

MILES FAY ROUSE
7-12-1903 to 1-27-1977

With the death of Miles Fay Rouse on January 27, 1977, from heart trouble, the Friends Meeting of Washington lost a charter member who loyally and cheerfully served the Meeting in many ways.

Miles Rouse was born in Milwaukee on July 12, 1903, the second of six children, all of whom joined this Meeting as charter members. Since his mother, his wife, his sons, and his grandchildren were all members, Miles was gratified to see four generations of his family in the Meeting.

On December 12, 1928, Miles married Agnes McElroy. Five years later, they moved to a new house in Glen Echo Heights, Maryland, which was his home for the rest of his life. Miles and Agnes were happily married for over 48 years, a productive life for both of them.

Miles began work in 1923 with the Washington, D. C., Highway Department, Starting as a surveyor's helper and going on to such important activities as drawing up specifications for major highway projects. He distinguished himself for "devotion to duty, sincerity, and above all, a friendly and congenial attitude to fellow workers." After formal retirement in 1958, with completion of 35 years in the Highway Department, he continued active for a number of years as a valuable volunteer in Civil Defense activities and as partner in a small sawmill, which he designed and constructed.

Throughout his life Miles loved the outdoors and enjoyed growing things. He was a devoted gardener, generously sharing his extensive knowledge of gardening, his garden plots, and the abundant produce he harvested. From a miscellany of available discarded parts, he improvised and invented equipment, much of which was used in his gardening efforts.

Nearly 50 years ago, as a member of Irving Street Meeting, Miles shared the vision of a united Friends Meeting in Washington and helped to prepare a contour plan of the property before the Meeting House was constructed. He served loyally on many of the Meeting's committees, but some things stand out particularly: his work with the grounds, his contribution of rustic benches, his corn roasts, his helpfulness at bazaar time, his warm and friendly greetings as usher, his unfailing aid in stuffing the Newsletters, his generous assistance with Memorial Services, and his messages in the Meeting for Worship. Taking themes from his family, the outdoors, growing things, and life in general, his messages were always simple; yet they were beautiful and complete.

For Meeting and family, Miles had a strong feeling of loyalty and worked diligently and with good humor to see that matters were carried out in orderly and proper fashion.

No one can fill the void that has been left in Miles' family, with whom he had a close relationship and happy communication throughout his life. His wife, his sisters and brother, his sons, his grandchildren and other family members all knew that when Miles was needed, he would give of himself generously. They have fond memories of his helpfulness in many ways as

they were growing up, and later. Such ways included help in marketing squabs raised by his youngest sister, his driving back and forth to Barnesville, Ohio, during the time that his sisters and brother attended school there, and his explaining how things grow, how machinery works, and buildings are constructed.

Friends in the Glen Echo Heights Community remember Miles as a "good neighbor," involved in many community activities. They found him to be always there when needed, and always ready to lend a helping hand.

Miles was open, honest, direct, warm-hearted, cheerful and generous. As he commented, "It is just as easy to make someone feel good by what I say and do as it is to make someone feel bad." He had faith in the Lord that carried him through, and he would want us to go on and share this faith with others. In reflecting on his philosophy of life, Miles would have said, in the words of Abou Ben Adhem, "I pray thee then write me as one who loves his fellow men."