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Sen. Romney Dies In Hamilton at 75

HAMILTON — Miles Romney, 75, state Democratic senator and veteran Hamilton newsman, died Thursday in the Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital in Hamilton. Mr. Romney had been in ill health for over a year and collapsed at his office Wednesday.

He had been editor and publisher of the Western News, a weekly publication, for 43 years.

Mr. Romney was born Dec. 6, 1900, in Hamilton. He was graduated from Hamilton High School and then attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for a time. He transferred to the University of Montana at Missoula and was active on the track team and in other athletics. He was graduated in 1922.

After graduation Mr. Romney spent two years as a purser on a freighter that traveled between the United States and the Orient.

On Feb. 18, 1925, he married Ruth Gray in Hamilton.

In 1925 Mr. Romney took over management of the Western News from his father, Miles Romney Sr., and continued in this position until 1929. The Western News had been founded in Darby about 1890, and was purchased and moved to Hamilton by Romney Sr. and his brother, Kenneth, shortly after that.

Mr. Romney moved to Washington, D.C., in 1931, where he served as clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives Public Lands Committee.

In 1933 he returned to Montana and worked as a deputy collector of the Internal Revenue Service. He resigned in 1936 in order to edit The Progressive, a paper supporting Romney Sr. for Montana governor.

Although Miles Romney's father was never governor, he did serve as state senator from Ravalli County from 1906 to 1910 and in 1934 was made state NRA director and director of the federal housing program for Montana. His family homesteaded in the Bitterroot in 1881.

In 1937 Mr. Romney took over the Western News again and had been its editor and publisher since.

Mr. Romney was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1966 and served two terms. In 1971 he was elected as a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention. In 1973 he was appointed to complete the term of Sen. William A. Groff, Victor, who resigned to serve as deputy state director of revenue.

In 1974 Mr. Romney was elected to a full term in the Senate. He served as chairman of



Sen. Miles Romney

the committee on committees and of the local government committee, and was a member of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee.

Mr. Romney had attended almost every state Democratic convention since 1920 except during World War II. He had attended four national Democratic conventions, three as a delegate and one as an employe.

He was active in the Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association and was recently given recognition by the organization for 45 years of service.

Romney Ridge, in the Bitterroot Mountains between Blodgett Creek and Canyon Creek west of Hamilton, was named for the Romney family.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth, Hamilton, and various nieces and nephews.

Funeral services are pending at the Dowling Funeral Home in Hamilton.

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