

## May Ellis of Wimer dies at age 94

May A. Ellis, 94, Wimer, died Sunday at the Wimer Memorial Hospital. She was born Feb. 18, 1894 in Wellsville, Missouri.

She and her husband moved to the Rogue River area in 1953 from Vallejo, California.

She was active in the Rogue River School District #35 Beautification Committee, the Wimer Garden Club, the Rogue River VFW Ladies Auxiliary, the Rogue River Senior Club and the RR Chamber of Commerce. She was also a member of the World War I Veterans Ladies Auxiliary. Memorial Services will be held Friday, July 8, at 1 p.m. at the Rogue River VFW Hall.

She is survived by a son, Hugh Ellis, of Rogue River; three daughters, Jacqueline Totten of Rogue River, Betty Hagan of Arkansas and Janice May Emde of Wrangle, Alaska. She is also survived by a sister, Elizabeth Willis of Long Beach, Ca. Sister Beula Porter died last month. Also surviving are twelve grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Arrangements are being handled



May Ellis — photo taken 1985

by Slawson's Chapel. Donations may be made to School District #35 Beautification Committee, care of Valley

of the Rogue Bank.

Mrs. Ellis's passing is the subject of an editorial on page 2.

### Editorials

## The passing of May Ellis

The death of any friend is a loss that grieves us. The passing of May Ellis is more; it is virtually the end of an era.

Like the Wimer covered bridge outside the window of her modest mobile home, May was part of the landscape of our public life.

Just last week May seemed to be everywhere. She was working along her beloved roses near the railroad tracks at the entrance to Rogue River and making final arrangements for the presentations of the annual beautification awards she promoted.

Last week May came by our office to say that she had stopped in at the local teen arcade that has been a minor controversy. She said she thought the kids were just fine and needed a place to gather. I wished I could have been there

as this tiny 94 year old woman boldly walked into an arcade to see for herself what all the fuss was about.

I'll admit there were times when I wished she would call me less often to share her opinions. But, then, editors shouldn't be critical of those with strong opinions.

Most people will remember her as the little woman who worked so hard for beautification and for the VFW Auxiliary. When May Ellis talked about wild animals a special, gentle glow came over her. She became like a little girl again. That is how I want to remember her.

Memorials often seem too little and too late. But we should find a way to commemorate May's work in our midst — not for her sake, but for ours.