

# **R. Nelson Fuller Biography**

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R. Nelson Fuller was Scripps' Public Affairs Officer from 1965 to 1978. When Nelson Fuller became SIO's public affairs officer in July 1965, he brought to his work more than 30 years' experience in writing and editing for print media and radio and public relations. Fuller earned a bachelor's degree from the University of

Texas. He worked as a newspaper editor, edited *Rotary International News*, served as a wire editor for AP, and worked in public relations at General Dynamics before his arrival at Scripps.

R. Nelson Fuller was born in Lafayette, Indiana, on April 23, 1911. His family moved to a small town in Texas, near Houston and three miles north of College Station, home of Texas A&M. His appreciation of science began at home, with a father who was a agricultural chemist. His wife's (Bertha) father was a genetics professor at Texas A&M. Nelson and Bertha met when they were six, obtained their degrees from the University of Texas and got married. A fellow journalism student at Texas A&M was Claudia Alta Taylor, who was later known as Lady Bird Johnson (President Lyndon Johnson's wife).

Nelson understood campus life. A year after joining SIO, Director William Nierenberg sent Nelson to the Western Pacific for a joint news conference with the U.S. Information Agency, followed by expeditions with Claude ZoBell off Japan on R/V Argo during 50-foot waves, and another adventure off the Great Barrier Reef on an R/V Alpha Helix expedition, with Per Scholander. Nelson relished these opportunities and often told stories of his time on these ships and on shore, especially his experiences with the Aborigines. He did not get seasick! This yielded considerable international media attention, as did an ongoing stream of news releases and the SIO Annual Report, for which he was editor. During his busy years at Scripps, Fuller skillfully handled media coverage for distinguished visitors including Emperor Hirohito, Vice President Hubert Humphrey and Vice President Spiro Agnew.

R. Nelson Fuller died at the age of 93 on March 22, 2005 in Morro Bay, California. Nelson and Bertha Fuller had three sons: Raymond Nelson Fuller, Jr., John Edward Fuller, and Frederick Eugene Fuller.