

# Enid Rankin,

## senior citizen advocate, dies

Enid Rankin, 89, Medford, known for her many years of social service, particularly with senior citizens, died Thursday evening at a local hospital.

Mrs. Rankin believed that retirement should mean freedom and opportunity to continue self-development and explore new horizons.

With the help of the local Inter-Agency Council, Mrs. Rankin organized the Rogue Valley Council on Aging in February 1958. She was a member of its executive board and chairman of the Senior Activity Center committee which planned programs for elderly people of Jackson County.

Much of her work was copied for use elsewhere in Oregon.

She was appointed by Gov. Robert Holmes to the Oregon Council on Aging in 1957 and Gov. Mark Hatfield re-appointed her to a four-year term in 1959.

The Enid Rankin Neighborhood Facility at 510 E. Main St., a senior citizens' center built with federal and local funds, was named for her in 1974.

Mrs. Rankin served on numerous committees and she participated in many workshops at the county, state and regional levels which were held prior to the White House Conference on Aging in 1960.

Mrs. Rankin also sought to improve the status of women. She was a life member of American Association of University Women,

having joined the group in 1921. A \$500 study grant was named in her honor by the Medford Branch.

A charter member of the Medford Altrusa Club, she served as geriatrics chairman for District 12 and was instrumental in setting up the program of financial grants to train older women to re-enter the labor market. She was an international field representative of Altrusa.

Mrs. Rankin also was active in the Southern Oregon Society of Artists, Oregon Shakespearean Festival Association, and the Altar Guild of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

She was named Medford Zonta Club Woman of the Year in 1962 for her accomplishments and selected Medford Business and Professional Women's Club's "Beep" of the year in 1964.

Mrs. Rankin was born April 2, 1880, in Blair, Neb. A graduate of Rockford, Ill., College, she taught high school women's physical education and mathematics in Blair and at the University of Omaha.

During World War I she went to Rockford to assist families of incoming servicemen who were being trained at Rockford College. It was there she met her future husband, Fred E. Rankin, then a University of Chicago student. They were married in Louisville, Ky.

After the war Mrs. Rankin was in charge of setting up a recreation program which in-



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cluded 10 centers in Omaha. During the 1930s she was a public welfare caseworker with 400 families in her charge.

When Mr. Rankin was sent overseas by Army Intelligence during World II, Mrs. Rankin served with the Red Cross in San Francisco.

At the invitation of the late Seth Bullis, chairman of the Jackson County Chapter of the Red Cross, she came to Medford to assume duties as Red Cross executive secretary. She stayed through 1945 when her husband returned to the U.S.

While at Ft. Sill, Okla., Lt. Col. Rankin died. Mrs. Rankin took a brush-up course at Northwestern University and taught briefly in Texas before being called back to Medford in 1948. She served as Red Cross director until 1952.

"The secret of 'living young' is to have new ideas, new friends, new community service, new activities for mental stimulation," she said during an interview in 1974.

Survivors include one daughter, Patricia Garrison, Bend; three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. One brother preceded her in death.

A prayer service will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Perl Funeral Home. Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Very Rev. Joseph Beno officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Rogue Valley Council on Aging at the Enid Rankin Neighborhood Facility, 510 E. Main St., Medford.