

HSF Founder *Nola McEvoy Roos*

Obituary: December 24, 1980

Mrs. Nola Roos, Civic Leader, Dies in Atlanta



Mrs. Nola McEvoy Roos, for years a civic, business and political leader in Savannah, died Wednesday in an Atlanta nursing home. She was 85.

Active until her retirement several years ago as public relations director of Civil Defense, she had served as clerk of Savannah City Council, as a member and vice president of the Chatham-Savannah Board of Education and as vice chairman of the Chatham County Democratic Executive Committee.

Her involvement in politics began after her marriage to Louis L. Roos, a Savannah businessman and alderman.

In 1938 she organized and became president of the Chatham County Democratic Women's Club, touring the state and speaking in behalf of Sen. Walter F. George, who at the time was unsuccessfully opposed by a candidate backed by President Roosevelt, Lawrence Camp.

In 1940 she served as district census director, at the time one of only four women in the United States to hold such a post. She also had been executive secretary to the late Mayor Robert M. Hitch in the 1930s.

In civic work, her principal interest was in the Business and Professional Women's Club. She served as local and state president. She also had served as fund-raising chairman for the American Red Cross, as a board member of the Girl Scout Council, as a charter member of Historic Savannah Foundation, and as chairman of a recruiting committee for the Woman's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in World War II.

She was the first president of the Women's Council of the Savannah Chamber of Commerce, in 1932, and remained a member of the Chamber while she was active in business. She also was a member of the Better Business Bureau.

Her business was the Roos Qualité Pecan Co and the R & E Pecan Co., packagers and distributors of pecan confections in many forms, a business still operating in Savannah.

Surviving are two nieces, Mrs. Jane S. Sowell of Atlanta and Mrs. Don Loop of Jacksonville, Fla.; three nephews, Louis N. Smith of Atlanta, David McEvoy of St. Petersburg, Fla., and Morris McEvoy of Jacksonville.

Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday in Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah.

A.S. Turner and Sons Funeral Home of Decatur is in charge.

Nola M. Roos

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Feeling that much of the beauty, culture and history of Savannah was being lost not only to Savannahians, but all of Georgia, and that someone or some group had to take the initiative in preserving for future generations not only historical sites, but those buildings and areas that were unique due to the fact that Savannah was the birthplace of Georgia, and that it would take the concerted effort of a group to preserve them.

At the time the value of all of this as a tourist attraction was not the important factor, our thoughts were to preserve for Savannah and Georgia a very precious heritage. I personally feel that the development of Historic Savannah to its present proportion is one of the finest things that has happened to Savannah.