



Spotlight on Perry E. Seely



Perry Eaton Seely, was born in Bennett, Nebraska in 1884 and became deaf when he was two years old after he came down with measles. Around 1900, he entered the Nebraska School for the Deaf until 1903 when he graduated. In 1903, he went to Gallaudet University and was a student of Columbian University (now George Washington University) as a law student at the same time. Seely was married twice, both of which resulted in one child. In 1922, he moved to Los Angeles, California where he began his dream to start a school for the deaf in Southern California. On March 26, 1946, California Gov. Earl Warren signed Assembly Bill 75. The bill allotted \$2 million in funds to be used to build the school and Seely was one of the people who had helped to pick the Riverside site. However, the school did not officially open until 1953, four years after Seely died from heart attack in 1949. Seely had been a strong advocate for deaf education and deaf economic prosperity. Seely also advocated, quite successfully, for a ship in the U.S. Navy to be named after Thomas H. Gallaudet. Today, California School for the Deaf- Riverside consider Seely the father of the CSDR and his picture hangs proudly in their museum.



Source: <http://perryeatonseely.weebly.com/>
White, Michelle Diane, Perry Eaton Seely: Advocate for the Deaf and Deaf Education, 2012