
Obituaries

JOHN NOBLE CORE ROGERS came up the hard way as a private surveyor who had his share of difficulties in the 1930s. Yet, over this period and for many years before, he carried out the duties of Honorary Secretary to the Institution of Surveyors, N.S.W.

He came to Canberra as a staff surveyor in 1935 and immediately spent some months camped in the Paddy's River District on rural surveys. Later he was engaged on land and engineering surveys within Canberra itself.

(With the war looming John Rogers carried out some surveys for defence purposes but he was soon directed to the war's property needs).

By 1947 John Rogers was Assistant Surveyor General and Chief Property Officer and became Commonwealth Surveyor General and Chief Property Officer in 1949. He was also Chairman of the National Mapping Council.

Until 1951, when he became head of the Planning and Development Branch of the Department of the Interior, he took a part in Canberra's planning through his direction of all Commonwealth Surveyors.

With the establishment of the Planning and Development Branch Mr. Rogers became ex-officio executive member of the National Capital Planning and Development Committee. As the Branch took in Building, Parks and Gardens and Forestry as well as Planning, Develop-

ment and Leasing, Mr. Rogers had much to do with the planning and development of Canberra until the establishment of the National Capital Development Commission in 1958. His Branch retained its designation until 1960 when it became Lands and Survey as it had been 50 years before. Soon with the growth of Canberra the Branch split into two separate Lands and Survey Branches and Mr. Rogers became Commonwealth Surveyor General, an office which appealed to him, until his retirement in 1963.

After official retirement, Mr. Rogers continued to serve Canberra as a Member of the A.C.T. Surveyors Board, and as a Member of the Canberra Building Review Committee. He was also for a time Deputy Chairman of the Design and Siting Review Committee.

JNR, as he was affectionately known, was not particularly vocal but anything endorsed with those initials could be relied upon.

To those who knew him best, his outstanding qualities were his quiet human touch and his judicial ability.