

WILLIAM HUBBEN

When William Hubben spoke in Meeting there was always a certain amount of drama involved. His bearing was impressive, as was his manner of speaking, and you just knew that when he rose to speak, wisdom was sure to follow--one was rarely disappointed or not inspired. I remember in one talk he said, "You cannot expect great leaders unless the people also are great," emphasizing the important responsibility each of us has in giving our society standards of excellence. The search for religious truth was his vocation.

He was also a colorful teller of stories. I'll never forget his telling to a group of us in First-day School, I believe, Tolstoy's "Three Arshins of Land, or How Much Land Does a Man Need?" His images made the story as clear to me today as when he told it nearly thirty years ago.

Naturally all these gifts made him a great teacher. I think my long interest in religion can be traced back to the class I had under him at George School on the New Testament. His penetrating insight into the events of Jesus' life and the parables left a lasting impression on me.

At times he could with his high brow, his loftiness, and solemn expression give a rather forboding appearance. But then one of the warmest smiles I've ever known would light up his face as merriment bubbled up inside his whole body. His keen wit and sense of humor were precious.

Kenneth A. Mammel