

**LUANNA JANE BOWLES**  
**September 18, 1892 to July 25, 1975**

At a monthly meeting for business of Friends Meeting of Washington on November 9, 1975, the Meeting records deep appreciation for the life of our member for more than 30 years, Luanna J. Bowles, who died on July 25, 1975, at the age of 82.

Some recall with special thankfulness Luanna's ability to assess divisive problems during our business and committee sessions. Often with a few well-chosen words she helped bring direction and unity to our considerations.

Others still ponder gratefully her rarely-spoken contributions in meeting for worship - particularly on one occasion during World War II, when the silence of a gathered meeting was shattered by, a despairing young voice. Luanna's hopeful words brought calm and confidence not only to the distraught young man but also to all Friends present.

We remember how seriously she took all her Quaker assignments - from this Meeting and other Friends groups. Among her various roles, Luanna served as chairman of the building committee for the new Baltimore Yearly Meeting headquarters. Her concern for Friends House, where she lived happily following her retirement, was evident in both the official and unofficial responsibilities she carried there.

When commended for the performance of any Quakerly task, Luanna's usual response was: "I was just doing my job."

We are grateful that Luanna Bowles' life was more than doing. It was caring and being. For hers was a calm yet joyful spirit, strengthened by a healthy body and a trained mind. From an isolated corner of the Midwest, Luanna's concern for her neighbors grew to encompass the world. Her long life spoke in many ways and in many places.

Born on a Kansas farm of Quaker parents, Luanna Bowles attended various Friends schools, graduating from Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa, which awarded her an honorary Doctor of Letters in 1964. She did graduate work at Peabody College, American and Columbia Universities. Her teaching careers began in a small Quaker school in rural Kansas, followed later by positions with other Friends schools at Paulina, Iowa; Barnesville, Ohio; Westtown, Pennsylvania; and Tokyo, Japan. From 1929 for more than a decade she served as director of publicity at Fisk University, helping raise money and promoting the tours of the famous Jubilee Singers. During the 1940s she was a writer-editor with the U. S. Office of Education.

Following World War II, she returned to Japan as an educational specialist in secondary education with the American occupation forces. From then until her retirement in 1964, she worked under AID and its predecessors with the Ministries of Education in Iran and Nepal, developing programs for basic literacy and related educational materials. In 1966, AID asked her to serve for a few months as a special consultant in the development of educational materials to the minister of Education in Afghanistan.

One of Luanna Bowles' most publicized achievements was a crash literacy program for the rural police in Iran. Using materials and methods she developed, she trained a corns of teachers, who in turn trained rural teachers, who taught several thousand rural police to read material essential to their job. Six months later, in June 1954, the first "graduating class" - numbering 11,409 policemen - rode or marched past a reviewing stand to honor their unusual teacher.

The Distinguished Service Award she received from the United States Government praised her "refusal to settle for mediocrity" - a fitting summary for her entire life.