

OBITUARY

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Merton Normand Rosen died on February 9, 1981 after a brief bout with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, a son and two daughters, two grandsons and two brothers.

Mert was born in San Francisco on May 6, 1913. He received his early education in San Francisco and earned his B.S. degree from the University of San Francisco in 1936. His graduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley, were terminated when he entered military service as a sergeant in 1940. He was honorably discharged from the service in 1946 with the rank of captain. Mert received a M.A. degree from the California State University, Sacramento, in 1963 with a major in Microbiology.

Mert spent his entire career in wildlife disease with the California Department of Fish and Game. He was a laboratory assistant from 1938 to 1940. After his military service during World War II, he returned to the California Department in 1946 and was Junior Biologist until 1948, Senior Bacteriologist until 1950, Parasitologist until 1965 and Wildlife Pathologist until his retirement in 1975. During his tenure in Sacramento, Rosen served part time on the faculty of the California State University as Assistant Professor (1962-1968) and as Associate Professor since 1968.

I was privileged to have Mert as one of my staff from 1946-1950. His loyalty, diligence and unmatched sense of humor endeared him to me and to all those associated with him. During his career he was author or coauthor of 44 papers and wrote chapters for several books, including the WDA publication "Infectious and Parasitic Diseases of Wild Birds", edited by Davis, *et. al.* Although he published in a number of areas on wildlife diseases and zoonoses, he will probably be best remembered for his extensive investigations on epizootiology of avian cholera in waterfowl and other birds.

Mert was a member of several societies related to his scientific interests including the American Association of Avian Pathologists, American Society of Microbiology, The Wildlife Society (Past President of the western section) and Sigma Xi (Past President of the CSU Sacramento Club, 1974 and a national delegate). He was a charter member of the Wildlife Disease Association and served as program chairman of the 1974 annual conference held at Asilomar in California. He was the honored recipient of the WDA Emeritus Award at the annual meeting in Baton Rouge in 1980.

Mert was also an ardent hunter and fisherman. He had his own boat and explored the fishing waters along much of the Pacific coast.

It is proposed that the Wildlife Disease Association establish a lecture series in his name to present a paper related to avian cholera at our annual meetings as often as funds and appropriate recipients are available. Toward this end members and friends are urged to contribute funds to the Merton N. Rosen Memorial Lecture Series to perpetuate his memory and his contributions to this field. Checks should be made out to the Wildlife Disease Association earmarked for the Rosen Memorial Lecture Fund and sent to the business office.

Carlton M. Herman