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Mary Blake celebrates 90th birthday with many of her friends



Carolyn Cohens is seen with Mary Blake at the party.

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CHIEFLAND – Mrs. Mary Blake celebrated her 90th birthday on Saturday (Nov. 25) in the backyard of her home in Chiefland.

Her birthday party was like stepping back in time.

She insisted on having her party at her home in the backyard because she wanted to speak with the younger ones about how she grew up and how things were not like they are today.

There were about 70 people who attended the happy event as the community came together and brought many artifacts from the past.

Mrs. Mary explained about the old smoothing iron that would be put into the fire to make it hot before applying it to clothes to iron creases or to flatten the cloth.



Latosha Hunter-Timmons wears clothes reflective of the theme for the party.



Mrs. Hunt

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Allie Mae Malone sits in front of a table at the party.

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Singing *Thank You Lord* is Caretha Nelson in the foreground with Mary Blake and others in the background.

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Caretha Nelson and Mary Blake, with Betty Walker in the background.

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Joe Eddie Scott is seen wearing overalls, as Pastor Walter Hunt joins him for this photo opportunity.

She talked about the old rub board, which is what was used long before a washing machine existed. Mrs. Blake told the younger people about the hand pump which was used to bring water from below the ground, before the days of indoor plumbing and water that comes from the faucets.

Among the items brought as reminders from those years of old, in addition to the rub

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board and smoothing iron, were an old hand pump, an old-fashioned heater, a potato grater, an old camera, a sausage meat grinder, a sifter, a crosscut saw, hand saws, wash pots, skillets or frying pans, push plows, a spray gun, push lawnmowers, pick axes, hoes, a wagon wheel, rolling pins, an egg beater, a water bucket, in pans and an old-fashioned coffee pot.

Everything was beautiful at the birthday party for Mary Blake, who was born on Nov. 14, 1927.

The tables were all setup with radiant white and red checkered tablecloths that had a lace runner down the middle. Tables were decorated with Mason jars that had rocks in them, and floating candles inside.

There were old lanterns surrounded by sunflowers.

Mrs. Mary wore a bonnet and a dress. Many of her guests wore long dresses and bonnets, and some of the men wore plaid shirts, overalls and jeans. It was a sight to see! Everyone was smiling and talking about the old times. It was wonderful.

The food was good, and included old country cooking beans salad and fish.

Mary Blake married Malon Blake (June 6, 1928-April 14 1987) on Feb. 7, 1948. He passed away at the age of 58. They had seven children. She has seven grandchildren, 12 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren now.

The program during the birthday party included Betty Walker singing *Look Where You Brought Me From*, and *How We Got Over*.

Pastor Joseph Wilcox gave the opening prayer.

Loving words were shared with the people by Demetrius Brown of Clearwater, Kermore Bowers, Nicolas Blake and Carolyn Cohens.

Julius Blake played *Happy Birthday* on the harmonica.

Mrs. Caretha Nelson sang Thank You Lord.