

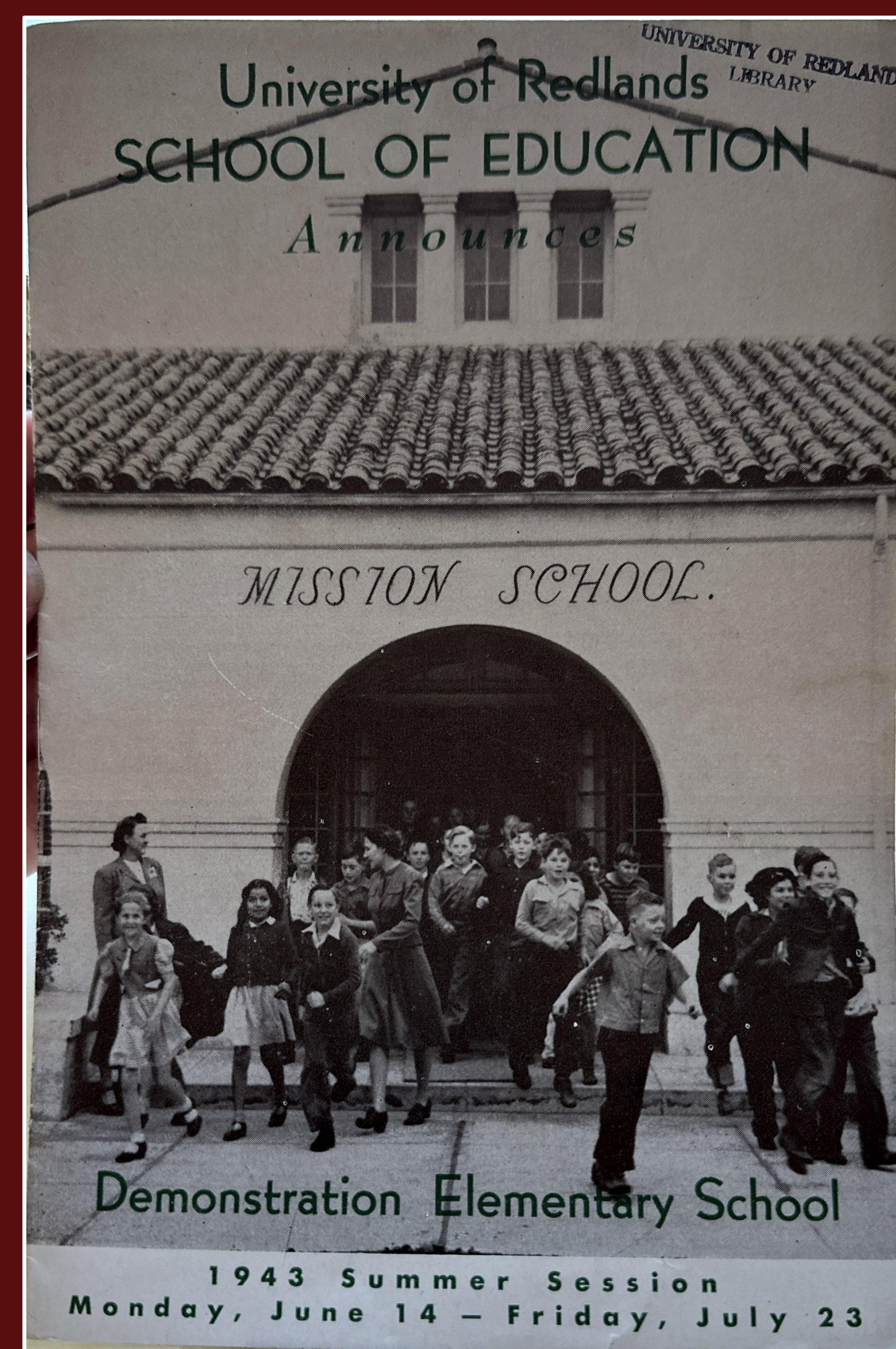
The Elementary Demonstration School, 1943-1964

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.



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

Staff

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President of the University of Redlands. — Ha. Ha! 1943 - 1944

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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.

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.

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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.