

Ruby Boyer celebrates 93rd birthday

By JENNY ELSEY

Mrs. Ruby Boyer passed the day of her 93rd birthday, Monday, April 7, much like any other. The difference was in the number of friends who dropped in and the telephone calls she received wishing her the best.

"I still have a few people who remember me," Mrs. Boyer said.

Some of those who still call and visit are the ones that were delivered into this world by Mrs. Boyer's husband, the late Dr. H.L. Boyer, M.D.

"I don't remember the exact dates anymore," Mrs. Boyer admitted.

"We delivered 457 babies though, I do remember that. Women came

here from all over...Prairie Grove, Fayetteville, Siloam Springs, places all around."

"I delivered two of those babies myself. The doctor just couldn't get here in time," Mrs. Boyer laughed at the memories.

The Boyers operated the Lincoln Clinic solely for expectant mothers. The clinic was housed in a U-shaped building, located at 107 N. Starr. Part of the building, the north wing, was used for the Boyer's personal residence. The waiting room and Dr. Boyer's office was in the main part of the building and the examination and patient's rooms made up the other wing.

Much of the furniture in the south wing still consists of patient's beds and Mrs. Boyer has one of the wrought-iron baby beds where tiny newborns lay their first few hours or days of life.

Dr. and Mrs. Boyer tried to plan their lives with their patients in mind. "We always slept in this front bedroom so we could hear the mothers if they needed us. Or if the phone rang, Dr. Boyer was always so tired so he was a heavy sleeper. I was a light sleeper and I could always hear. I look back at it all now and wonder how we did it."

Mrs. Boyer said for the most part all the chores of the hospital fell to the two of them, but despite the hard work they enjoyed what they did. "The only thing was, we couldn't ever plan to go anywhere. We always had to make our plans around the mothers. Then this one would deliver

early and then this one wouldn't be on time."

The Boyers did not have any children together. Each entered the marriage with children by previous spouses. Mrs. Boyer had one daughter, who has since died, and Dr. Boyer had two sons, Dr. Harold Boyer and Bill Boyer.

"Oh yes, they do keep in touch. They write and call," Mrs. Boyer laughed. "And they always send me flowers on Mother's Day and on my birthday."



RUBY BOYER

JENNY ELSEY PHOTO

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