

FRED SQUIRES, SR.

Memorial Service Presented by Julia K. Fenderson, Brentwood School
Los Angeles, California - March 11, 1973

We are gathered here today to honor the graduation of our loyal friend, Fred H. Squires. We will all miss this beloved man, but our sorrow should be tempered by the realization that once again a human being has graduated from this life in the flesh, this lowest rung on the long evolutionary ladder of growth and service to a higher place of greater joy, expanded service and keener adventure.

We come, therefore, not to voice despair over the death of the physical body, but to express our wholehearted faith, and rejoice that a human soul has embarked on the career of eternal life in the progressive service of the Heavenly Father; not because life is over but because it has risen to more glorious possibilities. We come to share this common faith, this eternal verity.

PRAYER Will you pray with me:

Father, we are grateful that in your plan there is for every individual an eternal purpose of boundless opportunity, unlimited service and progress and endless life. May each of us strive at each step to anticipate this goal of eternity and perfection ahead. Help us to understand that the door is open to all who live by faith, depending every step of the way on the leading of your spirit mediated to us so freely by Jesus. P. 365.

We pray that you may comfort the Squires family and give us all imagination of heart and faith enough to rejoice that another of your children has entered the larger life in the mansions of your kingdom. Amen.

SERVICE - Biography

Fred H. Squires was born in 1881 and died on February 22, 1973 at the age of 92. It seems appropriate that Mr. Squires' graduation day fell on Washington's birthday for, as Washington was the Father of our country, so was Fred a wonderful father of his family and he was the father of our Urantia movement on the west coast. Also he was like a father to me on several very important occasions of my life. When Bill and I were married, 25 years ago, Fred Squires escorted me down the aisle to meet Bill at the altar.

His gracious and lovely wife Viola also a true Urantian, preceded him in death by ten years. Fred Squires leaves two children, Bonnie Abbott of Hollywood and Fred H. Squires, Jr. of El Segundo; he also leaves six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

He was, as many of you know, an inventor from boyhood. At the age of 12 he designed and developed the automatic coupler for freight trains.

During his college years he invented the chain drive which changed the bicycle to a motorcycle--he sold this to pay his college tuition. He holds a diploma from Wheaton College earned in 1900 and another diploma from Michigan State Normal dated 1903. He holds a lifetime teacher's certificate. All of these earned nearly three fourths of a century ago.

As a young man in Chicago at the turn of the century, he began to know the Sadler and the Kellogg families. Fred Squires spent all of his spare time in Chicago as a director for the YMCA and participated in many kinds of athletic events for which he earned many awards. He also spent some time in reading to the blind. His whole life pattern was one of service to his fellow men.

He spent most of his life as a businessman and he was a licensed builder and real estate broker as well as an inventor. In addition to the inventions already mentioned he developed and built the square turn tractor and many early automobile inventions. He designed and built--40 years ahead of its time a Kamp car--which slept 5 and was complete with kitchen, bath facilities as well as refrigeration. He designed many boats--both racing and pleasure boats. He still owns the boat carrier for the top of cars which self loads the boat from ground level to the top of the car with one gear. This is called the "Squires Universal Carrier." He invented--50 years ago--a rotosphere car engine, superior to the Wankle presently used in the new Mazda car.

At the time of his death he still carried an up-to-date active engineer's license and is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

His grandson Skipper who returned here from his work in Tennessee recently to help his mother Bonnie with many of the details, said that his grandfather had greatly influenced his life in many ways and he would never forget one little poem that his grandfather Squires often said to him as he was growing up:

"The wise old owl sat on an oak
The more he saw, the less he spoke,
The less he spoke, the more he heard.
Why can't we be like that wise old bird?"

As I stated earlier, it was in the early part of this century that Fred Squires began to know the Sadler and Kellogg families in Chicago. It was in their home at 533 Diversey Parkway that he heard the Papers first read. Later he happened to be working in California when he was invited back in 1926 to hear the first formal reading of the Papers. There are a couple of people present today who were with him when those Papers were first read to a group.

I became acquainted with Fred Squires and his family out here in California 28 years ago this spring. There were a few of us on the West Coast who had previously been reading the Papers in Chicago in early days. When I came out here I was eager to contact these people as we shared such a strong common bond and we still do. Fred and Viola Squires were the first ones I met, then their daughter Bonnie Abbott and Marvin and Betty Tackett and Helen and Bob Steen. We set a date for a picnic in Fern Dell Park in July 1945 and twelve came. Fred Squires was elected President of that first little study group which we called a Forum and we continued to meet for eleven years until the Book was published. Then Fred Squires worked hard to get the Charter for the second Urantia Society to be formed in the world. He jokingly told Chicago he wanted the first Charter but they laughingly replied that 'No, Chicago would have the first and we could have the second--and here it is.'

The same officers were selected for this new society. For more than 28 years we have worked together for the causes presented in the Urantia Book--essentially, the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. In those years we learned to respect the true, high character of the man Fred H. Squires. He was an intelligent leader of men never dictating but always leading. A man of highest character and true nobility. He was our leader, our counselor and our friend.

