

Marks 90th Birthday

GILMANTON — "I'm very, very proud to be an American citizen," declared Mrs. Mary A. Shlaitas of Old Stage Road, as she observed her 90th birthday Sunday.

A native of Lithuania, she came to the United States in May, 1912. Her husband, Konstant Shlaitas, also born in that country, who died three years ago, took great pride in his American status as well, she said.

Mrs. Shlaitas, who has always voted, expects to do so in

today's primary, through absentee ballot.

Her health now is only "fair" and she is unable to get out. She has lived in the same house almost 60 years.

Mr. Shlaitas, whom she met in Cambridge, Mass., came to America in 1913. The couple was married a year later, on July 4, and they came to Gilmanton in April, 1917.

They spent their entire married life on a 65-acre farm, which he carried on with a small garden and a few head of livestock.

She was the eldest of 12

children, of whom only one other survives in Lithuania. Their home was in Papilli.

She is a charter member of the Lower Gilmanton Community club, organized some 40 years ago.

Four daughters were born to the couple: Mrs. Julia Simoneau of Laconia, Mrs. Helen Babcock, Mrs. Wanda Sidlauskas and Mrs. Annie Publicover, all of Gilmanton. There are 10 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

The gracious nonagenarian had only a small observance Sunday, with relatives and close friends attending. There were cards and gifts, and a cake made by Mrs. Sidlauskas.

Although unable to read now, because of poor eyesight, Mrs. Shlaitas is able to watch TV, and keeps abreast of current happenings, both in the community and in the rest of the world.



GILMANTON WOMAN, Mrs. Mary A. Shlaitas, who marked her 90th birthday Sunday, looks at pictures of her husband, taken shortly before his death in 1971.

(Photo by Earl O. Anderson)