

Lowell Willard Woodstock Memorial Minute

Lowell Willard Woodstock was born on July 6, 1931 in Harvey, Illinois, to Rhoda Salter Woodstock and Willard Henry Woodstock. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. degree in Botany and from the University of Wisconsin with a PhD degree in Plant Physiology. In senior honors work at the University of Illinois with Robert Emerson, Lowell was the first person outside Japan to achieve synchronous culture of *chlorella pyrenodasia*, work which was used to study the effect of cell size on photosynthetic efficiency. In post doctoral work, funded by the American Cancer Institute, he studied the effect of *nucleotide analogues* on growth of isolated root segments of peas and corn, leading to an understanding of the role of ribose nucleic acid in cell elongation.

Lowell's professional life was devoted to the study of seed vigor. As a research scientist and laboratory leader at the plant industry station, Beltsville, Maryland, he studied the effects of heat and light on the physiology of crop seeds. On loan from the USDA in 1976-78, Lowell was Associate Director of a joint Saudi Arabian/American project overseeing research on plant and animal husbandry as well as water and land conservation. He became an international authority on seed vigor, overseeing projects in China, India, Israel and Poland.

Lowell was a person of great courage and intelligence with a good sense of humor. A member of Adelphi Friends Meeting since 1972, he served on Ministry and Worship Committee, clerked Peace and Social Order Committee, and also in the 1980's was the Clerk of the Meeting. He helped on Friday evenings at Martha's Table when it is the responsibility of Adelphi to drive the vans and distribute food to the homeless. He served on the Camping Resolution Committee at the request of Business Meeting. He served on the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Peace Committee. His interest and leadership on the issue of handgun violence was especially noted.

Lowell enjoyed photography, writing poetry and supporting others who wrote poetry. He enjoyed classical music, the theatre and good food. He loved playing the piano, swimming and tennis before he became ill and greatly handicapped. As his physical handicaps increased, it became clear that he needed support from Meeting members. A Clearness Committee for these and other personal problems brought him peace.

Friends crowded into his memorial service where there were many expressions of appreciation for his contributions to the Meeting including his spoken ministry. Ed Snyder reminded us of one particularly memorable message from Lowell. After observing a glorious sunset in Saudia Arabia being crossed by the contrail of a modern jet plane Lowell remarked, "*Look at those people In that plane! They are passing through glory and probably don't even know it!*" We are left with his query, "*How many of us are passing through glory in our Meeting, personal or spiritual lives and don 't even know it?*"

Lowell died February 13, 1994 of a heart attack which was a complication of his diabetes. He is survived by a sister, Sally Swanson of Phoenix, his wife Agnes of Silver Spring, his daughters Elizabeth and Louise and two grandsons Yuri and Zev.

Harold B. Confer