

MARY CLAIRE ROGERS: A MEMORIAL

Mary Claire Rogers died on February 13, 1978. In recognition of her long and dedicated service to the mathematics education of young people we take this opportunity to pay tribute to her and record briefly some of her accomplishments.

Mary was born in Sugar Run, Pennsylvania on September 5, 1894 and was educated at Mansfield State College and New York University where she graduated magna cum laude. In 1920, after serving as teacher-principal in several school districts in Pennsylvania, she joined the teaching staff of the Westfield, New Jersey Public Schools where she served as chairperson of mathematics, first at the Roosevelt Junior High School and later at Edison Junior High School. She retired from teaching in 1963 and embarked upon a trip around the world. She was recognized nationally as a mathematics educator and for a number of years taught courses related to Junior High School mathematics education during the summer sessions at several universities and colleges, including Duke University, Tufts College, University of Wisconsin and Rutgers University.

Mary was very active in local, state, and national professional organizations. She served as president of the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey 1940-41, editor of the New Jersey Mathematics Teacher 1941-42 and treasurer of the Association 1941-63. It was during these years of her leadership that the membership in the Association grew from a few hundred to over two thousand.

In 1950 Mary was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. At the end of her three year term she was elected a vice-president of the National Council and served two years in this capacity. During her tenure as an officer of the National Council she chaired the Committee on Affiliated Groups and the Speakers Bureau, and represented the National Council at the United States Office of Education Conference of Leaders in Elementary Education and at the Conference on Education for the Talented in Mathematics and Science. She served on the Program Committee and was General Chairman for the Christmas Meeting in 1954 and General Chairman of Local Arrangements at three Annual Meetings. She chaired the Membership Committee 1954-62, and due to her indefatigable efforts the membership of individuals increased from 7000 to 29000.

Mary was a guest speaker at National Council conventions in more than twenty different states and Canada. She lectured frequently at state meetings in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. She was the author of "Space Geometrics: Its Application to the Study of Mathematics", and she had papers published in several professional journals, including the Mathematics Teacher, the New Jersey Mathematics Teacher, the National Safety Magazine, Rho Journal, and Pi Lambda Theta. She was listed in Who's Who in American Education and in Leaders of American Science.

Mary was an outstanding educator in tune with her times. Her students will long remember her not only for her devotion to teaching them mathematics but for her concern for them as individuals. She enjoyed working with students of all levels of abilities but gave special attention to the not so gifted.

Thus the passing of a gallant lady on the highway of life.

This memorial appeared in the New Jersey Mathematics Teacher (NJMT) journal in the fall of 1978 Vol XXXVI No.1 in recognition of Mary Rogers' work in mathematics at the local, state and national levels.