

Welfare Head Saw Long Service Here

Irving S. Rogers, retiring director of the Provincetown Department of Public Welfare, took leave of his office Friday after more than 14 years as head of the department and 27 years in municipal service here.

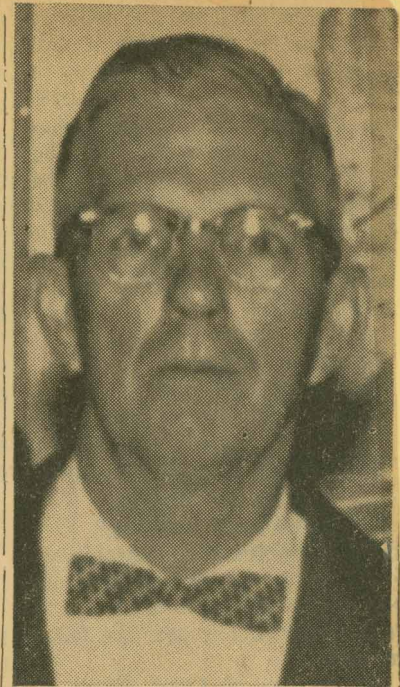
Mr. Rogers, with his wife, Mrs. Mildred T. Rogers, are enroute by car and trailer to Mesa, Arizona, where the couple will make their permanent home. Mr. Rogers will be administrator of a large nursing home in Mesa. Mrs. Rogers, a licensed realtor, is hostess and saleswoman for a new \$5 million real estate complex there that includes cooperative apartments.

Mr. Rogers had been nine years in the Department of Public Welfare before he became its head. He served as a Selectman in Provincetown from January, 1942 to December 31, 1951, when he resigned to become temporary director of welfare, an appointment later to be made permanent.

He had also been employed in the Health Department, had been Veterans' Benefit agent here and had been former administrator and supervisor of the Cape End Manor. He remained supervisor of the Manor during his years as welfare director. He was a prime mover in the conversion of the Manor from a town infirmary to a public medical institution.

Mr. Rogers, 56, is a brother of the late police chief, William N. Rogers. His mother, Mrs. Joanne Rogers, lives at 167 Commercial Street. The former welfare director had his home at 87 Bradford Street.

Mrs. Rogers, who has been in Mesa since last October, flew here to accompany her husband on the trip back to Arizona. Mrs. Rogers had been employed on the nursing staff of the Manor and had been a laboratory technician there when she resigned last October to live



in Mesa.

Reasons of health had taken his wife to the dry climate of Arizona, Mr. Rogers said, and when he joined her there on visits he found himself attracted to the location and his own health greatly improved. It was these considerations, he said, which moved him to the decision to live there.

"We're taking Provincetown with us," Mr. Rogers said before he departure, "paintings of the harbor and dunes, two ships' models" and other items identified with his life-long residence here.

"We're taking a few of our prized possessions on the trailer and making a leisurely trip over the road. Of course I'll be back on visits — did you ever see a Cape Coder who could keep from coming back? It's been awfully hard to say goodbye here."

Although Mr. Rogers' resignation from his welfare post does not take effect until October 15, a vacation and sickleave time, he said, enabled him to leave his job before then.

TOWN EMPLOYEES. Because town offices legally have to stay open, town employees cannot take off early the day before Christmas.



Provincetown Band in 1912 of clean-shaven youths and moustachioed older men, the reverse of today. Unfortunately we have only the surnames of the members. On the ground below the Town Hall steps are young Silva and instructor Swanson. On the first step, Hallet, Lema, Jason and Dennis. Next row up, Edwards, Barse, Manta and Francis. Next to rear row, Nickerson, Silva, Viera, Silva and Nickerson. High in rear are Dutra, Ramos, Dennis, Manning and Drew.

Louis M. Snow photo courtesy Leo C. Mitchell

Provincetown Advocate - July 17, 1969

Town hall plans date back 85 years

PROVINCETOWN — A bit of the past directly relating to town hall came to light recently when town clerk Roland Salvador discovered the preliminary plans for a new town hall dating back 86 years.

The original town hall was located on Town Hill, the site of the Pilgrim Monument. Destroyed by fire, the steps of the older building were used in construction of a new town hall on Bradford Street.

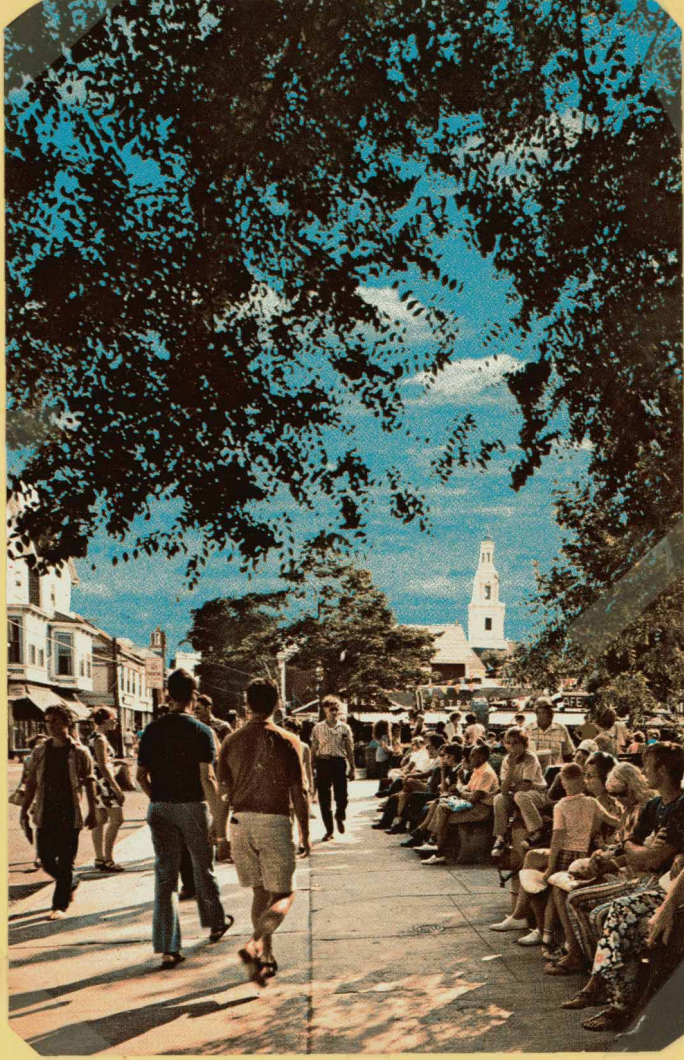
The papers, dating from early 1884, told of a planning committee authorized by town meeting. Included in the report were James Gifford, chairman, Lysander N. Paine,

Marshall L. Adams, William Matheson, Samuel L. Swift, Henry Cook, George O. Knowles, James A. Small, Stephen T. Nickerson and William A. Atkins.

Minutes of the committee meetings tell of negotiations for acquiring the property on which town hall was eventually constructed in the early 1890's.

During their last meeting, Feb. 5, 1885, the committee recommended the purchase of the Joshua F. Dyer estate and Delia A. Mills estate "if satisfactory terms can be arranged."

The present town hall was built just below the hill on the harbor side.



Summer Visitors in front of Town Hall - 1976