

Levi Pennington

People

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Russell William Lewis

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RUSSELL WILLIAM LEWIS

Russell William Lewis was born in Georgetown, Illinois, September 9, 1887. In 1903 the family moved to Springbrook, Oregon. In 1910 he took the degree of Bachelor of Science from Penn College, and the same year the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Pacific College. In 1920 he received the degree of Master of Arts from the University of California.

He was married August 22, 1911 to Eula Idell Hodson. They were the parents of two sons, one of whom is not now living, and three daughters.

Russell Lewis taught for a year in the Newberg High School; then he was called to be Professor of English in Pacific College, which position he held 1912-18, when he spent two years in study in the University of California. Returning to his professorship in Pacific College in 1920, he served in that capacity till 1935, when he accepted a similar position in Friends University. Back on the Pacific College faculty in 1940, he was in that position until his retirement in 1949. Most of his teaching was in the English Department, but he taught French for years, and was also vice president of the college for some years.

Professionally he was a successful teacher. He was a thorough English scholar, and had the ability not only to give able instruction but to inspire in his students keen interest, real appreciation and genuine love for good literature. He was able always to see things in both life and literature as through the eyes of youth. And in all his teaching he emphasized by word and deed the high Christian principles by which he lived.

In his family life he exercised the same kindness and gentleness for which he was so well known in the college and in the church and in the community. Music and literature were a large part of the home life of the family. His reading of poetry and his bedtime stories were never to be forgotten.

He was a faithful member of the Friends Church, active in its various spheres of service. He sang in the choir, taught in the Sunday School year after year, and had numerous positions of responsibility. At one time when the church at Chehalem Center was without a pastor, he voluntarily and without remuneration conducted the services there for many weeks.

He had many other interests outside of the home, the church and the school. He was a good golfer, a skilful basket ball player, a clever and successful angler, he drew a good long bow -- won a state championship -- and he made excellent and beautiful bows. He was a successful athletic coach, especially in basket ball.

He had a good voice, and he sang well, when he could be persuaded to sing. He could play the piano, and put real soul into his finger tips. He wrote clever and often humorous verse, of which few people knew. He was an able public speaker. And there were many other things that he could do and could do well.

And with all this he was one of the humblest of men. He was never conscious of his own value and influence.

His earthly life ended November 13, 1965. Surviving are his children, Marjorie Eunice Simmons of Harrisburg, Constance Marian Larson of Bethany, Frances Irene Sieloff of Pomona, California and Dr. Claude Allen Lewis of Central Point; two brothers, Dr. Claude A. Lewis of Portland and Paul H. Lewis of Tillamook; a sister, Mary Eunice Lewis of Rockaway; ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Many friends in many walks of life will also mourn his death.