

H-R July 14, 1977

Mrs. J. P. Ryan passes away in Ohio last week

News has been received here of the death of Mrs. J. P. Ryan, widow of Prof. J. P. Ryan, in Columbus, Ohio Friday. Memorials services were held in Columbus.

Mrs. Ryan, 95, passed away at a convalescent center where she had been for the past two years. She entered the center after breaking her hip two years ago. In addition, Mrs. Ryan had lost her vision, but family members report that she was "alert" until her death.

Survivors include two daughters: Mrs. Leland (Elsie) Hurlbert of Bar Harbor, Maine; and Mrs. Harold (Jean) Squire, of 5606 Hayden

Run Road, Amlin, Ohio; four grandsons and one granddaughter; and four great grandchildren.

The family has requested that any memorials be made to the Grinnell College Music Department, the College Speech department, or to a society for the blind.

A news story written at the time of the death of her husband in 1951 had this to say of Mrs. Ryan: "Mrs. Ryan, the former Elsie Haggard, came to Grinnell as a bride and helped to establish a home which was characterized by genuine hospitality and friendliness. A gifted pianist, she made many public appearances and for many years conducted piano classes, part of the time as a member of the music faculty of the college. Her playing was always a most delightful part of the intimate social gatherings in the Ryan home."

Mrs. Ryan came to Grinnell at the time of her marriage to Prof. Ryan in 1911. Prof. Ryan had been on the faculty since 1903.

The Ryans lived in Grinnell until Prof. Ryan's retirement from the college in 1947. At that time, they moved to LaJolla, Calif. where they lived for two years. In 1949, they returned to the midwest when Prof. Ryan joined the faculty at the University of Missouri. In 1950, he became a speech instructor in the St. Louis adult education department.

Following Prof. Ryan's death in February, 1951, Mrs. Ryan moved to an apartment in Columbus where she lived until her fall two years ago. She spent time visiting with her daughter, Jean, in Columbus and her daughter, Elsie, in the east, and their families.

Mrs. Ryan's husband was a widely known professor of speech at Grinnell College, and in addition, taught numerous classes in Grinnell and Des Moines, where it was estimated that he taught more than 8000 Des Moines businessmen in night sessions at A.I.B.