

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF

ERNEST J. SIMON

Dean of Southern Illinois University's Division of Technical and Adult Education, E.J. (Ernie) Simon has been teaching longer than his adult life.

Dean Simon began the game as an instructor in industrial arts at Ottumwa, Iowa High School when he was 17 years old. Before receiving his bachelor's degree in Industrial Education from the University of Illinois in 1933, he had taught in Flat River (Mo.) High School, Champaign High School and Champaign Evening Vocational School, working the summer months in Chicago at such things as selling books, working as a layout man and making surgical instruments.

Between 1936, when he received his master's degree, and 1950, when he came to SIU, Simon served as director of industrial and vocational education in the Champaign Public Schools, was assistant state director of war production training, and was Illinois State Director of Vocational Education.

On coming to Southern, Simon was given the job of directing the new Vocational Technical Institute--then only a night-class operation with few facilities. As that phenomenal division has grown (there are now over 500 students in a full time day program at VTI), so has Simon's responsibility. He is now Dean of Technical and Adult Education; Associate Dean of the Division of Extension, and Professor of Industrial Education.

Simon is or has been a member of dozens of state and national organizations, committees and boards dealing with vocational education, industrial safety, shop training, etc. During 1958 and 1959 Simon served as technical education consultant to the government of Burma in Rangoon. He was selected for the position by the Ford Foundation.

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