## The Elementary Demonstration School, 1943-1964

By Prof. Pauline J. Reynolds

In the summer of 1943, at the end of his first year as the Director of the School of Education (SOE), Dr. Vernon O. Tolle, the SOE's second director, started a distinctive program as part of the SOE's summer session – the Elementary Demonstration School (EDS). Tolle had run a similar program for UC Berkeley the summer before joining the University of Redlands (U of R), and after commencing work with our SOE, immediately embarked on developing this new program as part of the U of R summer session portfolio.

At its inception, the San Bernardino Sun described it as "the most ambitious six-week program in its [the university's] history". The program, which ran in its initial format from 1943-1964, was financed by the University who rented space from local schools, bought all supplies and equipment, and paid the teachers involved.

In 1965 the state started to financially support summer programming at public schools. With this change, the SOE decided to discontinue its program, partnering with local school districts for summer elementary school opportunities.

## Staff

President of the University of Redlands.

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Professor of Education and Director of the School of Education, University of Redlands; Director of the Demonstration Elementary School.

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Primary Teacher of Spanish Speaking Children, Mission School, San Bernardino County, California; in charge of Primary Spanish Speaking Group (Ages 5, 6 and 7 years).

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Teacher of Grade 4, Kingsbury School, Redlands, California; in charge of Older Intermediate Group (Ages 11, 12 and 13 years).

From the brochure for the first Demonstration Elementary School, 1943. University of Redlands, Archives. Unfortunately, nothing is known about the reason for the "Ha! Ha!" annotation on the copy of the brochure saved for the archives. Perhaps it is due to the President not actually being involved in the program or courses for the EDS.

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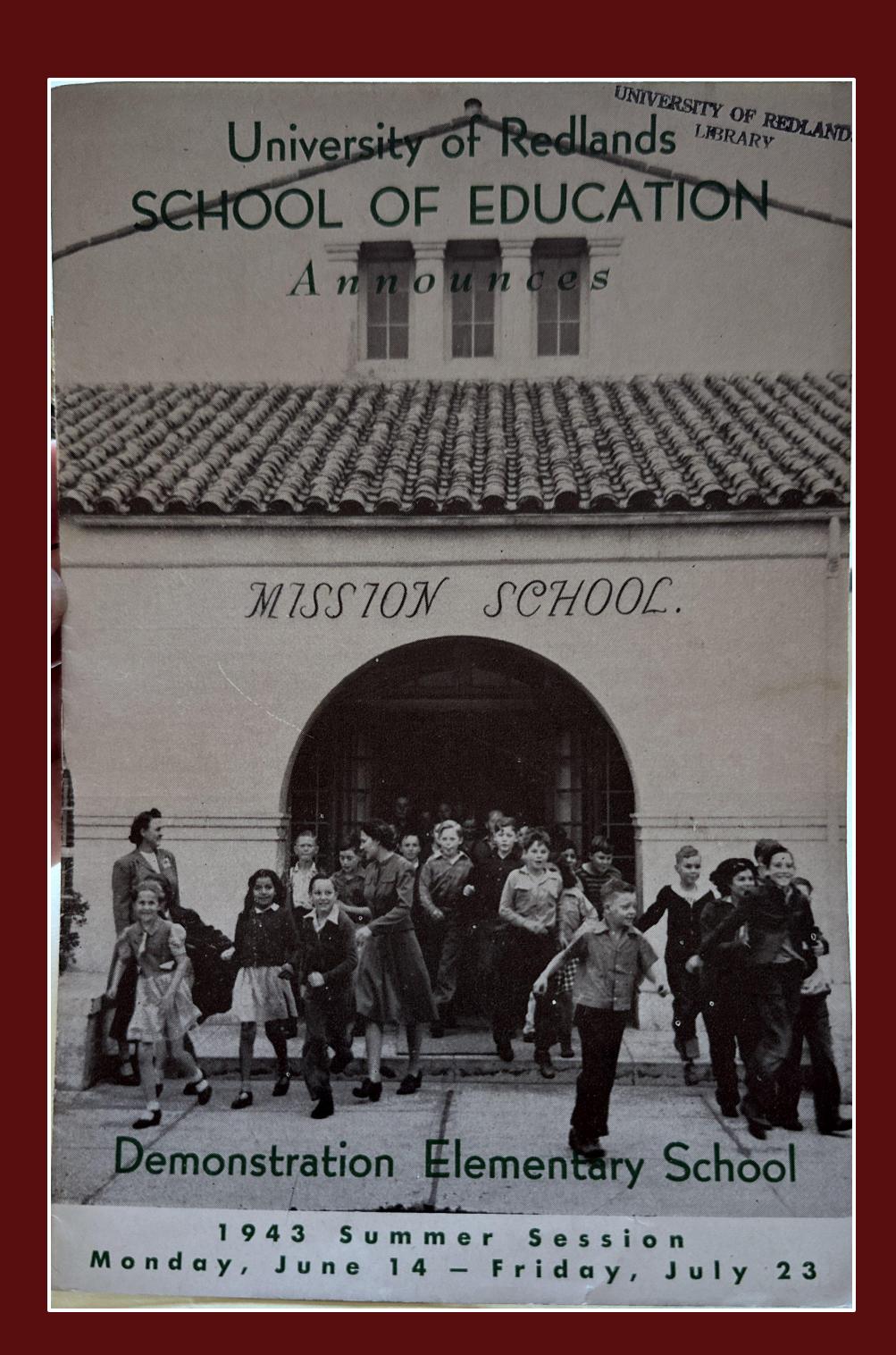
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Information about the EDS clearly distinguishes it from experimental education programs. The brochure for the first demonstration school in 1943 claims the program is "simply a good elementary school with splendid facilities, where modern educational principles prevail, where children live, work and play together and learn naturally through their living."

