

T. J. Rogers, 69, Dies In Manchester

MANCHESTER, Oct. 4 (Special) — State Representative Thomas J. Rogers of 500 East Center St., prominent in business, politics and government and church work, died shortly before midnight Thursday at Manchester Memorial Hospital at the age of 69.

Although his left leg had been amputated in an operation earlier in the year, Rogers enjoyed good health and was still active until about a week ago when he reentered the hospital. He had attended the sessions of the General Assembly during the first few days of the recent special session.

He was born in Manchester on May 18, 1888, the son of the late William and Helena McMurray Rogers and attended local schools. He then attended the Hunsinger Business College in Hartford.

A retired bank official he entered the financial world as a stenographer for the Hartford Connecticut Trust Co. on May 11, 1905. He retired from the banking profession in 1953. At the time of his retirement he was trust officer of the institution.

Held Town Offices

Rogers' contribution to town affairs began in 1922 when he was elected to the old Board of Selectmen. He served until 1931 and the last three years as a selectman was chairman of the board and mayor of the town.

In 1933, Rogers was first elected to the General Assembly by the Republican Party here and was reelected two years later. He did not seek reelection again after this second term until 1954. He was reelected again in 1956 and was serving as House chairman of the legislature's important banking committee.

He also served at various times as a Police Commissioner, a member of the Board of Education, was on the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission and the Town Planning Commission. He was a member and chairman of the Express High Committee until ill health earlier in the year caused him to resign.

In religious circles, Rogers

was active in the South Methodist Church and was chairman of its Building Committee and its Board of Trustees. He was also a trustee of the New England Southern Conference of the Methodist Church.

Fraternally, Rogers a 32nd degree Mason and belonged to the Omar Shrine Club; was a member and past noble grand of King David Lodge, IOOF and a member of the Shepherd Encampment.

He also held directorships in the Savings Bank of Manchester, the Allyn Theater Corporation and the Callahan and Co., both Hartford and the Odd Fellows' Building Association here.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Edith Duke Rogers and three daughters, Miss Marilyn Rogers, a senior at Jackson College, Tufts; Mrs. Robert H. VonDeck, of this town and Mrs. D. Kenneth Richardson, of Los Angeles, Calif.

Also two brothers, Frederick I. Rogers, of Manchester and George E. Rogers, headmaster of Monson Academy in Monson, Mass. and four sisters, Mrs. Clarence G. Smith, Mrs. James B. Wilson, Mrs. John Hutton and Mrs. Loftus Woods, all of Manchester.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 2:30 p.m. at South Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Fred R. Edgar and Rev. Percy F. Smith, pastor and associate pastor respectively, of the church will officiate and burial will be in East Cemetery. Friends may call at the Watkins-West Funeral Home, 142 East Center St. Sunday from 2:30 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m.

A Thomas J. Rogers Memorial Fund will be established at South Methodist Church, according to the family and friends may contribute to this fund instead of flowers.