HENRY ASHBY RANKIN, JR.

Henry Ashby Rankin, Jr., a former Fayetteville businessman, bird enthusiast and conservationist, died Saturday, November 20, 1999.

Mr. Rankin, of 8123 Blue Heron Drive East, Wilmington, was 98. Funeral services were conducted at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday in First Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville by the Rev. Ian Rankin.

Mr. Rankin was born in Fayetteville in 1901, son of the late Douglas Evans and Henry Ashby Rankin, Sr. He was proceeded in death by his brother, Samuel Carson Rankin of Fayetteville; sister, Douglas (Peggy) Rankin Hughes of Americus, Georgia, and nephew, Charles Rankin of Fayetteville.

A graduate of UNC Chapel Hill, Mr. Rankin worked as a reporter at the Fayetteville Observer and then went on to teach English at Clemson University. He later returned to Fayetteville to join his brother in running Rankin Brothers, a plywood manufacturing company.

Mr. Rankin served as a Captain in the Army during World War II.

He was a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, where he served as an elder.

He was appointed to Cumberland County Board of Commissioners in 1949, and the state Board of Conservation and Development in 1953. He was also on the boards of Cape Fear Valley Memorial Hospital, Fayetteville Technical Institute, Branch Banking and Trust, and Home Federal Savings and Loan.

Mr. Rankin’s lifelong interest in ornithology took him on trips to many parts of the world to observe birds in their native habitats, and his enthusiasm inspired a love for birds in many people.

He took a special delight in bluebirds, creating bluebird trails and habitats in Cumberland and New Hanover counties.

Mr. Rankin is survived by his wife, Christine Hutaff Rankin of Wilmington; a daughter, Douglass E. Rankin and her husband, Will Ruggles of Buladean; a daughter, Dororthy H. Rankin and her husband, Lee Lownmore of Wilmington; and a special grandnephew, Sam Rankin of Scotts Hill.

The family received friends Tuesday from 9:00 to 12:00 a.m. in the church parlor.

Memorials may be given to the Charles Rankin Memorial Scholarship Fund of Methodist College, 5400 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, 28311-1420, Cape Fear Botanical Garden, 536 N. Eastern Boulevard, Fayetteville, 28301, or First Presbyterian Church, Bow Street, Fayetteville, 28301.