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## PERSONAL NOTES

### J. B. "CAS" CASPARIS TO CELEBRATE 100TH BIRTHDAY ON JUNE 29TH. (BY MARGARET BRANSON, PORTLAND, OR)

"I had the pleasure of again visiting J. B. "Cas" Casparis late in April while returning from Corpus Christi, back to my home in Portland, Or. "Cas" and his sister, Marie Casparis, recently moved from his home of many years in San Antonio, TX, to an apartment in Austin, to be nearer to family. Cas will be celebrating his 100th Birthday on June 29th!! His sister Marie is 91 years old.

"Cas was born and educated in Johnson City, TX, home also to President Lyndon B. Johnson. Cas was a member of the Johnson City High School debate team, along with LBJ. The Mother of LBJ was the team's debate coach. The debate team was very successful despite the lack of funds to buy the many medals earned by the debaters. Cas can tell many stories about Johnson City and LBJ. I found the boyhood home and museum very interesting to visit last year.

"After graduating from Johnson City High School, Cas entered business college, but money was scarce so Cas went to work for Western Union Telegraph as a Clerk, Counter Sales in 1926. He progressed through various jobs in the Commercial Department in San Antonio, finally retiring as Cashier after 44 years and 5 months.

"Cas joined the Association of Western Union Employees early on. (This was a company union and later was de-certified during the Roosevelt administration.) Cas later was elected President of Local 11 UTW in San Antonio for 17 years. He was a member of that National Bargaining Committee in 1951-52. This writer met J. B. Casparis at a UTW convention in the early 80's where his oratory skills were still much in evidence.

"Cas has been invited to speak to the graduating class of Johnson City TX on June 7th. He is the oldest living alumni of that school, and will also attend the reunion at that time.

"This writer can only imagine the great stories he will deliver to the graduates, guests and alumni. And he will deliver those remarks with passion, vigor and wit."

**From all of your fellow retirees and former co-workers:  
Happy 100th, Cas, on June 29th!**



Left to right – Marie Casparis, (sister)  
Margaret Branson, J. B. Casparis)

### MARY LOU PESEK – OMAHA, NB

Mary Lou wrote that she was pleasantly surprised to see the article about Maytag that appeared in our last issue. She heard from 3 former employees in the area about the article. Mary Lou said she traveled North and South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska when she worked for Western Union. After leaving WU, she went to work for the federal government - Social Security Claims, Post Office, Army Corps of Engineers. Mary Lou said that none were as much fun or as interesting as her work for "good ole WU".

### LOUISE BARRON GREEN – MARIETTA, GA

Louise sent in a story in her local paper about a former Western Union employee who just turned 100 years old. His name is Joe Williams and he turned 100 on April 22, 2008. Joe worked for Western Union starting as a Messenger at the age of 13. He learned Morse Code and landed a job in Anniston, AL at the age of 17. He later went to Marietta in the 1920's and he thinks that he was the youngest Office Manager in the country at that time. Joe remembers being sent to Warm Springs, GA to handle communications for President Franklin D. Roosevelt. When Louise went to work in Marietta in 1942, Joe Williams was the Manager. Joe transferred to District Headquarters in Atlanta in 1943 as did Louise in July 1943.

Louise says she enjoyed working with all the people at Western Union. She retired on November 30, 1982.