

## Miss Molly's Matchmaking

Mrs. Jean Newell, who today works as a docent and exhibits coordinator at the Person County Museum of History, was one of Miss Molly's boarders – and a benefactor of her matchmaking.

Mrs. Newell recalls how Miss Molly raised her son, George, alone, and sent him to Wake Forest University, after which he became a radiologist.

“George and Miss Molly were matchmakers,” Newell recalls with a smile. “If you stayed at the house, you got the benefit of being matched up with somebody.” Newell found her husband, Henry, through the Barretts' efforts. But, Newell recalls, one had to always act like a lady if one stayed under Miss Molly's roof. She was strict about the gentlemen callers staying in the parlor and going nowhere else in the house, especially nowhere near the girls' rooms.

“You had to be ladylike,” Newell says, “and very careful about the boys staying in the parlor.”

She recalls Miss Molly as a “teeny little thing,” very proper for the most part. But what many didn't know was that Miss Molly had a “wooden leg.” Newell said Miss Molly would never tell how she lost the leg, but after supper, she would go into her room and take off the wooden leg and “hang it on the bedpost.” Miss Molly would then proceed to “hop around on one leg” if she had to move around anymore at night.

~ Person County Past: Tales from the Central Piedmont by Phylliss Boatwright, pgs. 44-45

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