

THE NEWS JOURNAL

Evadne O'Neal celebrates 100th birthday

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Evadne O'Neal celebrated her 100th birthday with two celebrations last weekend.

The staff and residents of Pee Dee Gardens hosted a birthday celebration on Friday, Jan. 20. On Saturday, her family held a family birthday party.

Mrs. O'Neal was born on Jan. 20, 1917 in Trio, S.C. She spent most of her early years in South Carolina. Her father died of typhoid fever when she was around four, and her mother moved quite a bit as she attempted to provide for her and her younger brother.

"Life was rough," she recalled. When Evadne was around 11, her mother remarried.

Fast forward to April 15, 1939 when Evadne, then age 22, was married to J.W. O'Neal. They were together



ED O'NEAL IS PICTURED WITH HIS MOTHER, EVADNE, WHO TURNED 100 YEARS OLD ON JAN. 20.

for 22 years and raised three boys and one daughter. Mrs.

O'Neal miscarried her first child, a daughter, at eight

months.

Mrs. O'Neal and her fam-

ily resided in Hartsville, where Mr. O'Neal was a carpenter and all-round handyman.

Evadne spent most of her life in Darlington County where she worked various jobs, including McCellan's Dime store in Darlington and on her father-in-law's farm located off Indian Branch Road. She worked in the Darlington mill, N.C.C.I. for 25 years. Then she helped out at her son's restaurant on Main Street in Olanta for eight years before retiring in 1992.

"She has always been a hardworking woman," commented her eldest son, Ed O'Neal.

Mrs. O'Neal attributes her long life to "working hard and trusting the Lord."

She lived independently until two years ago when she moved into Pee Dee Gardens, said Ed.

Mrs. O'Neal says her favorite activity was gardening and yard work. She also

enjoyed embroidery, she added.

Today, Mrs. O'Neal says she sleeps a lot and watches television, including two soap operas that she has followed for many years.

The centenarian has seven grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Her advice for living is simple:

"Just take one day at a time."

Trinity-Byrnes gala planned

Trinity Byrnes Collegiate School presents "An Evening Under the Big Top" Auction and Gala on Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the school's Sonoco Gymnasium.

Tickets are \$75 per couple or \$50 a person.

For more information go the trinitybyrnes.org.