

1984
UU GMN BAS
MISC:CENTENARIAN

RR-86-91

109 YEAR OLD CUBAN HAS FORTY-NINE LIVING CHILDREN:

HAVANA, SEPT 30, REUTER -- CUBAN FERMIN CABRERA (FOR SPANISH VERSION FERMIN CABRERA BATISTA) IS ONE HUNDRED AND NINE YEARS OLD AND IS THE FATHER OF FIFTY ONE CHILDREN. THAT MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE A RECORD BUT THE FACT THAT FORTY-NINE OF HIS CHILDREN ARE LIVING JUST MIGHT BE.

THE STORY OF CABRERA IS TOLD IN AN ARTICLE IN JUVENTUD REBELDE DATED +VAZQUEZ+, A TINY RURAL TOWN IN THE EASTERNMOST PART OF CUBA.

ACCORDING TO JUVENTUD REBELDE, CABRERA HAD FORTY-FOUR CHILDREN WITH HIS FIRST THREE WIVES AND SEVEN CHILDREN WITH HIS PRESENT WIFE. THE OLDEST +BOY+ IS SEVENTY-NINE YEARS OLD AND THE BABY IS ELEVEN YEARS OF AGE.

THE CENTENARIAN HAS A SMALL ARMY OF DIRECT DESCENDENTS - CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, GREAT GRANDCHILDREN, GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILDREN - THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY IN ALL.

CABRERA, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, IS ALERT, HIS HANDS DON'T TREMBLE AND HE CAN THREAD A NEEDLE. HIS MEMORY IS GOOD AND HE CAN BE QUITE HUMOROUS WHEN TELLING STORIES. HE DOESN'T USE EYEGLASSES FOR READING OR FOR HUNTING. HE CLAIMS HE HAD NEVER HAD A HEADACHE AND HE WENT TO THE DOCTOR FOR THE FIRST TIME EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR WHAT WAS DIAGNOSED AS ARTHRITIS IN ONE OF HIS ARMS.

CABRERA CAME FROM A POOR FAMILY HAD HAD TWENTY-ONE BROTHERS AND SISTERS, SIXTEEN OF WHOM ARE STILL LIVING.. IN 1901 HE BOUGHT A CART AND A TEAM OF OXEN AND FOR FORTY-FOUR YEARS HE LIVED BY HAULING CANE TO THE SUGAR MILLS DURING THE HARVESTS..

THE OLD MAN'S FATHER WAS A CAPTAIN IN CUBA'S WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE AGAINST SPAIN (1895-1898) AND LIVED TO ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR YEARS OF AGE.

--REUTER/LEM

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