

RAYMOND SANFORD SEWARD

Dr. Raymond Seward, who was affectionately called "Ray" by his colleagues, was much beloved by students, faculty, and townspeople alike. He received his B. S. degree from Pomona College in 1912. He was always very loyal to Pomona and was a most outstanding alumnus for the school. He received his M. S. degree from the University of California in 1921 and his Ph.D. from Stanford in 1930. Dr. Seward came to the College of Puget Sound as a professor in physics in 1923. While he was here, he was coach of the track team and timekeeper for the football and basketball team. He was very much interested in sports. He always limped a little bit because of a football injury from the days when he played football in college.

He had a very wonderful following and he produced some of the most outstanding physicists in any school our size. He had special people who became director of the Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C., Director of Scientific Phase of Rockwell Aviation Company, and many others. He has students who became very much a part of the building of the atomic energy era and Dr. Seward was looked upon by students and alumni as one of the very great professors.

Mrs. Seward was Dr. Todd's secretary for many years and she was my secretary for the first eight years after I became president of the College of Puget Sound. She was a most wonderful person. When letters would come in she would say, "Now you know

this person is an alumnus. He graduated in the class of 1930. He has had this career, and so on." It was most helpful and she was a very great comfort and strength to a young man coming in as president following Dr. Todd.

Dr. Seward had a very droll sense of humor, a twinkle in the eye, and was an outstanding person in every way. They were both very strong members of the First Methodist Church and were in that church their entire lifetime while in Tacoma. Mrs. Seward was a graduate of the College of Puget Sound when she was known as Miss Olive Brown.

Dr. Seward inherited a considerable amount of land in Orange County in California. I talked with him about it and asked if he could contribute to the development of the University. He said he felt that he was a trustee of what he inherited, to be passed on to his nieces and nephews inasmuch as the Swards had no children. However, he did sell a considerable amount of the property in California in the latter part of the 1960's and the early part of the 1970's. I approached the Swards with the idea that they might make a major contribution to the development of the University. At that time we were building more dormitories and I suggested they give \$100,000 and have one of the dormitories named for them. Ray Seward said he didn't know, they would think it over but Mrs. Seward said, "I think it would be an awfully good idea, why don't we do it?" After they discussed it among themselves for about a week or two, I went to see them again and they decided they would contribute \$10,000 a year for ten years until \$100,000 had been

paid. As of 1980, \$80,000 had been paid and the other two payments of \$10,000 will come in the near future.

The impact of the Swards on the campus and on the community has been most outstanding. Ray Seward was one of the great strong, stalwart faculty members. He was not swayed by the impulses of the moment or the enthusiasm of the moment and both he and Mrs. Seward were most outstanding in the history of the University of Puget Sound.