



Eloise Rees

A talented and artistic woman, Eloise Rodkey Rees earned her master's degree in drama from the University of Oklahoma. A wife and mother, she entertained her family with her talents in song and piano. It wasn't until her two sons were leaving the home that she pursued what would be a successful writing career that would last until her death at age 94. Several of her novels were published and she was pursuing production of her screenplays and original songs.

Mrs. Rees lived nearly her entire life in Edmond, minus the first four years of their marriage when she followed her husband, Kenneth, from post to post before his deployment to Europe toward the end of World War II. Following the war, the couple and their three children settled in Edmond where Mr. Rees began a career as a petroleum engineer. Mrs. Rees was very engaged in community activities and supported projects at the Edmond Public Schools Foundation, the University of Central Oklahoma and the Edmond Fine Arts Institute. Her work with the Edmond Historical Society focused mainly on the restoration of her family's property, the Rodkey Mill and the Rodkey homestead.

In 2008, Mrs. Rees established an endowment at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation for the benefit of the Edmond Public Schools Foundation and the Eloise Rodkey Rees Writing Award. The annual award is an essay contest open to graduating seniors at all Edmond high schools. Students must write an inspiring essay on the topic The State of Our Nation. The essays are judged by a committee.

Mrs. Rees died Feb. 7, 2012 but her devotion to her hometown will be felt for generations.