

Photo of the Century' has a local star

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At 4 minutes past 7 o'clock a.m. on July 4, a photograph captured a once-in-a-century moment in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

As part of their millennium planning, city officials reflected on the many faces of our passing century. The "Photo of the Century" features Americans born on July 4, their birth years representing each year of the 1900s.

F. Winslow Stetson, born on July 4, 1910, learned about the contest from a family member. Stetson was born in Boston, Mass., but has lived with family in Barrington for the past 45 years. He sent in a photo of himself taken at a previous Fourth of July birthday party, and included a short essay.

More than 25,000 applications were received, but "to my surprise, I won!" Stetson exclaimed.

Other century representatives included a man and his dog who shared the required July 4 birthday, several descendants of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and a set of 5-year-old triplets. A last-minute entry was a newborn baby brought in an incubator to the photo site just hours after being born.

Stetson and his wife, children and grandchildren traveled to Philadelphia for the weekend extravaganza. As part of the prize, Stetson was provided accommodations, meals and even tickets to the Cubs versus Phillies game. He met several actors and political figures during the celebration and served as one of the guest marshals in the Philadelphia Independence Day parade.

"I think this was quite an honor," Stetson said of his experience.

The photo will be available soon on the Internet at the Web site address <http://www.MilleniumPhiladelphia.org> (currently under construction). Officials still are deciding on a permanent location to display this historic photo.

Stetson's copy is proudly displayed in his home, a souvenir of a most memorable birthday celebration.

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