

El Paso Herald-

Social worker leaves fortune to the needy

When an unknown 91-year-old retired social worker walked into the office of a local attorney to have her will drawn in 1971, there was nothing to indicate anything out of the ordinary.

Little did the attorney realize that \$700,000 was being given to 10 community and social service agencies and other special beneficiaries through a trust account at the State National Bank.

THAT WOMAN was the late Maude M. Sayers, formerly of 1222 Mesita drive, who came here in retirement in 1930 after a career in the field of social work.

Neighbors recall Mrs. Sayers as a bright, intelligent woman who lived modestly and who regularly played bridge almost to the end of her life.

Partial checks from her estate have been distributed to the Yucca Council of the Boy Scouts of America, YMCA, YWCA, Rio Grande Council of the Girl Scouts of America, American Cancer Society, El Paso Chapter of the American Heart Assn., Lighthouse for the Blind, American Bible Society, American Red Cross, and National Radio Pulpit.

THE BALANCE reserved for each agency will be paid later this year by the trust division of the State National after all legal requirements have been satisfied.

How did a social worker manage to accumulate assets totaling \$700,000?

Part of it was inherited back in 1940, but apparently the bulk of it came from wise investments.

"Maude measured a good investment like she measured good people," recalls a relative in Colorado. "I remember her telling me why she decided to buy Eastman Kodak stock back in the infancy of the company. She had investigated and found George Eastman and his family to be honorable, hard working and honest people."

SHE HAD FARMS in Oklahoma and Kansas, which were managed by others, but beyond that she took care of investments herself.

The relative said she was extremely frugal when it came to personal concerns and felt that her mission on earth was to serve others.

"When she could no longer serve physically, she wanted her financial resources to be available to carry on in her place," he said. "She always had a hand out to help someone else."

He said that a cardiologist in Houston owes his education to Mrs. Sayers, and that a nurse was able to specialize in the care of

"She helped people through loans or outright gifts where the case would warrant. For years she helped a cousin financially who had a great deal of illness.

"SHE DONATED heavily to the American Red Cross, Boy and Girl Scouts, American Bible Society, and the Y's."

This unusual lady was born Dec. 1, 1879, in Chauncey, Ohio, the daughter of Dr. F. M. McCoy and Elizabeth Hawk McCoy. She was graduated from Hardin College in Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1899 and married Arthus Sayers in 1903.

For a time they lived in Kansas City, Mo., where Mrs. Sayers became one of the founders of a Presbyterian Church, which she continued to support all her life. Later they moved to San Francisco where Arthur Sayers died in about 1910.

Shortly afterward she went to work for the American Red Cross and served in Europe in World War I. After the war, she became director of Red Cross Services in a Chicago hospital and later held the same post in Maywood, Ill.

IN 1930, her health became a problem. She retired from the Red Cross and left Illinois for the milder climate in El Paso.

Her departure from the Edward Hines Jr. Hospital in Maywood did not go unnoticed. A hospital bulletin read: "Mrs. Sayers has served this hospital in a highly efficient and satisfactory manner. She has endeared herself to the thousands of patients who have passed through this hospital.

"Her relations with the public in general have been of a high order, and her contact with the friends and relatives of the patients has been intelligently sympathetic, conducting the affairs of her department with these people in a manner that has caused the Red Cross to maintain its splendid position in the hearts and minds of the public."

IN EL PASO, Mrs. Sayers' retirement was not for long. During the depression years of the thirties, she headed an institute for social case workers which was well attended by local agencies. Records from World War II show an award for 1,000 volunteer hours with the United Services Organization, Inc., and an award for civil defense work at Fort Bliss.

However, Maude Sayers seemed prouder of her service to the American Red Cross than of any other single accomplishment. When she died on May 3, 1975, at the age of 95, neighbors near her home saw that another wish was granted — Maude Sayers was buried in the grey and white Red Cross uniform she wore while caring for soldiers



HEY LIKED HER — "She always had a hand and out to help someone else," said a relative of Maude M. Sayers. Her \$700,000 estate at the State National Bank will continue to carry on her mission in life. The above photo is believed to have been taken sometime during the 1910's.



RED CROSS WORKER — Maude M. Sayers, who died May 3, 1975, at the age of 95, requested to be buried in the uniform she wore during her service to the Red Cross in Europe in



SURPRISE GIFT — Mrs. Gail Kirkpatrick, trust administrative assistant in the trust division of the State National Bank, presents a check for \$30,000 to William D. "Bill" Tippin, president of Yucca Council of Boy Scouts of America, as that organization's share of a \$700,000 estate left by Maude M. Sayers. Looking on is James W. H.