The Urantia Book gives us many choice quotations about the depth and importance of friendship which Fred Squires exemplified: on page 1779:4 "The noblest of all memories are treasured recollections of the great moments of a superb friendship."

"The new Commandment p. 1944#1 "That you love one another even as I have loved you." It is loyalty, not sacrifice that Jesus demands. And the scene during the last of Jesus' life describes with great drama and poignancy the importance of friendship.

P. 1546:4. "Through the dark hours of the Master's death, in the hearts of these apostles all reason, judgment and logic were set aside in deference to just one extraordinary human emotion--the supreme sentiment of friendship-loyalty." These five months of work with Jesus led these apostles, each one of them, to regard him as the best friend he had in the world. And it was this human sentiment and not his superb teachings or marvelous doings that held them together until after the resurrection and the renewal of the proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom.

The outside world knew Fred Squires as an inventor, an engineer, a businessman and a fine successful family man and person. A relatively few of us knew of his great interest in cosmology, philosophy and religion especially in the supernal teachings of Jesus and his gospel of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man as presented in the Urantia Book.

In a sense we have come to the end of one era. Our leader, counselor, family man and friend, after almost a century on this planet has taken leave of us and is now on his way, or even already on the mansion worlds that Jesus prepared for him and for all of us. As Jesus said, page 1947 of the Urantia Book: "Let not your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, continue to believe also in me. Even though I must leave you, I will not be far from you. I have already told you that in my Father's universe there are many tarrying places. If this were not true I would not have repeatedly told you about them. I am going to return to these worlds of light (the mansion worlds) these stations in my Father's heaven to which you too shall sometime ascend--If I thus go before you into the Father's heavenly kingdom--so will I surely send for you that you may be with me in the places that were prepared for you before the world was."

QUOTATIONS

It is now my privilege to read passages of comfort and inspiration from the Urantia Book and from the Bible which were among Fred Squires' favorites. I remember in early days when the many hurdles of organization problems and other human problems seemed insurmountable, Mr. Squires would chuckle and read p. 291:3 to us.

"But long before reaching Havona, these ascendent children of time have learned to feast upon uncertainty, to fatten upon disappointment, to enthuse over apparent defeat, to invigorate in the presence of difficulties, to exhibit indomitable courage in the face of immensity and to exercise unconquerable faith when confronted with the challenge of the inexplicable. Long since, the battle cry of these pilgrims became: in liaison with God, nothing absolutely nothing is impossible."

From Corinthians - 2 Cor 5:1. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

John 14:2. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

Where is Fred Squires now? That is another way the Book is so comforting to us. It tells us page 1248: "It is indeed an epoch in the career of an ascending mortal, this first awakening on the shores of the mansion worlds; there for the first time, actually to see your long-loved and ever present angelic companions of earth days; there also to become truly conscious of the identity and presence of the Divine Monitor who so long indwelt your mind on earth. Such an experience constitutes a glorious awakening, real resurrection." As Jim Mills said, "The most exciting day of my life is going to be the day I die." But I believe the most exciting day will be that day Fred Squires awakes on the first Mansion World. And it is possible that he was so advanced that he has already done this.

The Book tells us page 535, "Throughout all eternity you will recall the profound memory impressions of your first witnessing of these resurrection mornings. A Morontia Companion will certainly be on hand to welcome you when you awaken from the first transit sleep of time, when you experience the resurrection from the death of the flesh into the Morontia life . . . you will have time to gratify your desire to consult the registry and call upon your loved ones and other earth friends who may have preceded you to these worlds." Just think what a joyous reunion Fred Squires will have with his wife Viola, his good friends the William Sadlers, the Kelloggs and so many dear ones of earth days.

"Personality and relationships between personalities are never scaffolding; mortal memory of personality relationships has cosmic value and will persist. On mansion worlds you will know and be known and more you will remember and be remembered by your onetime associates in the short but intriguing life on Urantia." P. 1235.

Never in your long ascendancy will you lose the power to recognize and fraternize with the fellow beings of your previous and lower levels of existence.

The consciousness of a victorious human life on earth is born of that creature faith which dares to challenge each recurring episode of existence when confronted with the awful spectacle of human limitations, by the unfailing declaration: Even if I cannot do this, there lives in me the spirit of one who can and will do it, a part of God--the Father of the Universe. And that is the victory which overcomes the world even our faith. P. 59.

And now in closing this service we will read a passage very dear to Mr. Squires, P. 383.

Having started out on the way of life everlasting, having accepted the assignment and received our orders to advance, do not fear the dangers of human forgetfulness and mortal inconstancy, do not be troubled with doubts of failure or by perplexing confusion, do not falter and question your status and standing, for in every dark hour, at every crossroad in the forward struggle, the Spirit of Truth will always speak saying, "This is the way."

Will you all repeat with me the Lord's Prayer, page 1620.

Our Father who is in heaven,
 Hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come; your will be done
 On earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our bread for tomorrow;
 Refresh our souls with the water of life.
 And forgive us every one our debts
 As we also have forgiven our debtors.
 Save us in temptation, deliver us from evil,
 And increasingly make us perfect like yourself.

I would like at this time to present Mr. Squires' daughter, Bonnie Abbott, who so faithfully brought her father to every one of our meetings here at Brentwood.