

Feisty Sullivan Woman Gets Boston Post Cane

WRITTEN BY JACQUELINE WEAVER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 06, 2010 AT 2:06 PM

SULLIVAN — Bessie Martin, recent recipient of the Boston Post Cane as Sullivan's oldest living resident, attributes her longevity to moderate habits.



Bessie Martin, 96 years young, reminisces about the past. — ELLSWORTH AMERICAN PHOTO BY JACQUELINE WEAVER

"Every time they ask me how I got to be 96 I say: 'I don't drink, I don't smoke, and I stay out of trouble.'"

That recipe, however, neglects to mention her spunk and spirit.

One of eight girls and two boys, Bessie was born in Milbridge, where her father fished for a living.

The family had a farm with a horse, pigs, chickens, rabbits, dogs and a cow that seemed to harbor a particular animosity for Bessie.

"She would put down her head and come right for me," said Bessie, who couldn't recall the cow's name.

She loved basketball in high school and, though only 5 feet 2 inches tall, her best position was as a guard.

Bessie began working in Sullivan in 1936 at the Maple Tourist Home, a bed and breakfast, and stayed there for two summers.

She met her husband, Leonard Arnold Martin, and the two eloped in October of 1937.

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WRITTEN BY JOHN D, DECEMBER 06, 2010

way to go (nana) love from all that you have blessed and may you live another 96 years from big bert

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WRITTEN BY JOAN SEARS MURPHY , DECEMBER 11, 2010

Dear Bessie, What a fantastic honor and remarkable award. I am so glad to have known you and had you for my "Very Special" distant cousin for all these years. I wish I lived closer to enjoy your company each day, as I loved my visits with you. I hope you are blessed with many more years of good health. With Love, Joan

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