

# She values her independence

By **TINA PEPLINSKIE**  
Staff Writer

Once an independent woman, always an independent woman.

This is how Florence Mick, 99, has always lived her life and things haven't changed despite the fact that she moved into the VON Civic Complex over one year ago.

"I hate to ask people to do things for me," she said. "The funny part is that I said I was never going to go into a home like this, but it got to the point where I was afraid that I would keep the stove on so I thought I should get out. This isn't home, but they are awfully good to you here. If they weren't I would tell them."

Ms. Mick grew up on the family farm in Micksburg, where she worked on the farm and also did a lot of babysitting. Although she has a great love for children, she doesn't have children of her own since she never married.

"When I was babysitting I did a lot of walking," she said. "The people I babysat for laugh because they say that I wore the tires off of the strollers. When you're babysitting and the kids get rambunctious, it's easy to take them for a walk."

Family and friends of Ms. Mick gathered in the dining room at the Civic Complex to mark her 99th birthday.

"A lot of the kids I babysat were at the party," she said. "I am sad I didn't get them all to stand up together. It was nice to see everyone."

A group of seniors from the

Micksburg Senior Citizens Centre also made the trek for the party and some even performed for those in attendance.

Ms. Mick spent a lot of her time at the seniors centre before she moved into Pembroke, and every once in a while she goes back to visit her friends there, but she finds it difficult to get around.

"It is my own fault that I don't get out there more often because my nieces and nephews tell me I just have to ask," she said. "There is no place like it, though (Micksburg Senior Centre)."

Throughout her life, Ms. Mick has always lived by the philosophy that hard work never killed anyone. She was the oldest of three kids and she was always willing to work around the farm.



**FLORENCE MICK**