

## Paul James Memorial Minute

Paul E. James, son of Inez and Orville James, was born at Lafayette' Indiana, on December 10, 1911. Inez and Orville were both birthright Quakers. Paul had three sisters and one brother. One sister died of lockjaw at an early age. Another died of heart trouble at fifty. Surviving are Floyd and Miriam. Paul married Deborah Hale in 1939. They had three sons, William, Larry, and Jonathan. Jonathan died of AIDS in November, 1988. There are four grandchildren, Gordon and Michael, sons of William, and Talitha and Daniel, children of Larry. Paul died in his sleep of congestive heart failure, May 10, 1991.

Paul received a Masters degree in physics from Indiana University in 1936. He worked for Coldspot Refrigerator Company as an engineer for four years. He moved to Westinghouse in Mansfield, Ohio, where he headed the refrigerator testing laboratory for four years. He then went to Carrier Corporation in Syracuse, New York, where he designed a table-top freezer. He then taught engineering at Syracuse University for one year. He moved to Beltsville, Maryland, to design a walk-in freezer for farmers. On completion of that project, he transferred to agricultural engineering at the Agricultural Research Service. There he spent several years developing methods of cleaning up agricultural land where fallout from atomic energy occurred. One side project was the development of the beta backscatter method of measuring eggshell thickness. The use of this technique resulted in banning DDT to save the bird population. He was then loaned to the Veterinarian Service where he traveled around the country teaching garbage collectors how to cook garbage to control Vascular Exentema hog disease. When this disease was eradicated, he worked in Florida on the program which eradicated the screw worm in that state. His work consisted of mass rearing flies which were given radiation treatments and released to mate with the population. His last work was back in Beltsville, where he worked with turkeys until his retirement in 1980. At the time of the Chernobyl disaster, Paul submitted his research to the Russian Embassy to help in cleaning up contaminated soil.

Paul was a devoted sailor and member of the Tartan 27 Club. He was constantly on Chesapeake Bay in his beloved Aguarius and made two trips to the Gulf of Mexico. In his younger years, he had been an enthusiastic camper. He and Deborah spent their honeymoon backpacking in the Canadian wilderness. and they did much travel camping with their children.

Paul enjoyed making model ships, and he made a number of grandfather clocks which he gave to family members and also one to Friends Community School. After retirement, Paul took up oil painting. One of his paintings of the Grand canyon so impressed someone that it was stolen. Paul enjoyed playing the recorder, both by himself and in informal groups.

Paul became a member of Adelphi Friends Meeting in 1960. He was very active in Peace and Social Order and on the House and Ground Committee. He refinished the Meeting benches which we use every Sunday and he performed numerous tasks of renovation. He was active in the construction of our present Meetinghouse. He served on the Board of the American Friends Service Committee.

Paul had an active, inquiring mind. He was always asking Why. He was quiet and self-effacing but he enjoyed a good sense of humor and he had a wonderful smile. Paul liked to keep active and was always involved in some project or another. He believed in simplicity and lived it. His kindly presence in the Meeting community will be missed.