

**EVERETT STANTON LANK**  
**9-19-1910 to 4-22-1976**

Everett Lank was a quiet man. He never spoke at length and not one word of what he said was wasted. Indeed, many Friends may have known him better through the beautiful work of his hands than through conversation with him, for Everett often let his deeds speak for him

In addition to faithfully fulfilling the usual responsibilities of membership, Everett, through his careful attention to any kind of problem Meeting committees or members took to him, gave generously of his knowledge, skill and experience.

In 1946 Everett and his brother, Murrell C. Lank, took over the Lank Woodwork Company which their father, Alvin H. Lank, had founded in 1923. Everett became president and guiding spirit of the company.

The mill and cabinet work of the Lank Woodwork Company are known to be among the finest in the Washington area. We gratefully possess many examples of its work in this House. When the First-day School needed its first room divider Everett provided handsome movable birch screens. He arranged for the concrete ramp leading to the north door of the Meeting House to aid the disabled. When the library outgrew its shelves Everett supplied the fine new shelves which fit so well into the Parlor. When styles shortened ladies' dresses he provided the perfectly matching wood panels below the railing of the facing benches and also repaired some of the benches. He must have spent long hours drawing the plans for the recent remodeling on the lower floor. We are grateful to him for our bulletin board, the attractive sign mounted on the fence on Florida Avenue and the beautiful wooden collection box now in use.

All the gifts of his hands were given as anonymously as possible but their quality clearly marked them as products of the high standards of excellence which governed every part of Everett's life from his skill in handling tools to his relationship with people. One Friend has said, "When Everett talked to you he made you feel as though you were of value and he listened with his full attention." The tributes spoken at his memorial service by men who worked with him for many years revealed strong loyalties and affection there. His three daughters and nine grandchildren reflect his gifts as father and grandfather.

Everett's work with boys seemed to be a living memorial to his son Joe who died March 27, 1959 at the age of 18. Extending his love for one son to concern for many boys, he helped to establish and served on the board of the Joint Carpentry Apprenticeship Committee, which operates an apprentice work-study school in Upper Marlboro. In 1971-72 he conducted a woodworking class at Quaker House for inner city and Friends' boys. One of those boys remembers especially Everett's kindness, the individual attention he gave to each boy and the high work standards he set.

One can hardly think of Everett and Myra Lank separately because of the harmonious way in which they worked together and supplemented each other. Along with the raising of four children, the interest of both seemed to extend to all children. For twenty years the Lank Woodwork Company held an annual Christmas workshop in December in which the Lank

family, all employees of the Company, their children and grandchildren, participated in making wooden toys and play equipment. All the modular building blocks, nesting boxes and rocking boats were distributed to schools and agencies for handicapped and retarded children in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties.

Another way to enjoy the memory of Everett's fine life is to walk in Dumbarton Oaks Garden and realize that his mill built and installed the trellis for the ancient wisteria vine there; visit the Supreme Court Building see the new Supreme Court Bench whose angled sections allow the Justices to see each other better than the former straight Bench; Visit the Capitol Building to see the restored woodwork in the Old Senate Chamber, reproduced from the original plane; and see the beautiful exhibit cases in the 1876 Centennial Exhibition on view through 1977 at the Smithsonian, perfect copies of the original cases.

Everett lank has left with us the happy experience of having known a very kind and generous friend whose life truly reflected his inward spirit. For this experience we are very grateful.