

Raymond E. Denno

1906 - 1983

PROFESSOR OF AUDIO VISUAL EDUCATION, EMERITUS

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara; M.S., University of Southern California; Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, June 6, 1956
California State University, Fullerton From June 1, 1960 To July 1, 1972
Birth: September 8, 1906; Death: December 31, 1983

Raymond E. Denno, a creative individual of many talents, founded the CSUF Instructional Media Center. A native westerner, born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Ray spent his pre-college years in Douglas, Arizona, where he graduated from high school in 1925. In the same year that he received his B.A. degree at Santa Barbara, he began his teaching career at Santa Barbara Junior High School. Then followed teaching experiences ranging from the elementary school to coaching at Santa Barbara State College (1934-1935). Ray moved into the administrative ranks when he became vice principal at Altso Elementary School in Carpenteria, California (1938). Soon he became a teacher at Carpenteria High School (1940) and then the principal of that school in 1942.

That year Ray answered his country's call to duty and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was officer in charge of the Navy's Training Aids Center in New York and later in San Diego. He saw sea duty aboard the SS Franklin, the Roosevelt, the Missouri, and the Richelieu. When he retired from the USNR he held the rank of Commander.

Following his work as AV Director for the San Diego County Schools (1946) and as Executive Vice President of John Sutherland Film Productions (1958), Ray came to CSUF to organize the AV Department in 1961. When he retired on June 30, 1972, the enrollment of the college had gone from 700 to 19,000 students. When Ray was a crafts teacher at Carpenteria High School, he had a great rapport with his students, the majority of whom were minority Spanish-speaking students. Since Ray spoke fluent Spanish, he was able to do many interesting projects with them, such as teaching them how to make their own musical instruments and form their own musical groups. This close association resulted years later in many annual reunions that Ray treasured dearly.

Ray's hobbies were wood carving and playing the guitar. Many of his carvings (under his artist's name of Ray De Neault) have been exhibited at Glendale Savings in Newport Beach and at various banks in Laguna Beach and Irvine. He was also a member of the Costa Mesa Art League.

Ray was an active member of Rotary -- first in Anaheim, then at the Irvine Chapter. There he was the chairman in 1978 of the International Services for Rotary Teacher Exchanges. In retirement Ray was very generous with his time, giving woodcarving and music demonstrations for the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and service groups.

Ray's two grandsons, Erik and Alex, whose father Dr. Robert Denno is a professor of Entomology and Ecology at the University of Maryland, inspired Ray to create and illustrate a series of children's stories which they enthusiastically read. Ray's widow, Hildegard, herself a former elementary school science specialist, resides in Newport Beach, California. We are proud to say that Ray typifies the caliber of person that came here to California State University, Fullerton in its formative years to help make it the great institution that it is today.

Author Unknown
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