

# 'Tiny' Jensen celebrates a big milestone

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Watsonville resident "Tiny" Jensen, who turned 103 yesterday, can't divulge the secret of her longevity.

"I don't know what's kept me going this long," she said at a small gathering of family and friends at her home on Carita Court yesterday.

When asked if she expected to live to be 103, she said "No, never."

"I don't know how much longer I have to be here. It used to be when you were 70, it was time for you to go," she said.

Jensen doesn't hear or see very well. She said that makes her afraid she's "kind of dull" and maybe not good for much, but she had a sparkle in her eye when she said it that made it clear such wasn't the case.

"She's as sharp as ever," one of her sisters said.

Jensen is the fifth child out of 12 and the oldest living sibling. Family members said she has set a record in the family by turning 103.

Tiny, whose given name is Mary, said she wasn't sure exactly how her nickname evolved. It's been her name for as long as she can remember.

"I guess I was smaller" than most children her age, she said.

Tiny and her husband, Anker



Mike McCollum

'Tiny' Jensen cuts her 103rd birthday cake with her sisters, Helen Gfroerer, 92, of Watsonville, left, and Francis Sorensen, 87, of Salinas, right.

Jensen, have been living in Watsonville since 1970. Tiny was born in Ottumwa, Iowa, but has lived most of her life in Southern California, where for 45 years she ran a furrier business that catered to movie stars.

She has one son, three grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Anker said he was planning to take her to Pismo Beach for a few days for a birthday visit with her son and

three grandchildren.

"Don't make me look too good," she joked about appearing in the paper. Noting that she'd just had her hair done, she said, "I don't usually look this good."