

ROBERT CUBA JONES
1902-1984

Robert Cuba Jones, born in 1902 in Jibara, Cuba of parents who were missionaries for a Kansas Friends Church, maintained a lifelong commitment to social service. He received his advanced degrees in sociology/anthropology from the University of Chicago, where he joined 57th Street Meeting.

He used his training in his work in the labor section of the Pan American Union here in Washington where he joined Friends Meeting of Washington and met Ingeborg Hecht, manager of International Student House, who became his wife.

In 1960 or thereabouts Robert Cuba Jones transferred his operational base --one could hardly call it retirement! --to Mexico, where he and Inge made themselves and their home a friendly social and spiritual bridge connecting the Mexican and American Cultures. At "Villa Jones" there were opportunities for bilingual meetings, quiet conversations, and browsing in the library of several thousand books maintained there.

Late, as the population of Mexico City swelled, Robert and Inge Jones moved to Oaxtepec, near Cuerna Vaca, where they found another spacious villa and guest cottages. Here grew up a Mexican-American Cultural Center, visited by people with varied interests in matters Mexican and American. The Joneses continued to arrange cross-cultural educational tours, bilingual conventions, and Friendly contacts.

At the time of his death, Robert Cuba Jones was busy planning for the Friends World Conference to be held this summer in Mexico. The Jones have a daughter, Diana May (Mrs. Pedro) Valle, and several grandchildren, who bring much joy.