



Russell Park History

Raymond DeWitt Russell was born in Santa Cruz in 1893. His father died two years later, and his mother brought him to Sheldon to live with her parents, Peter and Elizabeth Winkelman. Raymond attended Elk Grove High School for three years. When his mother passed away in 1908, he quit school and in 1908, ventured into what would become his new career and his many contributions to Elk Grove.

Raymond Russell worked for J.M. Derr for many years and estimated 75 percent of the building in Elk Grove were either built or remodeled by the Derr crew of which he was part. The community of Elk Grove benefited greatly as a result of the dedication and hard work of Raymond Russell. He spent sixty eight years as a member of the American Legion and promoted patriotism in the community by personally hanging American Flags along Elk Grove Boulevard for over forty years. Raymond is an active member of the Native Sons of the Golden West and the Elk Grove Lodge #274 of the Odd Fellows, and served as Superintendent of the Elk Grove-Cosumnes Cemetery District for many years. He also served as one of the first Directors on the Elk Grove Park District Board and took it upon himself to install posts in Elk Grove Park as one of his many projects in Elk Grove. Raymond Russell was also voted Elk Grove Citizen of the Year in 1963 because of his unselfish efforts to improve the community.

The information within this document was created at the time of park dedication and may not be current.