

# Former Auditor W. Mary Craig's services scheduled for Monday

W. Mary Craig, a former Howard County auditor whose career in local government spanned 26 years, died of cancer at Howard Community Hospital at 1:45 a.m. Friday, April 23, 1982.

Mrs. Craig, 66, 2719 S. Lafontaine St., served as county auditor from 1973 to 1980. Before that, she had been city controller.

Her role in local government was put on a backburner during the '60s because of her late husband's illness, but from 1960 to 1969 she was employed by the Kokomo Elks Lodge as its bookkeeper and office assistant. 23 APR 1982

Before taking that job, however, Mrs. Craig was deputy county audi-

tor under Willis Howell from 1950 to 1961 and actually ran the office during a period when Howell was ill.

She was born in Kokomo Jan. 1,

1916, a daughter of C. Murray and Eva (Jones) Ricketts. She was married April 17, 1937, to Charles F. Craig, a former Kokomo fire chief. He died Sept. 10, 1971.

Mrs. Craig worked under her father, a former county commissioner, as deputy assessor from 1942 to 1952. She was a popular figure among Howard County voters because of her family's background and well-respected name and her father's political activity.

When she ran for public office, Mrs. Craig was usually a low-key but active campaigner. Her experience with city and county budgets earned her a reputation of being precise and in command of the figures she computed. That trait was often called upon by city and county officials who became boggled when budget time rolled around.

In addition to her role in the city political structure, Mrs. Craig served for many years as secretary of the local Republican Central Committee and president of the Women's Republican Club.

She also had been a delegate to GOP state conventions and for a long time was a committeewoman in her voting precinct. She was a staff member of the House in the 1972 Indiana General Assembly.

Mrs. Craig also held memberships at First Congregational Church, where she was a deaconess, and the Altrusa Club.

She was a graduate of Kokomo High School and attended Indiana University-Kokomo, where she completed a full course in income tax instruction.

Mrs. Craig is survived by a son, James Craig of Dayton, Ohio; two brothers, Dr. James Ricketts of Kokomo and Dr. Robert Ricketts of Pacific Palisades, Calif.; two sisters, Esther Clayton of Kokomo and Jeanette Bozell of Terre Haute; and two grandchildren.

Services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday at Fenn Funeral Home with the Rev. Waldo Savage officiating. Entombment will be at Sunset Memory Gardens Mausoleum. Calling at the funeral home will be from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday.

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