

V. Strode Hinds (1927-1997)



V. Strode Hinds in 1996 with his Award of Meritorious Achievement.

We've lost another member of the Corps of Discovery-20th Century Detachment, Sioux City Squad. In Strode's heaven he'll have a set of charts spread out across a table, with Clark explaining the ambiguities of mapping the middle Missouri, and Lewis will demonstrate how you get an unwieldy keelboat up the log-strewn Big Muddy. Strode will go looking for Sergeant Charles Floyd and then will take some time to sober up a Pittsburgh boat builder and get the most minute details about building a barge that works on the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri rivers. Many questions-and all the time in heaven for answers.

Verner Strode Hinds was born September 29, 1927 to Vern and Frances (Strode) Hinds in Clear Lake, Iowa, and died unexpectedly of a heart attack on August 3, 1997, a few weeks short of his 70th birthday. Strode graduated from Clear Lake High School and in 1945 he joined the U.S. Naval Reserves and served in the Pacific aboard the USS Saufley until 1946. After military service he attended Mason City (Iowa) Junior College, and in 1948 he entered the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, where he received his doctor of dental surgery degree in 1952 and his master of science degree in oral surgery in 1954.

Strode met Beverly Rowland in 1951 while both were in school at the University of Iowa and they married on September 6, 1953 in Osage, Iowa. The couple lived in Iowa City while Strode taught oral surgery at the College of Dentistry and at University Hospital, and then moved to Sioux City in 1958. Here Strode practiced oral surgery until his retirement in June 1992.

Strode's professional associations were numerous. He was a member of the American Dental Association, a trustee of the Iowa Dental Association, a member of the Northwestern Iowa Dental Association, a past president of the Iowa Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, a member of the Midwest Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, and the Diplomat American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, and was on the medical staff of St. Luke's Regional Medical Center and Marian Health Center, Sioux City.

He was active in local civic organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, and the Waterways Committee, he was a past president of the Sioux City Rotary Club, a member of the Tyrian Lodge 508 A.F. & A.M., a 32d Degree Scottish Rite Mason, and a member of the Abu Bekr Shrine. Strode was a founder of Sioux City's River-Cade and served as port admiral in 1989. He was also active in Boy Scouts, serving as committee chairman and post advisor.

We remember Strode best for his activities in the foundation. Strode got interested in the Lewis and Clark Expedition about 25 years ago when friend and fellow Rotarian Ed Ruisch asked him to help out with the Lewis and Clark Annual Meeting at Sioux City in 1971. Strode confessed that he knew little about the expedition, but Ed just wanted him to run a meeting. Hinds was hooked. He and Bev have attended nearly every annual meeting since 1974, and he served as the foundation's president in 1981-82. Strode was co-chairperson of the annual meeting of 1980 at Omaha and he and Bev hosted the national meeting in Sioux City in 1996, where the couple received the foundation's Award of Meritorious Achievement.

Strode connected his love of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to his love of Sioux City and sailing. In recent years he worked with city officials and others on restoring the Floyd Monument, which is now undergoing major repairs. At the time of his death, he was thinking of ways to celebrate the expedition's bicentennial in Sioux City and was working with local organizers toward that end. Strode was also instrumental in getting a forensic cast of Sergeant Floyd's head. He was able to track down a forensic artist-anthropologist to do the work and, much to his surprise, discovered that she was distantly related to Floyd. In April the forensic figure came to Sioux City where it is displayed at the Sergeant Floyd Welcome Center. Strode developed a love for sailing during his youth at Clear Lake and his naval career just added to his appreciation of boats and waterways. In this regard, he was vital to the two years of planning and building a working copy of the expedition keelboat at Lewis and Clark State Park, Onawa, Iowa. Strode published in *We Proceeded On* and helped to obtain Lewis and Clark interpretive markers along the Missouri River in Nebraska and Iowa and to get a map published of the sites.

The funeral service was held on August 6 at the First United Methodist Church, Sioux City, to a sanctuary packed with friends and relatives. Graveside services were at the Clear Lake Cemetery the next day. The Sioux City minister's words captured the Strode we've known and loved these many years. It was especially good to hear testimony about Strode's mentoring to dental surgeon students. He even taught himself to work left-handed so he could teach students who were similarly oriented. He was a natural teacher and a dear man given to frequent acts of selfless kindness.

Survivors include Bev, two sons and their wives, Mark and Ann of Sioux City and Steve and Maureen of DeSoto, Texas, and a daughter and her husband, Lynne Hinds Peterson and Walt of Sioux City, and seven grandchildren, Sarah, Katherine, Brad, Justin, and Jared Hinds, and Spenser Elizabeth and Alexis Christine Peterson.

Memorials for Strode may be directed to the foundation.

--Gary Moulton

from *We Proceeded On* 23(4):22-23 (November 1997)

(Hinds was a Director of the Foundation, 1975-1979, and Vice President, 1979-1981).

Prepared by Bob Gatten, 2011