

# City booster dies Tuesday

By Ethel Purdom

Every community possesses a few people who become outstanding in one avenue or another. Such a person was Harriet Alexander, barely five feet tall and weighing less than 100 pounds, with as much pep and action as the average high school girl.

When Donna Nevens called at the Alexander home at 7 p.m. Tuesday evening to accompany Mrs. Alexander to the Salida Museum, she found the 89-year-old lady lying on the floor. According to County Coroner J. E. Stewart, she had been dead since 6 a.m. Tuesday. The coroner said an autopsy would be performed to determine the cause of death.

Born Sept. 27, 1881 in Newport, Kentucky, Harriet Lucinda Wright moved to New Castle, Ind., with her parents at the age of 4. Graduating from high school, she received a scholarship to Oxford College in Ohio with the stipulation that she enter as a sophomore.

Her college career was interrupted by the death of her father, who owned and operated a grocery and china store. She worked in the store for several years and when her family became concerned about her health, she came to Salida in 1905 to take advantage of the pure air. Three months after her arrival it was the holiday season and she decided to go to work. She walked into the jewelry store of William Calvin Alexander and was hired. Two years later she married Alexander at her home in New Castle, Ind., and honeymooned in New York City.

Mrs. Alexander's life story was distinguished. She was one of the first members of the Salida Women's Club, organized in 1915 and disbanded in 1942. One of her talents was dancing and play directing. In 1919 she interpreted a Russian dance for the State Federation of Women's Club at their convention in Denver.

Active in Republican politics, she served as president of the Republican Women's Club for a number of years. As a small child, she was a flower girl in a political parade honoring President Benjamin Harrison.

She became involved in Red Cross work during World War I, and served later as secretary and home service chairman, a capacity in which she was active at the time of her death.

A dream of Mrs. Alexander's which never materialized was a trip to South America and a trip around the world in a freighter for the purpose of seeing a lot of ports.

She had the distinction of being the only Salida councilwoman and served a 10-year period from 1953 to 1963. It was during this time that she found herself in the middle of the airport controversy and maintained that Salida needed an airfield while land for a site was available. The airport terminal bearing her name was dedicated June 15, 1964. Construction was started on the field in 1967 and Mrs. Alexander gave \$1,000, making her one of the first contributors. Her latest contribution to clear the indebtedness a \$1,335 check deposited July 19 marked her as the final contributor.

Several years after the death in 1941 of her husband, a mayor of the city of Salida, she operated the Alexander pharmacy until selling to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Long.

Until a few years ago she cared for an invalid sister and an aged aunt. The last civic project which she helped spearhead was the local museum. During the summer months she staffed it in the evenings, displaying many antiques collected in the county and relating much of the history to tourists.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by the Stewart Mortuary after the arrival of several members of her family on Thursday.



Harriet Alexander, Salida's only councilwoman who had been a resident of the city since 1905.

# Angela Davis church

By Carol Bozeman  
City Editor

Angela Davis, a black militant, is an admitted Communist charged with murder, conspiracy and kidnaping in connection with a San Rafael Calif., courtroom shootout last August which left four persons dead.

The United Presbyterian Church has granted \$10,000 from its year-old legal defense fund to defend Miss Davis against

eral Assembly of 800 laymen and clergy, heatedly argued the issue until 12:40 a.m. one morning and ultimately decided to continue the legal aid fund from which the disbursement to Miss Davis was made.

He was also in Oakland, across the bay from San Rafael, when the shocking murder of Judge Harold J. Haley took place. Though Miss Davis was not in the courtroom she is charged with aiding in the kill-