

Book shows how activist filled gap between suffragists and feminists

BE SOMEBODY. By Judith Paterson. Eakin Press. 274 pages. \$16.95.

Reviewed by Daphne Simpkins.

If you've ever wondered who the women were who filled the gap between the time of the suffragists who fought for the woman's vote and the feminists who campaigned for equal rights, this new biography of political activist Marguerite Rawalt should help satisfy that curiosity.

As a means of personal survival during those bleak years when there was little formal organizational support for women, Rawalt relied on her now-legendary pioneering spirit and her credo, "You don't have a fight on your hands until you get resistance."

When Rawalt decided she wanted to become a lawyer in the early 1930s, resistance is exactly what she met. True to her

motto, she fought back. Her willingness to persevere for what she wanted often thrust her into more than one skirmish, and her efforts often resulted in her winning more than just her immediate goal. She became a first lady of sorts in many different arenas.

Her career grew from her first attorney's position with the Internal Revenue Service in 1933 until her present capacity as a consultant and guru to many political groups. Rawalt has served as the first and only woman president of the Federal Bar Association, the first woman seated by the American Bar Association, the first in courts against sex discrimination, and as a first member of the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women (chaired by

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