

MARIE GHILAIN

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE'S OLDEST LIVING ALUMNA



Russ Ghilain, Marie's son, stands with her outside the Cronin School in June.



Marie Ghilain, Joliet Junior College's oldest living alumna, made a special visit to the Main Campus this summer.

The trip was especially important for Ghilain—who turned 102 on July 15—because she also visited the Cronin School, the one-room schoolhouse preserved on campus where she started her teaching career in 1928.

Accompanied by her son Russ, Ghilain toured the renovated structure, where she said she taught 27 children during the 1928-1929 school year, one year after graduating from JJC.

The nearly 145-year-old schoolhouse was moved to the Main

Campus in 1987, where it has served as a living history museum. Originally located on Black Road, the Cronin School served Troy Township until January 1950. The effort to restore it was spearheaded by two former JJC agriculture professors, Dave Cattron and Jim Shinn.

To help the restoration effort in the late '80s, Ghilain made a donation of \$1,000—her annual salary the year she taught there.



In this undated photo, the schoolhouse sits at its original location off of Black Road in Shorewood, Illinois.



Marie Ghilain, 1927



Cronin School, 2009