

# Eunice Thompson

By Kristine Willett

**T**O REACH 92 IS NO SMALL FEAT INDEED, HOWEVER there are a handful of us who can say we have met a few of those individuals in our own lifetimes. My girlfriend's grandmother just turned 97, and as a nurses aid, my mother introduced me to many a 99 year old client.

But what makes these enduring people tick? How did they do it? And what's their big secret?, we all ask.

I approached Eunice Thompson with these questions to mind, and I came away thinking... it's not the age, but the *person* whose has carried on through those years, that can be so interesting! Eunice is very fascinating, not only for the long life she has enjoyed, but because she has a sharp mind, free spirit and tender manner. Can any of us honestly say we know many *modern* day people with these qualities?

Eunice was born the daughter of a danish ship captain, Easter Sunday, April 3, 1904.

While telling me about her birthday, she showed me a paper mache easter egg, painted on both sides. She laughed and said she must of been hatched from it!

When Eunice was 23 she moved to Evergreen with her husband. They opened up a radio shop on Cold Spring Lane.

The shop sold, and repaired radios, and even consulted for the B&O railroad. But when the depression came about, they had to move the business to their home cellar and eventually closed up shop. Her husband then went to work for Fort Meade, and finally as an engineer for the government, he then retired 25 years later.

Eunice's first job out of school was as a clerk at a fire re-insurance firm. Her husband once recalled seeing the Great Fire of Baltimore from his Evergreen porch when he was a boy. She remembers the streets with no curbs, stables in the alley, and the B&O railroad that ran along Stoney Run. A very active volunteer, Eunice has been canteen woman at the American Red Cross for 45 years. She's been part of AIM (an action and maturity group) for 20 years, and helps out at the Keswick Nursing Home's religious services. Originally from Philadelphia, Eunice has never had the desire to move from Evergreen. "Why would I?" she asks. She and her husband traveled to European antique car shows, kept an 8,000 book library and shared a vibrant and meaningful life here for many, many years.

The above quote is from her long treasured birthday book, and was taken from the Easter Sunday passage. I think it accuratley describes her philosophy on life, don't you?

# Hello Halloween

By Gretchen MacMurray

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN, BUT HALLOWEEN IS MY FAVORITE time of year. I don't admit this much. It's nicer to like fuzzy holidays, like Christmas, Valentines Day or Easter, you know,



ones where you crack out the silver and order a centerpiece. But, something about Halloween moves me, years after I gave up trick or treating.

At first I thought there may be some witchcraft in my family, coursing through my veins. Both my mother and grandmother loved the holiday. Perhaps I was meant to saddle a broom or hover over a cauldron. Perhaps they forgot to tell me this. I don't know, though, I look O.K. in black, but I'm deathly allergic to cats.

So I keep thinking... maybe it's the chance to dress up and be someone different for a day. I doubt it. I'm pretty comfortable with my identity. Besides, that's way too psycho-analytical for a holiday that is as much about plastic pumpkins as it is about anything else. So what is it? What makes Halloween such a great time of year?

I've decided it's an awakening of the senses, senses stifled by the choking summer humidity and numbed by the need to look good in a bathing suit. It's beautiful, crisp autumn days and chilly evenings. Colorful trees



▲ Eunice, far left, as a teenager, with a few friends.

*A good deed is never lost. He who sows courtesy, reaps friendship, he who plants kindness, gathers love.*

and the smell of burning leaves. Creepy thoughts of the supernatural. Candy.

So enjoy Halloween and take it all in. For soon the vivid days of fall will give way to winter gray and the senses will sleep under wool mittens and hats til the first days of spring.

## Baltimore's Best Haunt

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE MOST HAUNTED HOUSE IN Baltimore isn't a house at all? It's a ship. According to international authority on paranormal phenomenon, Dennis William Hauck, Baltimore's USF Constellation is among the top ten most haunted places in the United States.

Built in 1797, the frigate was the first commissioned ship in the U.S. Navy. Two years later, according to legend, a sailor was killed for falling asleep on his watch. Today, it is said that his ghost and that of the captain who ordered the execution, still roam the ship's deck.

To learn more, read the NATIONAL DIRECTORY



OF HAUNTED PLACES by Hauck. (Athamor Press, 1995)

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*"Only the cat turned out finished, and proud: born in a state of total completion" — Pablo Neruda*