

Still Stepping At 100: Oldest Customer Of NCC Credit Union

Richard Hill was born in 1909, the same year the Lincoln penny was issued and Theodore Roosevelt's term as President ended. A loaf of bread could still be purchased for a little more than a dime and the turkey trot was all the rage in dance halls across America.

"Yeah, those were the days," Hill said, with a far-away look in his eyes.

As the oldest member of New Community Corporation's Federal Credit Union, Hill never ceases to amaze the staff with his wit and sense of independence.

"He just reminds me of my grandfather...he is strong and healthy. He's just living his life. He has a good soul," said Faye Harvey, one of the credit union's customer service representatives.

The staff of the credit union threw a party at its South Orange Avenue headquarters to celebrate Hill's 100th birthday on October 22. Hill lives just down the street in NCC's Common Senior and actually walked to the celebration with a friend. He seemed to be wondering what all the big fuss was about, since it's a trip he makes practically every day.

"I'm just living while the good Lord blesses me," said the native of New Bern, N.C.

Hill once built houses and is proud to say he "made a good living at it." While still in the South, he also admits he was no stranger to "moonshine" and described himself as a "bad old man."

"I had a good time. I was meaner than a junk yard dog. I'm a good guy now," said Hill, noting his nickname was "Runt" due to his small stature.

Today, he likes to play the "scratch off" lottery game and figures it may be time at age 100 for good fortune to really come his way.

"All the money's gone, but I'm still here," he laughed.

Admittedly, a lot of Hill's budget does not go towards food. A light eater, he counts apple sauce, canned peaches, Vienna sausages and saltine crackers among his favorite snacks.

"He also likes fried chicken, pig feet and black eye peas," said Judy Anyanaso, another customer service representative at the credit union, who cooks his dinner and does manage to incorporate vegetables and other healthy choices.

Mulu Gebreyesus, manager of the credit union, said once you meet him, there is no doubting Hill is "one special man."

When asked about the secret to his longevity, Hill had a simple answer.

"I don't stay still," he said, as he headed back out the door, cane in hand.



Richard Hill leaves the NCC Federal Credit Union as Faye Harvey, a customer service representative, holds the door.