

NAMED IN HONOR OF COLTON EDUCATOR

School Dedication is Tomorrow

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DR. PAUL J. ROGERS
... Honored

COLTON — A school named for a distinguished Colton educator will be dedicated tomorrow by a distinguished jurist.

The Dr. Paul J. Rogers Elementary School at 955 West Laurel St., will be dedicated by Judge Elmer W. Heald of El Centro, Past Grand Master of the Masons of California.

Judge Heald will wield the symbolic gavel as he dedicates Colton's newest school to the principles of "truth, equality, and freedom."

The festivities will begin at noon tomorrow at a dedication luncheon at the Colton Junior High School. The dedication ceremony, sponsored by Colton's Ashlar Masonic Lodge, will follow at 2 p.m. at the new school.

Musical selections will be offered by the Colton Junior High School Band, under the direction of

Heinrich Schmidt.

Dr. J. J. H. Smith will act as master of ceremonies.

Pledge of Allegiance will be led by the Knights of Columbus. George Koster, will present the United States Flag to the school, and the Native Daughters of the Golden West, will present the Flag of the State of California.

Dr. Rogers will then give the response and invitation to dedicate.

The Rev. Michael A. Keane will give the Benediction.

Over a quarter century has passed since Dr. Paul J. Rogers came to Colton as Principal of the Wilson School. Last year he retired as Superintendent of the Colton School District.

For the past 27 years, Colton has grown with Southern California. The public schools have also had

to grow to keep up with the burgeoning population. Someone had to steer the course of progress and orderly growth. This someone is Dr. Rogers, who served as superintendent from 1944 to 1966.

According to Dr. Rogers, there were only 68 teachers and 1,800 children in the Colton schools when he became superintendent. Now there are 160 teachers and 4,500 children.

During his stewardship, every school in the district was improved. All but two were replaced with brand new buildings. The others were expanded and modernized.

Dr. Rogers insisted that such progress could not have been made without strong community support. He said, "The people of this District have elected outstanding

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School Boards all the time I've been here."

Dr. Rogers is a recognized authority on the subject of school building and site development. He received his Doctor's degree from USC in 1964 after writing a thesis on his specialty.

The new school is not only named after Dr. Rogers, but is a living monument to him, for he helped design it. In his research he developed many improvements in school design and applied them to the new school. The buildings are based on his preliminary sketches. The architects took over from there.

Some of the innovations are the clearly separated play areas for older and younger children, a safety-oriented parking and bus loading area, and location of the school next to a city park.

The new school uses many modern techniques of construction. It is the first school in Colton to be air-conditioned, thus providing a pleasant learning environment all year round. All rooms are equipped with low-transmission glass, which reduces glare and discourages outside distractions. Economical "strip-heaters" are used, which make maximum use of natural heat. The electric wiring has a capacity for handling the latest electronic teaching aids.

The Paul J. Rogers school consists of four buildings, three of classrooms and a cafetorium. Total construction cost was \$620,000, which was financed by state aid and a local bond issue.

Dr. Rogers was born in Downey and grew up in Porterville, where he attended the public schools. He graduated from Chapman College and later was awarded his master's and doctor's degrees by USC. He began his professional career in Westmoreland, teaching seventh and eighth grades. In 1937, he moved to Kern County, where he served as a school Principal for two years. He came to Colton in 1939 and was Principal of Wilson School until 1944, when he was elevated to the post of superintendent.

Dr. Rogers recalls that the 1944 School Board had only three mem-

bers — Marian Archibald, Leon J. Snow, and Dr. J. J. H. Smith.

School administration is Dr. Rogers' vocation; community service is his avocation. He is presently chairman of the Colton Community Services Organization — successor organization to the United Fund. He is an Elder of Colton's First Presbyterian Church, and is past President of the Rotary Club.

Dr. Rogers is an active supporter of Scouting. In Imperial County he was instrumental in organizing the first sea scout ship, which sailed the Salton Sea. He has been active in the Arrowhead council of the Boy Scouts and is the proud recipient of the council's Silver Beaver award.

In professional life, Dr. Rogers is a member of the American Association of School Administrators, the California Teachers' Association, and Phi Delta Kappa, an educational fraternity.

