

Edward Ruisch (1899-1991)



We have news of Edward Ruisch's passing on February 17, 1991 at East Troy, Wisconsin at the age of 91.

Edward Ruisch, an electrical engineer, retired in 1965 as vice president of Territorial Relations for Iowa Public Service Company. He joined the electrical utility company as a district manager in 1920. In 1950, he was appointed assistant to the company's president. Involved with the planning for a network of power transmission lines, he was instrumental in proposing the high voltage lines that became the background of the Iowa Power Grid system. Upon the death of Mrs. (Anne) Ruisch in 1988, Ed moved to Troy, Wisconsin to live with his son Dudley E. and wife Nancy.

A long-time member of the First Presbyterian Church of Sioux City, services were held at the church on March 2. Final rites were held in Alton, Iowa, where he was born September 1, 1899.

Ed was active in civic and community affairs in Sioux City. For 50 years he played piano for the weekly Rotary Club meetings, was active with local Boy Scout administration, gave time to 4-H activities, and was active in Masonic organizations. He was a lifetime member of the National Water Resources Congress.

Ruisch's interest in the Lewis and Clark saga dates to 1964 when he served as president of the Iowa Lewis and Clark Historical Association. This was followed with his appointment as a member of the 1965-1969 Congressional Lewis and Clark Trail Commission. Inspection of the note on the bottom of page four in several issues of the (Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation) Members' Handbook will reveal that Edward Ruisch was one of 13 Lewis and Clark enthusiasts who journeyed to St. Louis, Missouri, June 27, 1970, for the purpose of organizing the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. - the present organization that followed the termination of the 1965-1969 Congressional Commission.

Over the years Ed gave special attention to the Sergeant Floyd Monument,¹ several miles east and south of Sioux City. On several occasions he was the speaker at the monument on the anniversary of Sergeant Floyd's death, August 20, 1804.²

Early Foundation members will recall the Third Annual Meeting of the Foundation hosted by Ed Ruisch, V. Strode Hinds and other Sioux City Lewis and Clark aficionados, August 20-21, 1971. Twenty-five Lewis and Clark enthusiasts attended that meeting.

Ed was the subject of one of the "Foundation Personality" features published in *We Proceeded On* (Volume 2, No. 2, February 1976). At the Foundation's 12th Annual Meeting, Omaha, Nebraska, he was the recipient of the Foundation's Award of Meritorious Achievement. At the same meeting, by a Board of Directors' resolution, he was granted a Foundation Lifetime Honorary Membership.

A memorial has been established in his name with the First Presbyterian Church, Sioux City, Iowa.

NOTES

¹Sergeant Floyd was the only member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to die. He is suspected to have been a victim of acute appendicitis. See the journal entries for August 20, 1804 (*Thwaites*, 1:44, *Moulton*, Vol. 2:494-496). See also *We Proceeded On*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (May 1986), page 18, and Vol. 6, No. 4 (November 1986), page 6.

²See *We Proceeded On* Supplementary Publication No. 4 (December 1980) for the text of Edward Ruisch's address at the Floyd Monument, August 21, 1980 - an event at the Foundation's 12th Annual Meeting, Sioux City, Iowa.

from *We Proceeded On* 17(2):30 (May 1991)

(Ruisch was a Director of the Foundation, 1970-1975 and 1976-1977.)

Prepared by Bob Gatten, 2011