

ALERT BREAKING

102-year-old woman escapes house fire in Scottsburg

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Scottsburg Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tony Bomar puts water on a fire Thursday morning on Hundley Road.

Joshua Fitzwater/Gazette-Virginian

A 102-year-old Scottsburg woman narrowly escaped a house fire Thursday morning on Hundley Road.

“I told her to get out then,” Chris Holt, son of Mary Ellen Holt, emphatically explained to The Gazette-Virginian as his mother’s home burned to the ground behind him.

Mary Ellen Holt, 102, called her son at about 8:45 a.m. from her home in Scottsburg while her son was driving in Charlotte County.

“I’m surprised I got the phone call at all,” Chris Holt explained. “She told me there was a bad fire in the house and right after I told her to get out, the call dropped.”

While members of the family requested photographs not to be taken of Mary Holt, The Gazette-Virginian was able to briefly speak with her with the assistance of her granddaughter, Wendy Holt.

“I tried to throw water on it,” the 102-year-old said with her head slumped and her hands still visibly shaking as she tried to gather herself in the back seat of the family’s SUV.

Wendy Holt, holding back tears herself and rubbing her grandmother’s shaking hands, asked, “The wood stove grandma?”

Mary Holt nodded her head.



As Wendy Holt took a call from other members of the family reaching out with concern, she explained her grandmother tried to get some of her clothes before she got out of the home.

“She was really lucky the smoke didn’t get her,” Wendy Holt said.

She went on to say to her family on the phone, “This is just crazy. This is where we played as kids. She’s been in the home for 66 years. Sometimes people would tell her she needed to move because it (the house) was old, but she loved her home.”

The smoke from the house fire could be seen from U.S. 360.

Scottsburg Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tony Bomar, engineer Josh Garber and other members of the department worked to contain the flames Thursday morning.

Bomar explained that with additional factors in mind as well, the owners saw fit to let it burn down due to the amount of damage.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

PHOTOS: House fire in Scottsburg



Joshua Fitzwater/Gazette-Virginian



Scottsburg Volunteer Fire Department Engineer Josh Garber puts a fire hose in place Thursday morning at a blaze on Hundley Road.

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