

Alice S. Mansfield

(1861 – 22 Sep 1965)

Mansfield, Alice S. On Wednesday, September 22, 1965, at Carroll Manor, Alice S. Mansfield, beloved wife of the late Philip Mansfield; mother of Mrs. Loretta Farren, Richard (Dick) Mansfield and Mrs. Edna Boyd and the late Phil Mansfield and Mrs. Mattie Lusby. Friends may call at the Robert A. Mattingly Funeral Home, 131 11th st. se. (parking facilities), after 2 p.m. Thursday until Saturday, September 25, at 9:30 a.m. Requiem Mass at Carroll Manor, at 10:00 a.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.



MRS. ALICE MANSFIELD

The Washington Post, September 23, 1965, p. B4

Alice S. Mansfield Recalled When the Nation Was Young

When bright-eyed, spry little Alice S. Mansfield turned 100 four years ago, someone asked her how she'd managed it.

A little humor, she said. A little rag-time piano. And a cold beer now and then. "I think that does a lot of good."

Apparently it did.

"Except for one bout with pneumonia six years ago, mother was never sick a day in her life," her son, former police Insp. Dick Mansfield, said.

But the weight of the years had kept Mrs. Mansfield bedridden for the last six months. She died yesterday at the Carroll Manor Nursing Home, taking with her vivid recollections of the days of Lincoln and Grant when she - and the country - were young.

"When I saw her the day before," her daughter, Edna M. Boyd, said, "she said she was just tired, that's all."

All her life, Mrs. Mansfield retained her enjoyment of playing the piano and singing such old favorites as "Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie" and "Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life." She sang on her son's television show when she was 94.

And dancing.

"I used to be a great dancer," she said a few years ago. "Danced any kind of dance. Many's the grand march I led at dress balls." According to her children, even in her 104th year, she found it hard to resist a waltz.

Mrs. Mansfield, who was born and lived almost all her life in Southeast Washington, remembered the day Lincoln was shot: "Everything was draped in mourning," she said. And the day of Grant's inauguration: "It was so bitter cold, we had to go home."

Married at 21 to a policeman, she became the mother of another, the grandmother of a third. Her husband died in 1908. Her son Dick is well known in Washington as a crusader for children's traffic safety for nearly 50 years.

Of Mrs. Mansfield's six children, three are still living: Mrs. Boyd of 2631 32d st. se.; Loretta Farran, of 3302 40th pl., Colmar Manor, and Dick Mansfield of 2800 Cheverly ave., Cheverly. In addition there are 19 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great-grandchildren.

Sometime earlier, looking back on the years, Mrs. Mansfield had said, "It's been a long time to live, to still feel as good as I do, and get as much use out of myself."

The Evening Star, September 23, 1965, p. B5

Mrs. Mansfield Dies; Policeman's Widow, 104

Mrs. Alice S. Mansfield, one of Washington's best known centenarians, is dead at 104.

Mrs. Mansfield, widow of a Washington policeman, mother of another and grandmother of a third, died yesterday at the Carroll Manor Nursing Home, 4922 LaSalle Road, Hyattsville, where she had lived the last seven years.

A native and lifetime resident of Washington, she was the mother of Richard H. ("Dick") Mansfield, retired police inspector and director of The Star's safety program.

68 Descendants

Mrs. Mansfield had 68 descendants – four generations of them survive her.

At the time of her 100th birthday, she ascribed her long and fruitful life to a blend of good humor, an occasional cold beer and a dash of ragtime piano.

Her memories encompassed a century of Washington history, stretching back to the time of Lincoln's assassination when the city was hung in black crepe. She recalled the days when John Philip Sousa, famed bandmaster and composer, was a drummer boy in the Marine Corps Band.

Mrs. Mansfield never expected to reach 100. She arrived at Carroll Manor in an oxygen tent seven years ago with pneumonia, and the doctors were pessimistic.

But recovery came, and she stayed to brighten the home and its residents with her reminiscences, banter and ragtime piano playing. She loved dancing – any kind of dancing – and many times as a younger woman led the grand march at dress balls. Even as a centenarian she would sometimes do a little waltz at Carroll Manor.

Mrs. Mansfield's husband, Philip, a former police officer, died in 1907. Both her son, Dick, a retired inspector and former chief of detectives, and his son, Donald, were veterans of the force.

Dick Mansfield has been the pied piper of traffic safety to literally thousands of Washington area children. His chalk talks, Safety Circus cartoons and television shows have made him something of a safety institution for more than 40 years. "Those Were the Happy Days," his cartoon depicting bygone times in Southeast Washington, appeared in The Star for 30 years.

Mrs. Mansfield, never much of a club woman, was a member only of the police department's women's association. She devoted her time to her family and ever-widening circle of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Mother of Year

On her 89th birthday, she was named mother of the Year by the Southeast Washington Citizens Association. The association presented her an orchid and an honorary membership at the time.

She leaves two daughters, Mrs. Edna Boyd, of 2631 32nd St. SE, and Mrs. Loretta Farran of Colmar Manor, Md.; her son Dick, of 2800 Cheverly Ave., Cheverly, Md., and more than 60 direct descendants.

A mass will be offered at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Carroll Manor chapel, followed by burial in Congressional Cemetery.