

In Memorium

John Alfred Barlow
January 22, 1924 to August 2, 1991

The threads of John's life were bound to family, teaching, internationalism, and mysticism. The influence of his life remains important to many. We shall miss John; however, his spirit and contributions will always remain with us.

Born in Gallipolis, Ohio to Alfred M. Barlow and Marian S. Barlow, John grew up around Cleveland, where his father was Chief Attorney for the Veterans Administration.

He first traveled at age 13, when he spent a summer in Germany. The trip was arranged by his father, who wanted him to learn to respect cultural variety. After graduating from high school in 1942, John spent three years in the Army Air Force, serving in the South Pacific as a radioman in fighter-plane control. His experiences in combat during the Philippine Liberation campaign, along with his readings at the time, led him to a life-long commitment to non-violence.

On his return after the war, John enrolled in Oberlin College. Later, he entered the doctoral program in Psychology at Duke University where he was awarded his Ph.D. in 1952. While a student, John involved himself deeply in social-concerns. This led to his interest in the American Friends Service Committee, an Assistance Organization that shared his honesty, care, and respect for the needs of others. Participation in Friends activities became the outward expression of his strong inner commitment to the spirit of life.

In 1964, he was selected as a Fulbright Scholar, establishing a Department of Psychology at Thammasat University, Thailand. "Leadership as operant conditioning" developed into an intellectual focus for John, growing out of a childhood interest in China and his own interest in new teaching techniques. He was fascinated by the great social experiment of the Maoists, where mass-line leadership methods paralleled his techniques of *Stimulus, Response, and Contiguity*, the revised title of his 1965 book.

Teaching became John's primary passion, as well as profession. His research centered on it, involving him in programmed instruction and, later, in classroom techniques of student mastery before proceeding to new material. He never relaxed his concentration on teaching, and he never taught a course the same way twice. Intrigued by Precision Teaching late in his life, John completed his training as a Precision Teacher at the Ninth International Precision Teaching Conference and became a strong supporter of this *Journal*. John's honesty helped him approach others with consideration for differing perceptions and needs. He avoided exploiting others or allowing others to exploit him, knowing others' integrity to be as important as his own. Teaching was always a struggle to him, though a positive one; many students remember his efforts and value the learning he helped them accomplish.

John died of cardiac arrest at Brookdale Hospital in Brooklyn, New York.