

BY KAY DRUMWRIGHT

The arrival of the robins at springtime in Sandpoint is always a welcome sight. Along with the robins, we can generally count on the appearance of another special visitor, Grandma Emma Wyborny.

"Grandma", northern California as everyone affectionately calls her, flew into the Spokane airport Sunday just in time to arrive in Sandpoint to celebrate her 90th birthday here on May 7th.

Most people beginning their 10th decade aren't nearly as spry as this vibrant little lady who drives snowmobiles, jogs, and often has a breakfast consisting of a mixture of brewer's yeast, pineapple juice, and comfrey leaves.

Within the last 10 years, Grandma has traveled to Switzerland, Germany and Guadalajara, Mexico, to visit her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also makes frequent trips around the U.S. to visit relatives who have migrated westward from her home town of Mason City, Iowa.

Eleven members of her family have moved to Sandpoint within the past eight years. Included in that number are three of her grandchildren and their families: Craig Wyborny of West Baldy road, a carpenter and cabinetmaker; Bill Drumwright of West Baldy road, an automotive mechanic who is the owner of Bill's Garage, located on 315 Forest, and Carole Wyborny Giefer, a physical education teacher at Stidwell Junior High, who resides on highway 200, west of Dover.

A celebration in Grandma's

honor was given by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren Monday evening, May 7, in the fellowship hall of Sandpoint Seventh Day Adventist Church, with close to 30 friends and relatives attending the occasion.

Lavender, Grandma's favorite color, dominated the decor for the evening. A two-tier cake, beautifully decorated with clusters of lavender flowers, was baked by Ginger Wyborny, wife of grandson, Craig.

A lavender gingham bulletin board, surrounded by white lace, provided the background for a family tree of pictures, including Grandma and Grandpa Wyborny's wedding picture, which was taken on January 11, 1911. Pictures of the six Wyborny children and their spouses extended down from the wedding picture, followed by photos of their 15 grandchildren and their spouses, plus 14 great-grandchildren.

Also included in the display of pictures was an interesting pose of Grandma, seated in mid-air on a hang glider! The picture was taken here, in Sandpoint, 4 years ago by her grandson, Craig, who was giving hang gliding instructions at the time.

The birthday program for the evening began with the youngest participant, great-grandson Trace Drumwright, age 4, reciting a Bible verse for Grandma: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

Following Trace, his older sister, Misti, age 7, a second grader at Sandpoint Junior Academy, read the following short story which she had written entitled, "My Great Grandma."

"My great-grandma is the oldest grandma I've seen that is so healthy, because she jogs on our deck in the morning.

She swings on our swing, a hundred times.

And she does exercises with us.

She fixes us comfrey for dinner. It's really good.

Grandma comes when the robins come in the springtime.

She like the daisies in our field. She likes to go out and play in them.

She has fun up here. She does lots of things up here.

My Grandma helps me make things for other people. She taught me how to crochet. And she is so nice about making afghans and hot pads for people.

She prays and reads the Bible every night. In the morning she reads the Bible and she prays. She is a really good Christian.

I love her very much."

Trace and Misti's oldest sister, Wendi, age 10, a fifth grader at Sandpoint Junior Academy then read a special poem, "God's Way For Me is Always Best," which was a favorite of Grandma's late husband Robert.

Grandma then modeled her birthday dress; a lavender floral pattern trimmed with a white lace yoke and bell sleeves, which was made by another great-granddaughter, Shelly, 17, a senior at Sandpoint High School.

The final entertainment of the evening was provided by great-grandson, Curtis, 18, who presented a delightful impersonation of Liberace playing Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata." Complete with his lighted candelabra, gold and black floral print jacket, white ruffled shirt and sequin-

trimmed black patent shoes, Curtis flashed that lovely toothy Liberace grin as he gracefully lifted his ring-laden finers high above the keyboard in true Liberace style as the music flowed effortlessly.

When asked the reason for her vitality at such an age, Grandma replied, that it would be attributed to "my faith in God, healthful living, and the little children around me."