In 1943 the program took place at the Mission School with teachers from the area serving as exemplars of good elementary teaching. They were assisted by outstanding university students.

Children's classes ran for 6 consecutive weeks during the summer, 5 days a week, from 8:30am -11:30am. The program had room for 30 children in each class, and although families had to apply to be in the program, there was no tuition charge for involvement.

In addition to providing education for children in the summer, part of the demonstration school involved observations by prospective and in-service teachers and administrators enrolling for course credit with the SOE. Other observers could attend for 50c. per visit.



The brochure for the first Demonstration Elementary School, 1943. University of Redlands, Archives.

## Dr. Vernon O. Tolle Heads Two Six-Week Harks

"Summer session is planned for teachers and prospective teachers work to observe actual modern elementary school procedures in practice.

Many regular University courses will be given."

Thus the purpose of the summer session to be held at the Uni- Ru versity from June 14 to July 23 was outlined by Dr. Verson O. Telle, to appointed director of the two six-week sessions, in addition to his Get work in the demonstration school.

Miss Frances Wright, associate professor of music at the University verse, of California at Los Angeles, will offer a course in the teaching of Sit public school music.

Mrs. Eva M. Rademacher, director of elementary education in Redlands city schools, will teach a course in children's literature.

Art for Schools Taught

Miss Beth Pancoust, from a school at Running Springs, San Bernardino county, will teach a course designed to help teachers with a
their industrial arts problems encountered in the modern elementary
school.

Miss Margaret Erdt, supervisor of art education in San Bernardino city schools, will also be on the faculty. Ceramics, frieze-making, and other phases of school art will be featured. Student Teachers Help

Marjorie Peters, Lurana Wiedman, and Winifred Peters, University seniors just receiving their credentials, have been chosen as assistants to the teachers of the demonstration school which is being held in conjunction with summer session, because of their outstanding work as

The Bulldog, May 21st, 1943.

The success of the EDS exemplified a particular period of influence for the SOE throughout the state and beyond during the 1940s and 1950s.