

Past Perspectives March 2017

Nadine Logston

Although her name was not widely known, the face of Bella Vista native Nadine Logston as a young girl was seen by thousands of people on the cover of several magazines back in the 1940's and early 1950's. She also was an extra in the Jesse James movie made in Pineville, Missouri, in 1938.

Nadine was named Violet Nadine when she was born on March 23, 1927, to Effie & William Logston but she never liked the name Violet and always went by her middle name. Her mom Effie was a sister to Lillian Green.

Lillian, who began working as secretary in the late 1920's for the Linebarger Brothers after they opened the Bella Vista Summer Resort, never married and Nadine became a favorite niece.

When Nadine was in grade school, her parents separated and her mother and siblings moved to Colorado but Nadine stayed in Bella Vista and moved in with her Aunt Lillian. Constance May Waddell, author of the Bella Vista book "Sally and Me," a close friend growing up, said when she learned of Nadine's death recently, "Although she was a year older, we were very close. She and I and Alice Hobbs sang every day on the bus and played together after school at the hideaway behind Lillian's house."

When the movie *Jesse James* was being made in nearby Pineville, Missouri, in 1938, Lillian took Nadine there, and at age 11, Nadine ended up being a movie extra. Lillian became so fascinated at watching the movie photographers at their craft, she went home, bought a camera and taught herself photography. Lillian became very successful at her second career, and Nadine became one of her frequent models.

Nadine was popular in school and a good student, being named salutatorian at graduation. She was a cheerleader for two years and a majorette her final two years of high school. She continued her "acting career" in high school with roles in both the junior and senior class plays.

In her senior year of high school, Nadine fell in love with Alice Hobbs' brother, Hubert, and married him in February 1946, but finished school and graduated that May. They then moved to Wichita, Kansas, where Hubert took a job with Boeing Aircraft. Twins Donnie and Ronnie were the first children to be born, but they did not survive their premature births. Son Richard and daughter JoDeena were born in Wichita but when JoDeena was just a few months old, Hubert took a job with Lockheed Martin in Marietta, Georgia, and that is where daughter Patty was born. Hubert remained with that company until his retirement, while Nadine spent over

20 years as a kindergarten teacher in a private school. A few years after Hubert's retirement, he and Nadine moved to Pensacola, Florida.

Sadly, Nadine was diagnosed with dementia a few years ago. Hubert died in 2007 in Pensacola, and Nadine then moved back to Georgia to live with her daughter JoDeena, where she stayed until early this year, when she moved into a nursing home. After taking a bad fall there, she lived for only about a week, passing away on February 26, 2017. She is survived by her three children, Richard Hobbs, JoDeena Whiddon, and Patty Smith, all in Georgia. She is also survived by two grandchildren, Drew Whiddon and Kelly Hobbs, and four great-grandchildren.

The Bella Vista Historical Museum recently sold out of the 2017 calendars that were made up entirely of Lillian Green magazine covers. Four magazine covers that featured Nadine were included in that calendar. Those magazine covers and other photographs by Lillian are available for viewing at the museum.

Contributors to this article were Nadine's daughter JoDeena Whiddon, Nadine's nephew Bob Williams, and friends Constance Waddell, JoAnn Durbin and Dawna Cawood.



This magazine cover photo of Nadine was one of several photos that her Aunt Lillian Green took, then sold to various magazines in the 1940's and early 1950's. Courtesy of Bob Williams.



Nadine stands beside one of the makeup artists on the set of the Jesse James movie in Pineville, Missouri, in 1938, where she was a movie extra. Courtesy of JoDeena Whiddon.



Nadine and her friend Don Howard won this dance contest in the early 1940's at the old Dance Pavilion on the edge of Lake Bella Vista. Courtesy of Bob Williams.



This photo of Nadine was taken by Lillian Green at one of several “Blue Holes” along Sugar Creek in Bella Vista in the 1940’s. The photo was printed on postcards published by the Ozark Grocery Company of Fayetteville, AR. Courtesy of Bella Vista Historical Museum.



Lillian Green’s house, where Nadine lived during most of her school years, was located across Highway 71 from Lake Bella Vista where the Hampton Place businesses are now located. Courtesy of Bella Vista Historical Museum.