



By Mark Kitchin

Marty Fleisher of Long Valley enjoys his surprise 95th birthday party last Thursday at the Senior Resource Center in Chester. On left is Darlene Hatcher, the recreation and senior program director for Washington Township.

AT 95, FLEISHER MAINTAINS ZEST FOR LIFE

Veteran flew 65 World War II missions

By **MARK KITCHIN**
STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON TWP. — World War II flying ace Marty Fleisher is 95 years old but his healthy appearance and spry demeanor say otherwise.

Friends surprised the Long Valley resident with a birthday party last Thursday at the Senior Resource Center in Chester. Those planning the event had to make sure attendees arrived 15 minutes early using different cars or parking them in places that he might not notice.

They also had him come under the

pretenses of a giving a fake interview to promote the Senior Center. Fleisher was surrounded by a group of ladies in the center of the activity room to distract him from his cake and the host of friends who were stealthily gathering around him to celebrate.

He was overjoyed at the surprise celebration. The World War II veteran is an extremely active senior who shows no sign of slowing down.

"I'm really surprised that I got to 95 to tell you the truth," Fleisher said. "My father died when I was 6 years old. He was 26 or 27. When I

was in my 70s I was worried. Am I going to make 80? Will I see the new millennium?"

A graduate of Weequahic High School, Fleisher spent most of his life as a radio station transmitter engineer for WWRL in Queens, N.Y. He and his family lived in West Orange before to Long Valley in 1976 where his wife, Felicia, indulged in her passion for gardening. After raising their children Ben, Mark and Susan, they took care of each other for years until she died two sum-

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