

Florence Macfarlane

# Happy birthday

Long-time resident turns 97 today

5-1988

By Ginny Benson  
Of the Record-Times

Ninety-seven is Florence Macfarlane's magic number. Why?

She will be celebrating her 97th birthday today.

Fourteen is also a special number.

Florence grew up on the 14 Ranch on the Horseshoe Creek southwest of Glendo. The ranch celebrated its centennial in 1979.

Florence is the last surviving member of the Macfarlane family. Her father, William F. Macfarlane, was from Montreal and her mother, Jessie, was from London.

Her father left Montreal at the age of 21 and settled near Fort Collins. In 1879, he and a group of other men traveled north with 2,000 head of cattle and homesteaded in the Glendo area. Macfarlane built a log cabin and later built a house which has been added to since that time and is still standing. The lumber for the house was hauled from Esterbrook. The 14 Ranch was known as the Loch Sloy Ranch in the early days.

He married his wife in 1888 and in 1891 Florence was born. Florence's brother, William Stuart, died at the age of 51 and another child died at birth.

Macfarlane died in 1943 and due to her mother's failing health, Florence and her mother moved to Wheatland in 1945.

Clark Fritz is the manager of the ranch, and he will be celebrating his 81st birthday on Friday. He still lives on the ranch. As a young cowhand, he arrived at the 14 Ranch at the age of 17 and has lived there since.

Clark is assisted by Dean Cundall, who lives in a house southeast of the main ranch home.

"Clark came here from Fort Collins. He's just like a brother to me," Florence said.

She says that cattle are raised at the ranch and that one year, they tried raising sheep "but that was

and they built a four-room frame house and two families went to school there. A school teacher from Canada lived with us and she started me in painting."

When she was 15, she went to Montreal and stayed with her dad's sister where she attended school and took painting.

"I like to paint animals and birds the best," she said.

Although her eyesight does not allow her to paint anymore, her walls are decorated with old photographs of family and the ranch and some of her paintings. Two stray cats keep her company.

"I had a nice life with my family on the ranch. We didn't have cars or anything to go to. I went to school in Canada for one year and then came back to the ranch. It's a real nice place to be in," she reminisced.

She remembers that when her parents were first married, her father's sister was sleeping in a room next to the door when in the middle of the night the horses got out and men were running around trying to catch them.

"She thought it was Indians and she ran into my parents room and jumped in between the middle of them and said 'If I'm going to die, we're all going to die together!'" she laughed.

Florence has many friends and since moving to Wheatland, she was sort of the chauffeur for several of her friends because she was the only one could drive. About five years ago, she hurt her knee in a mishap and is now in a wheelchair.

"I surely miss my car. I never had an accident with it until I hurt my knee."

What was her license plate number?

Obviously, 8-14.

Florence didn't always use this mode of transportation. She remembers going in horse and buggy to the neighbors for Sunday socials.

"My dad had a wonderful garden. He planted apple trees that are still bearing fruit. My mother had a



## Florence Macfarlane

12-22-1993

A Service for Christian Burial for Florence Macfarlane, 102, were held Monday, Dec. 27, 1993, at 2 p.m., at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Wheatland, with the Rev. Karin E. Wade officiating. Interment followed in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Mrs. Macfarlane died Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1993 at the Platte County Memorial Hospital in Wheatland.

She was born May 25, 1891 in Cheyenne, Wyo., before the territory became a state, to William F. and Jessie (Whalley) Macfarlane. Her father came to Wyoming in 1879 and settled on Horseshoe Creek. He married Florence's mother in 1888.

Florence lived at the ranch until 1945 when she moved to Wheatland. She attended school on the ranch until she was 10 years old. She then attended another rural school a few miles down the creek.

When she finished grade school, she went to Montreal, Canada, to a finishing school. While there, she lived with an aunt.

She returned to the ranch to help her father. An expert with horses as well as cattle, Florence helped to build an outstanding herd of Hereford cattle. She was registered with the Wyoming Stockgrowers and was a member of the Wyoming Pioneers and of the All Saints Episcopal Church. She also enjoyed painting.

Florence is survived by her long-time friend, Clark Fritz of Glendo, Wyo., several cousins and her many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her only brother, Stewart.

Serving as pallbearers were Gary Cundall, Dean Cundall, Jim Wilson, Cleve Artery, Dave Foreman and