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# Columnist Ann Carroll dies after long illness

Herald-Post columnist Betty Luther, better known through the newspaper to her friends and readers as Ann Carroll, died late yesterday in a local hospital. She was 79.

A woman of indomitable courage, Mrs. Luther continued to write her column even though her body was wracked with rheumatoid arthritis. She lived for her column and the friends and readers with whom she came into contact. Despite her illness, she refused to give up.

When her fingers could no longer handle the typewriter keys, she clutched a pencil in each fist and pounded out her copy.

Earlier this year, she fell from her crutches and broke her right hip and arm. After that, she wrote her column from her hospital bed and later a convalescent home, dictating into a recorder. A relative typed it up.

Her interest in people never faltered, up to the time she re-entered the hospital during her final illness. Her column, she often said, "keeps me going."

Herald-Post editor R. W. "Pete" Lee termed her "the lady who would not give up."

"Betty Luther was one of the best reporters of all time in El Paso," said Chester Chope, retired managing editor of The Herald-Post.

The daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Luther, she was born in Bell Buckle, Tenn. She was a teenager when the family moved to El Paso. After graduation from El Paso High School in 1916, she earned her teaching certificate at Sul Ross University.

Mrs. Luther taught in both the El



Betty Luther . . .  
. . . in earlier years

Paso and Ysleta school systems over a 10-year period. She joined The Herald-Post in June, 1931, as society editor under the late Wallace Perry and later became a general assignment reporter.

She moved to Birmingham, Ala., in 1942, and continued as a newspaper reporter. Following World War II, she returned to El Paso and began her Ann Carroll column under the late editor Edward M. Pooley.

She wrote from her home as arthritis limited her physically. Her knowledge of El Paso and its history kept

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# Betty Luther, columnist, dies at 79

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her readers entertained through the years. She often wrote of old friends and their contributions to the community.

Mrs. Luther was honored by the El Paso Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, which she helped found, with a special public relations award in 1971 and was named Victory March chairman for the door-to-door campaign that year. The "Ang Carroll Quilters" named their group in her honor. She was an honorary member of the Retired Teachers Association.

Survivors include her sister, Mrs. Norman Blower, nephews Oliver Luther of Tucson, Ariz., and Frank Luther of El Paso, and a cousin, Mrs. Donald Irwin of El Paso.

Memorial services for Mrs. Luther will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. in Harding, Orr and McDaniel's Pershing Drive Chapel.

Rev. Fayeth Fox of First Unity Temple and Dr. Richard Mapel of First Baptist Church will officiate.