Of Angela’s 47 great-grandchildren, 20 of them were able to join her on her 95th birthday.

**At age 95, Angela Jangula continues to check things off her ‘bucket list’**

By Terri Lang

In her living room at the Prairie Rose Assisted Living Apartments in Linton, she has an enlarged poster hanging of the United States Map. On that map, there are red marker lines indicating the roads that she and her late husband traveled.

“I have been in every state except for Delaware, Maine and Hawaii,” Angela Jangula said.

With her husband, Adam, she would pack up and they would head out with their motor home every winter.

“We would visit family and friends, and pull over at campgrounds all over the United States,” she said. “We would meet people at the campgrounds who would give us suggestions on where to stop and that’s what we did after we retired.”

But the adventures that this 95-year old woman did not start or end with a 1970s motor home. She can tell you about her skydiving at age 90, hot air balloon expedition and white water rafting for her 92nd birthday and a rollercoaster ride at Six Flags at age 94.

“I loved it all!” Angela said with a big smile.

However, there weren’t always smiles on her excursions.

Flying over Yukon Territory on a Farmers Union Convair 580 Aircraft, at an elevation of 23,000 feet, the cockpit window on the copilot’s side blew out and they lost cabin pressure instantly.

“There were things flying around in the plane,” she recalls.

On that same tour, their plane “glided” into Calgary with no engines as it developed engine trouble in the air.

“We landed with the two wings and a lot of prayers,” Angela remembers.

On their scheduled return to Bismarck from Florida in the 1970s, their plane had im
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meditate problems when they departed and had to fly over the waters awhile, and then had landed at Miami Beach.

"Something went wrong with the wings, and we could not keep flying, and when we finally got to land, there were fire trucks lined up and we knew then we had been in real danger," she said.

But Angela said she got through it all, after all, she was raised to be tough.

Angela had 12 siblings and they had to work hard on their farm southwest of Kintyre. Her parents were Edward (Ed) and Bertha Magurn. They raised livestock and grains.

"We had sheep and I remember during the storms, we had very little water in the creeks and the sheep would wade in the muddy water. They would get stuck, and we girls would have to try to rescue them. Some we just could not get out," Angela said. "Our brother got them out."

Her dad loved trees and planted rows of them and the children would have to hoe them to keep them clean from weeds in order to grow.

"We had lots of hoeing to do and we had to water them husting the water from quite a distance," she said.

They had horses, and Angela and one of her sisters liked to ride, but her dad wouldn't buy them a saddle.

"I could bareback, but my sister could not so she would fill a gunny sack up with dirt and throw it on the horse so she could get on," Angela said.

The kids also liked to go swimming in those days. One hot day she found her brother, head down and his feet floating on top of the water. She grabbed him and carried him and laid him upside down.

She quickly retrieved her brothers and they worked on him for nearly an hour.

"He gasped and started breathing. We saved his life," Angela said.

The favor was returned when she was 11 years old, and on a July 4th, Angela's life was also saved.

"I was swimming alone because my friend did not see me. I got caught in a riptide and I was jumping up and down in the creek trying to get attention," Angela said.

Fortunately, a young man was on shore and noticed her. He gasped and started breathing.

"I learned to swim after that," Angela said.

The big family lived in a small house. Angela's father built the house in the 1920s. She remembers they ordered new furniture from a catalog—a bedroom set and a leather couch. They were unable to finish the house as the family ran out of money.

"It was the 1930s. The banks closed, and there were no crops and no money," Angela said. "We didn't even have enough to paint the house until the 1940s."

Two miles from the farm, Angela attended country school. After completing eighth grade, she needed to be on the farm to help her parents. At the age of 17, Angela met her future husband, Adam, at a cousin's place. It was his brother, Joe, though, who took Angela's name and contact information and would write to her from Ohio where they lived.

