

RESOLUTION

INGRAM OSCAR ROBERTSON

One of a vanishing breed - a courtly, "old-fashioned" Virginia gentleman - Ingram O. Robertson (Mr. I.O., as many of his friends affectionately referred to him) was a model husband and father. He loved his family devotedly and took great pride in their individual accomplishments, while they returned that love and pride in equal measure. But he was not only beloved by his family; he endeared himself to all who were privileged to know him. I. O. Robertson, with his unaffected gallantry and consideration for others, was more than a Virginia gentleman; he was a Christian gentleman.

He employed the same principles in the sometimes arduous service that he performed for Reveille Church as those which had unquestionably guided him in his business career. He was always willing to accept his share of the work, was completely faithful to the discharge of his responsibilities, and he worked with a tireless determination to settle for nothing less than a creditable job.

A year and a half after the infant church called "Reveille" had become a reality and steel was thrusting skyward from newly laid foundations, its brand new pastor, Dr. Joseph S. Johnston, confronted with an array of staggering tasks, found himself wrestling with one of almost herculean proportions - that of producing an accurate roll. Since Reveille had been made up of two streams of membership, each from widely different areas of the city, the work involved personal contact with literally hundreds across the length of the Richmond community. "Mr. I.O." was charged with the undertaking of this formidable task.

He and his committee were roughly 18 months in completion of the job, and there are those who will testify that in Reveille House - a far cry in furnishings and conveniences from the lovely rooms and smoothly efficient tools to be found there today - the lights frequently burned well into the night, as "Mr. I.O." labored in solitary concentration toward his goal. Needless to add, he and his committee produced an authentic roll of Reveille Church - a praiseworthy achievement.

The chimes in Reveille's lofty tower were placed there by I.O. Robertson in 1959 as a memorial to his wife, Ethel. Echoing the strains of some of the grand old hymns of the Church, they have, over the years, stirred the hearts of a grateful church family and lent inspiration to hearers throughout the adjoining neighborhoods.

There was one especially notable characteristic in the personality of this remarkable but self-effacing man: his natural ebullience and cheerful mein. He was never without a smile and an infectious twinkle in his eye. One was never in his presence long without being influenced by his engaging goodwill. The Book of Proverbs tells us that "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance", and that it "Doith good like medicine". Our friend and colleague, "Mr. I.O." could be said to typify the merry heart, even in his latter years when his health was obviously failing.

Beyond his love of family, he had a singular love for his Lord and for his church, and it was evident in the service he gave. One can visualize "Mr. I.O." before the heavenly portals and a strong hand drawing him gently through, while a voice that sounded almost merry uttered the words, "Well done ... well done. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."