

1980



Oldest Patient Celebrates Event

On October 11 Peterson Hospital's oldest patient celebrated her 102nd birthday and reminisced about her early life in Wheeling, her career as a teacher of the deaf and her avid interest in everything current.

Miss Julia Savage was born in 1878 in Wheeling where she grew up on Bethany Pike in the area that is now the Wheeling Country Club. She remembers that the country club started in the front yard of her grandfather, Dr. John Charles Campbell when people began playing croquet, tennis and golf.

Educated at Mrs. Hart's School for Girls on Market Street, Miss Savage received additional training at the Scranton Oral School in Pennsylvania where she learned to teach the deaf. "During World War I which we thought would be the last war, I taught soldiers who were deafened in battle," she said.

She later taught deaf students in Providence, R.I., was principal at the Northern New York School for the Deaf and taught at schools in Maine and Florida. She looked back on the time spent on a ranch in New Mexico where she had gone to tutor the two daughters of Dr. Charles Hill of Wheeling. "It was around 1917 and that summer we galloped around a lot on ponies and I even got to participate in a round-up," she added.

While others are still scurrying around through the stores doing their holiday shopping Miss Savage talked of her first visit to the Ohio Valley Mall where she did some of her Christmas shopping. "I liked being able to go from shop to shop in my wheelchair with so much ease, and it was interesting to me that a number of the stores I remembered from Wheeling are now at the Mall," she noted.

Even though she has fading eyesight and hears with the help of a hearing aid, Miss Savage continues to correspond regularly with friends all over the country as well as keeping up with the fast-moving events all over the world.