

In the matter of prolonging human life, science has played no part whatever. Take the case history of one Bessie Singletree. At the early age of five, Bessie suddenly became six and entered school. On trolley cars her age remained at six until she was nine. When she was 11 years old, she was 12, and for the benefit of movies and railroads, she was 12 until she was 15. ...On her 27th birthday Miss Singletree became 24. ...At 40 she was 39 and remained so until she was close to 50. At 50 Bessie was 40; at 60, 55...[O]n her 70th birthday everyone said Grandmother Singletree was pretty chipper for an octogenarian. At 75 she had her picture in the paper as the oldest woman in the county, aged 93. Ten years later she passed away at the ripe old age of 109.

Norman Ingersoll (1936)