

Who Remembers Marilyn Wallace?

By Mary Jane Devlin



Marilyn Wallace and her husband, Clyde, lived in the Walworth area while their children were growing up. Ruth Marilyn Decker Wallace was born October 9, 1924, in Rochester, NY to Harlow and Roberta Decker. Her father was a bricklayer and later worked at Gleason Works. She had one brother, Richard, who is deceased. She went to 15 different schools while she was growing up. She had rheumatic fever twice which left her with a heart murmur for several years. However, she eventually outgrew the murmur.

Marilyn and Clyde had five children: Donna, Cindy, and Lori who all live in North Carolina near her. Her son, David, lives in Macedon and a daughter, Sandy, lives in Webster. Her husband, Clyde worked at Gleason Works along with her father.

Her mother and her brother had joined the Army during World War II, so when Marilyn was 18 she joined. She took boot camp at Fort Dix, New Jersey. She said it was a wonderful experience. She didn't even mind doing the pots and pans on KP because everybody got along. However, she didn't like guard duty because the young officers would give them a hard time if the officers realized they were rookies. She signed up to serve in China (tug boat). There were approximately 256 people in her platoon and she wasn't picked to go to China.

Marilyn joined the Army but they sent her to train to be a medical technician, and then transferred her to the Army Air Force. She also trained at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. She was in service for a year and a half before she was discharged in 1946.

Marilyn, Clyde and their family lived at 3959 Walworth-Ontario Road in Walworth while their children were growing up. While they lived there Marilyn babysat and was a foster mother. She had a monkey and raised pigeons. Their house burned and they lived in the converted barn.

Marilyn moved to Lincolnton, North Carolina to be near her daughters and grandchildren. She still lives there and recently celebrated her 90th birthday.