

**CELEBRATING A CENTURY  
HALLANDALE BEACH MAN WAS IN WORLD WAR II, WORKED IN NEW YORK  
AND NEVER DROVE A CAR**

By Kenneth D. MacHarg

By all accounts, Andres Vicini is a strong-willed person. "When I moved to south Florida from New York three years ago, I couldn't leave my parents behind in the cold weather, so I brought them here," remembers his daughter Vicky Fusco of Hollywood. "He fought me," she says about her father who turned 100 years old on November 7.

"Then, when my mother died and he began to decline, I suggested that he move to a nursing home where he could get care. He threw me out of the house!"

Today, the centenarian lives at Hallendale's Ocean Plaza Retirement Home where he recently celebrated his special birthday with members of his family and other residents of the home.

"I feel very old," Vicini said when asked about achieving the century mark. Thinking back over his long life, Vicini said that the most memorable development was World War II and the changes that it brought to his life and the world.

Fusco remembers her father as a self-taught man who had no education but spent his time reading about a variety of subjects. "He was a strict man with his children and did not spare the rod when it came to discipline," she said.

Born in the Dominican Republic, Vicini came to the United States at around 11 or 12 years of age and lived with family friends. "He lied about his age and signed on as a merchant seaman soon after he arrived," Fusco said. "Later, he settled in New York City where he worked for many years as a building maintenance man."

Fusco said that his family roots were very poor which is why he sought employment in the United States. Later he became a U.S. citizen, married and raised two sons, Bill Vicini who lives in Florida and Ralph Vicini who lives in San Diego, California as well as Fusco.

Vicini never owned or drove a car and, according to Fusco, never smoke or drank. "He was a hard working man who lived a clean life," she said. While determined, Fusco describes him as quiet and somewhat withdrawn, preferring to spend a lot of his time by himself.

Today, Vicini, whose wife died two years ago, gets around the home and, Fusco said, has good days and bad days. "He is hard of hearing and his vision is impaired," she explained. He also suffers from memory problems.

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