"I would have a party with a dance one or two times a year and invited Joe and his brother, Adam, and when Joe arrived, he was with another girl, a friend of mine," Angela said. "So I thought, to heck with him!"

The following summer, Angela's father hired Adam to help with farm spring work, and the following winter, Angela went to Ohio. Adam and Angela started writing to each other after that. Her dad again hired Adam for the spring to help build a barn on the farm, and the relationship built also.

When Adam finally asked Angela for her hand in marriage, he surprised her.

"I asked him why me instead of a German girl, and he said because I was different," she said.

They married at St. Katharine's Catholic Church in Braddock, on Oct. 7, 1941. The first year of their marriage, they lived with Adam's parents.

"It was an old house, with no foundation and the wind blew right through the floors. We almost froze to death!" Angela said.

They could only use two rooms in the winter—the kitchen and living room.

"After the first year on that farm, Angela and Adam moved to Ohio and Adam worked as a tank driver and tested tanks that were being built for military use. Adam could not be in the military as he was considered legally blind without his glasses."

In April of 1944, they decided to move back home to the Braddock area. The following fall, they moved to Hazelton. They built a home there. It was during the war, and they had to get a permit to build their house.

"It had four windows and one door, no basement, no foundation and it was 18’ x 26’," she added.

They bought used lumber and built the walls using a hand saw, and also built a granary and a barn later.

"Then the barn burned down in 1959 from lightning," Angela said.

On the farm, Angela had a big family—seven children. They raised pigs and chickens and milked cows.

"We would butcher 300 chickens some years," she said.

They had some bad farming years, and some good ones. There were some tough times, but Angela said they made it through them with their eight children—seven girls and only one boy (number seven).

Angela helped Adam out in the fields and had the girls take care of the housework and meals.

"At the beginning, when I first started to have the girls take care of the house, I had to decide that there were more ways than one, my way, two things," Angela said. "And they did pretty good. I liked it, too, as I was not there to hear their fights. I had peace and quiet on the tractor. I also prayed a lot, and I had a nice tan!"

Their kids, they made certain, all had a good education.

"I already told them while they were sitting in their high chairs that they would be going to college," she said.

Adam passed away in April of 2011. He had some health issues—open heart surgery, he broke his hip and had additional surgeries. He was a resident at the Strasburg Care Center for just two days (36 hours). Angela remembers.

"We were married for 69 and 1/2 years. He was a good husband, I liked him and I loved him. We were opposites, very different from each other," Angela added.

Angela has had a good life, been fairly healthy. She has been a diabetic for nearly 50 years, and has trouble with leg pain. That, however, has not stopped Angela from..."
Every other year, Angela Jangula’s family gathers for a family reunion around her birthday time. This photo was taken in 2012 in St. Croix Falls, Wis. About 100 people were able to join the reunion for Angela’s 90th birthday.

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being a daredevil. And even in her 90s, she has been on many adventures. Angela also still enjoys her hobbies, especially, quilting. She has quilted 300 quilts in her lifetime. She is also noted for the “popcorn ball lady” at Halloween trick and treat time. Angela also enjoys cooking and baking and said she makes really good apple turnovers. In Braddock, she has participated in the annual threshing shows, driving in the Tractor Treks.

Angela has contributed writings (Coyote Hunter, We Are Off! Kintyre, N.D. to Ohio, Words of Wisdom from the Wise Old Owls of North Dakota) to several books.

She claims she is just an ordinary person though, and that she got to be 95 years old because she worked hard and enjoyed life. Mostly though, she gives this advice, “Go to church!” Angela said with a big smile.

Angela is still quilting at age 95 and has made over 300 quilts in her lifetime for family and friends, and gifts.

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Angela’s children who were able to attend her 95th birthday celebration are, front row, left to right, Reyne Kapaun, Angela and Linda Schumacher-Kelsch; back row, Victoria Jackson, Carter Jangula, Angela Murray and Sandra Baumgartner.

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