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"100 on Friday, 13th, Lady isn't worried" by George Douthit about Mary Davidson

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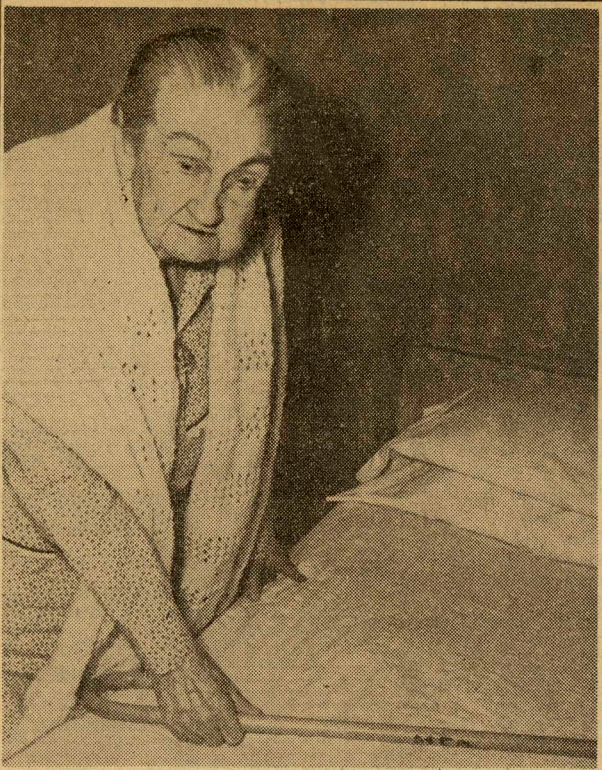


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REACHES 100 TOMORROW—Mrs. Mary Davidson, resident of the Arkansas Confederate Home here, will be 100 years old tomorrow—Friday the 13th. She says she isn't superstitious about it, either. (Democrat Photo.)

100 on Friday, 13th, Lady Isn't Worried

By **GEORGE DOUTHIT.**
(Democrat Staff Writer.)

This Friday the 13th business is a lot of foolishness, said a lady today who has been putting up with it for almost a century. She will be 100 years old tomorrow.

Mrs. Mary Davidson, a resident of Arkansas' Confederate Home for widows of soldiers who fought in the Civil War, said she never was superstitious about such things—not even the fact that her 100th birthday is on a superstitious date.

Native of State.

Mrs. Davidson was born in Pine Bluff, and has lived in Arkansas all her life.

Her husband, E. F. Davidson, enlisted in the war in April, 1862—naturally they were not yet married, since she was only eight at the time—and was captured by the northern forces at Harper's Ferry. He lasted out the final six months as a prisoner of the Yankees. He was a member of Kemper's Brigade, 1st Regiment of Northern Virginia.

Mr. Davidson was formerly a resident of the home, before he died. Mrs. Davidson didn't know too much about her husband's war record, but it was in the files of the home.

Nurses at the home said Mrs. Davidson is "never sick; one of the nicest in the home to handle." She makes her own bed and smooths out the bedclothes with her walking cane.

Son in Texas.

Her closest relative is a son, living in Texas. She doesn't know how old he is. But she visited him a few years ago. Five years ago, he visited her. Hardly able to see and hard of hearing, Mrs. Davidson nevertheless was easy to in-

terview, once she heard the question.

She was asked: "What do you think about your birthday on Friday the 13th?"

"Lot of foolishness," she said. "Just get them to bring me some candy."

Fight Looms On Military Force Cuts

Washington (P)—Champions of the Marine Corps claimed a fighting chance today in their bid to have the House upset President Eisenhower's plans to trim that service's forces.

But they were less optimistic over the possibility of blocking planned cuts in Army and Navy strength.

The House scheduled votes late today on a series of amendments which would add \$409,993,500 to bill to appropriate \$31,488,206,000 to finance the Defense Department for the fiscal year starting July 1.

As drafted by the House Appropriations Committee, the bill approves the president's program to reduce over-all military manpower by more than 100,000 during the year, with the Army bearing the brunt of the cut—87,000 men.

Leading the fight to prevent the cuts is Rep. Flood (D., Pa.), who told newsmen "I don't think it's a good idea to cut military strength a single man below what we planned and financed for the present year."

A spot check of key House members indicated considerable support for Flood's amendment to increase the Marine Corps but less sentiment for his other proposals.

Secret