The guest speaker, Judge Heald, was born in Kansas in 1885, came to California, was educated in the

public schools of Santa Cruz and Palo Alto, attended Stanford University, and received his law degree from Stanford Law School.

He began his law practice at Calipatria, Imperial County, in 1920. He was elected District Attorney in 1926 and served in that office for 17 years. In 1942, he was appointed Superior Court Judge and served on the bench until his retirement in 1963.

After his discharge from the Army after World War I, Judge Heald joined the El Centro Masonic Lodge. He was Master of the Lodge in 1943 and 1947. He also joined the York and Scottish Rites of Masonry and the Shriners, and served in various fraternal posts. For three years he was a Trustee of the Masonic Homes of California and a Trustee of the California Masonic Memorial Temple. He progressed through the Masonic Grand Lodge offices until October, 1963, when he was elected Grand Master of Masons in California, the highest Masonic office in the state.

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Friday, April 28, 1967

Paul Rogers School Dedication Today

COLTON —Colton's newest elementary school, the Dr. Paul J. Rogers School, will be officially dedicated today in elaborate ceremonies on the school ground.

Ceremonies will begin promptly at 2 p.m. at 955 W. Laurel.

Festivities are sponsored by the Colton Ashlar Masonic Lodge, with the Colton Council Knights of Columbus and the Colton Exchange Club joining hands.

A luncheon honoring Dr. Rogers will precede dedication in the Colton Junior High cafeteria.

Dedication ceremonies will be performed by Judge Elmer W. Heald of El Centro, past grand master of Masons in California.

Born in Kansas in 1885, Judge Heald moved to California and was educated in public schools at Santa Cruz and Palo Alto. He attended Stanford University and received his law degree there.

He opened his first law practice at Calipatria, Imperial County in 1920, and was elected district attorney in 1926, a post he held for 17 years.

He was appointed superior court judge in 1942 and served on the bench until his retirement in 1963.

Judge Heald joined the Masonic Lodge at El Centro following his discharge from the Army after World War I. In

1943 he was elected master of the lodge, and again in 1947. He became a member of the York and Scottish Rites of Masonry, and served in various fraternal posts with these organizations in addition to the Shrine.

He was elected grand master of the Masons in 1963, the highest Masonic position in the state of California.

A member of the Presbyterian Church, which he has served as an elder,

he also belongs to the American Legion, Elks, Eagles, and the Imperial Valley Planners Association. He also has served as president of the Imperial County Bar Association.

Married to the former Helene Rickard, they are the parents of two children and also have three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

The new Paul J. Rogers school has a capacity of 627 students and is on 35x217 square feet of land. Contract price for the edifice is listed at \$620,198. The school's facilities cover 17 classrooms, library, multipurpose room, kitchen and administrative offices.

Dr. J. J. H. Smith will serve as master of ceremonies, with the pledge of allegiance to the flag conducted by the Knights of Columbus.

Following the playing of the National Anthem, George Kaster will present the flag of the United States. The flag of the State of California will be presented by the Native Daughters of the Golden West, with response and invitation to dedicate being delivered by Dr. Rogers.

Official dedication ceremonies will follow with benediction under the direction of the Rev. Michael A. Keane. A open house will follow dedication.

Dr. Rogers made his first appearance on the Colton school scene over a quarter century ago, when he was named principal of Wilson School. He retired as superintendent of the Colton School District last year, a position he held from 1944 to 1966.

When Dr. Rogers took over as superintendent of the Colton School District, 68 teachers served 1800 children. Today more than 4500 students are attending schools in the local area with 160 teachers employed.

Paying tribute to school boards, Dr. Rogers insists that the progress made by the Colton School District would not

be possible without the support of the eighth grade teacher at Westmoreland. In 1937 he moved to Kern County, serving as principal for a two-year period.

School administration is Dr. Rogers' vocation, community service his avocation. He is presently chairman of the Colton Community Services Organization, is past president of the Colton Rotary Club and is an elder in the Colton First Presbyterian Church.

An active supporter of scouting, he was instrumental in organizing the first Sea Scout ship in Imperial County, that sailed the Salton Sea. Highly active in Arrowhead Council work, he is the recipient of the council's Silver Beaver Award.

He is a member of the American Association of School Administrators, California Teacher's Association, and Phi Delta Kappa, an educational fraternity.



DR. PAUL J. ROGERS
... honored today

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