th, the Commission sponsored the 14th annual Allen M. A. Buckingham Senior Leadership Legacy award at the Best Western Academy Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado. This year the Commission was pleased to recognize the contribution of Mr. Joe Henjum. Joe Henjum is a native of Hollywood, Florida who graduated from the University of Miami and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

He entered the Air Force in 1956 and went on to complete a 26-year military career as a Colonel with more than 5,000 flying hours in fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft, and a variety of assignments in nine states, the Philippines, Vietnam and Hawaii, including a tour of duty at the Colorado Air Force Academy.

In his second career, Joe served as General Manager of Cheyenne Place Retirement Community from 1983 to 1996 when he and his wife, Jo Anne, worked as a team, planting their roots in Colorado Springs.

Joe is a Co-Founder and Past President of The Home Front Cares, a nonprofit organization in the Pikes Peak region that supports families of troops deployed in harm's way. Along with this impressive background Joe has participated in many aging organizations. He has been a member of the following: the Colorado Commission On Aging for six years; the committee to establish a National Veterans Cemetery in the Pikes Peak region; the Citizens™ Resource Group for the East-West Mobility the Citizens Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB); the Springs Community Improvement Program (SCIP) Transportation Committee; Founding Member and Past President of the Colorado Mobility Coalition; Co-Founder and President of the Pikes Peak Mobility Coalition; Past President of the Senior Resource Council; Past President of the

Downtown Colorado Springs Rotary Club; Past President of the Pikes Peak Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America; Host of the PBS television series, Senior LIVE! Reaching southern Colorado; Volunteer teacher's aide at Steele Elementary School; and the 1998 Volunteer of the Year by the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments.

Joe received a Master of Business Administration from George Washington University in1965; a Master of Science in Education from Troy State University in 1974; and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Miami in 1956.

Joe and his wife, Jo Anne, have two children and four grandchildren living in Colorado Springs.

The Senior Legacy Lecture was originally awarded to Allen Buckingham posthumously in December 1998 and the event was renamed in his honor. Allen promoted the needs of older persons, especially that they live in dignity, have freedom and choice and realize full and active participation in their society. The spirit of his legacy is celebrated annually.



2008 Award winner Joe Henjum celebrates with his family.

VIII. Senior Day at the Capitol – 2008

Senior Day at the Capital was held on February 27, 2008. Attendance was excellent with standing room only by mid-morning. The featured speaker was Lieutenant Governor Barbara O'Brien . She discussed recent efforts to provide assistance to the Seniors of Colorado. Jeanette Hensley, Director of the State Office on Aging and Adult Services reported on Silverprint Colorado which is the outcome planning committee from the White House Conference on Aging. The various committees continue to meet and plan for the aging of Colorado. Numerous state legislators spoke to the group on legislative issues and bills currently up for review. In addition, Speaker of the House, Rep. Andrew Romanoff, and State Senate President, Sen. Peter Groff, also spoke to the group.

2008 Senior Day at the Capitaol was once again a standing room only event.



IX. Education

The Commission continues efforts to learn perspectives on current public issues as well as state and federal programs that are crucial to our ability to function as a credible advisory board. As such, the Commission is dedicated and committed to make education a part of each of the scheduled meetings. Educational programs presented this year to the Commissioners and the public include:

- Older Americans Act Reauthorization
- Silverprint Colorado Event and follow-up committee involvement
- Governor's Blue Ribbon 208 Commission on Transportation and Healthcare
- Colorado Department of Human Services Regular updates including Adult Protective Services, Emergency Preparedness, Adult Disability and Rehabilitation Services
- Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing Medicaid, Waiver Programs,
- Long-Term Care benefits
- Legislative priorities for 2008 presented by AARP, Colorado Association of Homes & Services for the Aging, Colorado Senior Lobby, DRCOG AAA, and the Older Americans Coalition/Alliance
- Presentation on Senior Investors and Fraud Prevention with SEC Commission.
- Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging Issues updates
- Regions 4,8,11, and 13 Area Agencies on Aging Regional presentations
- Medicare's Prescription Drug Card Update, Presentation on Long-Term Care Partnership with the Insurance industry and State Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program
- Project Visibility for GLBT Seniors Presentation
- Federal budget updates
- Old Age Pension Health Medical Program Presentation
- University of Colorado Springs Gerontology Center Presentation

- Federal Congressional staffers report on federal aging issues
- Older Adults-Aging and Cognition presentation
- Older American's Month Activities in coordination with National Governor's Association
- National Private Duty Association Presentation on Home Care Providers
- Advanced Medical Directives, Hospice, and palliative care presentation
- Homelake State and Veteran's Nursing Home
- Colorado's Fiscal Prospects and Referendum C presentation by the Fiscal Policy Institute

X. Congressional Liaisons

The Commission has open invitations for Colorado's congressional delegations to our regularly scheduled meetings. This year the Commission hosted staff presentations by staff representatives from Senators Ken Salazar and Wayne Allard's office and Representative Diana DeGette and Mark Udall's offices.



Friends surround and honor centenarian Ethel Davis at the 2008 Centenarian Celebration.

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