

**HARLEE MANOR RESIDENT,
MARIE DeCARO,
CELEBRATES MILESTONE BIRTHDAY**

October 15, 2009, Springfield, PA – Marie DeCaro has “caught up” with her husband of 80 years...she will celebrate her 100th birthday on October 20, 2009. Bill DeCaro reached that same milestone in March of this year. In addition, their 80th anniversary celebration was held on June 20, 2009. Taken separately, Marie and Bill DeCaro are quite remarkable, but as a couple, they continue to shine.

Marie became the apple of Bill’s eye when they were both teenagers (15 and 16 years, respectively) and met at Madam Duvall’s Dance School in 1924. Bill knew right away that Marie was for him. It took Marie a little longer to acknowledge that “he was a great guy” and the one for her. They were 19 and 20 when they married.

Marie and Bill were able to fulfill their dancing dreams for five years while travelling the Vaudeville circuit along with Bill’s brother. They were known as the DeCaro Brothers and Marie. She was the tap dancer of the act while Bill and his brother did a comedy routine. A few of Marie’s showbiz idols from that time were Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. During Marie’s vaudeville career, she met and/or worked with “the greats”. Among them were Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Ginger Rogers, Judy Garland, and Burns & Allen.

Thinking back, Marie was grateful for the support she had from her mother and father to pursue a career on the stage. Her sister was an opera singer in Philadelphia and a beauty pageant runner-up who ultimately became Miss Pennsylvania.

To Marie, dancing was everything. But the stint in Vaudeville did not last and Marie and Bill

settled into a more routine life raising four children. Although there seems to have been a lot of talent in their family, none of Marie and Bill's children had any interest in pursuing "the family business".

Bill ultimately found a rewarding career with Sun Life Insurance for 43 years. Times were sometimes tough and the couple struggled to survive the depression. Marie recalls those difficult times as much worse than today. Back then, her brother-in-law, a college graduate, was selling apples on the street to survive.

Marie worked as a hostess at a Tea Room while Bill was in the service (drafted at age 35). She kept that job after Bill returned and as a result may have been "the original feminist". Bill encouraged her to keep the money she earned as her own – and she did.

For the last three years, the DeCaros have resided at Harlee Manor, Springfield Senior Commons. To celebrate the new centenarian, on October 20, Harlee Manor will host an afternoon birthday party at 2:00pm in the main Harlee Manor dining room. All residents of Harlee Manor and Springfield Senior Commons are invited. Although her six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren are scattered throughout the country, Marie's son and several relatives will join in the celebration. And, of course, Marie's beloved Bill will welcome her into a very exclusive centenarian club. Music from the thirties era will be provided on the piano by Wayne Zimmerman. Who knows...we just might get a little tap dance from Marie!

Since its inception, the guiding philosophy at Harlee Manor has remained unchanged...to provide a safe, comfortable, homelike environment for residents while attending to their physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual well being. The facility is designed to provide a *Continuum of Care*. The facility's services include: Nursing Care, Rehabilitation, and the most recent addition, Assisted Living at Springfield Senior Commons. For additional information on Harlee Manor, please visit

www.harleemanor.com.