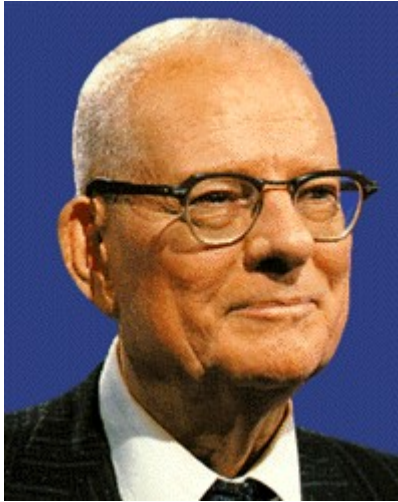


W. Edwards Deming



Biography,
W. William
Edwards
Deming was
born in Sioux
City, Iowa on
14 October
1900 to
William Albert
Deming and
Pluma
Edwards. The
family lived at
121 Bluff

Street in Sioux City, Iowa.

In 1904, they moved to the Edwards farm located in Polk City, between Ames and Des Moines. The farm was owned by Pluma's father, Henry Coffin Edwards.

In 1907 Deming's father filed on 40 acres in Camp Coulter, later named Powell, Wyoming. The family moved to Wyoming in 1907. They rented a house in Cody until they could build on their own land. William Albert learned that his parcel was poor, useless for farming.

Their first dwelling was a shelter, rectangular in shape (like a railroad box car), covered with tar paper. Deming often referred to as a tar paper shack. Water was pumped from a well. There was little protection from the harsh weather. The family was often cold, hungry and in debt.

Pluma and William Deming were well-educated and emphasized the importance of education to their children. Pluma had studied in San Francisco and was a musician. William had studied mathematics and law. Young Edward Deming attended school in

Powell and held odd jobs to help support the family.

In 1917, Edward Deming enrolled in the University of Wyoming at Laramie. In 1921 he graduated with a B.S. in electrical engineering. He received an M.S. in 1925, from the University of Colorado and in 1928, a Ph.D. from Yale University. Both graduate degrees were in mathematics and mathematical physics.

As an adult, he used the name W. Edwards Deming. W.E. Deming would become a colossus of modern management thinking. He would live through most of the century, marking it with tremendous impact.

The Demings moved from Iowa to Wyoming, and in 1917, Edwards entered the University of Wyoming in Cheyenne. To fund his education, he worked as a janitor. He graduated in 1921, and went on to the University of Colorado, where he received a M.S. in physics and mathematics. This led towards a doctorate in physics from Yale University.

From physics, Dr. Deming gravitated towards statistics. The U.S. Census Bureau hired Dr. Deming in 1940, just at the time that the Bureau shifted its procedure from a complete count to a sampling method. Upon completion of the 1940 census, Deming began to introduce Statistical Quality Control into industrial operations. In 1941, he and two other experts began teaching Statistical Quality Control to inspectors and engineers.

Dr. Deming started his own private practice in 1946, after his departure from the Census Bureau. For more than forty years his firm served its various clientele--manufacturers, telephone companies, railways, trucking

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companies, census takers, hospitals, governments, and research organizations.

As a professor emeritus, Dr. Deming conducted classes on sampling and quality control at New York University. For over ten years, his four-day seminars reached 10, 000 people per year.

The teachings of Dr. Deming affected a quality revolution of gargantuan significance on American manufacturers and consumers. Through his ideas, product quality improved and, thus, popular satisfaction. His influential work in Japan--instructing top executives and engineers in quality management--heralded that nation's economic rise. Dr. Deming contributed directly to Japan's phenomenal export-led growth and its current technological leadership in automobiles, shipbuilding and electronics.

The Union of Japanese Science and Engineering (JUSE) saluted their teacher with the institution of the annual Deming Prizes for significant achievement in product quality and dependability. In 1960, the Emperor of Japan bestowed on Dr. Deming the Second Order Medal of the Sacred Treasure.

Stateside, the American Society for Quality Control awarded him the Shewhart Medal in 1956. In 1983, Dr. Deming received the Samuel S. Wilks Award from the American Statistical Association and election to the National Academy of Engineering. President Reagan honored him with the National Medal of Technology in 1987, and, in 1988, the National Academy of Sciences lauded him with the Distinguished Career in Science award. He was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame in 1991.

Dr. Deming was a member of the International Statistical Institute. He was elected in 1986 to the Science and Technology Hall of Fame in Dayton. The honors bestowed upon him are too numerous to mention here.

Dr. Deming studied music theory, played several instruments and composed two masses, several canticles and an easily sung version of the **Star Spangled Banner**.

Dr. and Mrs. Deming lived in Washington, D. C. for the remainder of their lives in the house that they bought in 1936. With her family at her side, Mrs. Deming died on 25 June 1986. Dr. Deming, surrounded by his family, died at his home on 20 December 1993. He was survived by two of his daughters, Diana and Linda.

Publications:

Dr. Deming authored several books and 171 papers. His books, Out of the Crisis (MIT/CAES, 1986) and The New Economics (MIT/CAES, 1994) have been translated into several languages.

Resources:

Deming Institute: <http://www.deming.org/>
<http://deming.eng.clemson.edu/pub/den/>

