



Louis Sewell

February 19, 2014

Louis Barfield Sewell, 88, of Cape Girardeau, died Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014, at Chateau Girardeau Health Center. He was born April 12, 1925, in Hornersville, Mo, to William R. and Bess Barfield Sewell. In 1943, during his senior year of high school in Doniphan, Mo., Lou joined the Army Air Corps. He served as a navigator on a B17 during World War II. After military service, he began to pursue a career in education having been inspired by his father who was a superintendent of schools. Lou received his B. S. degree from Southeast Missouri State College in Cape Girardeau, Mo. He also attended the University of Cincinnati and Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. under a National Science Foundation grant. He received his M.A. Degree from Washington University. Additional post-graduate work was done at the University of Missouri-Columbia and at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. Mr. Sewell taught mathematics at the high school in Poplar Bluff, Mo. from 1956 to 1961. From 1961 through 1986, he taught in the Mathematics Department at Southeast Missouri State College (later University) in Cape Girardeau. A devoted and active member of the Presbyterian Church in Doniphan, Poplar Bluff and Cape Girardeau, Lou could be found singing in the choir, teaching youth and adult Sunday School classes, speaking as a lay pastor, serving as a church camp counselor or as a youth group advisor and fulfilling duties as a Deacon and Elder. A ruling Elder of the Presbyterian Church since 1957, Lou served in leadership positions not just locally but also at the regional and national levels including his election as Moderator of the

Southeast Presbytery (PCUS) in the 1970s and his election twice as a General Assembly Commissioner. He also served several years on this Presbytery's Nominating Committee. As an Elder at First Presbyterian Church in Cape, Lou was instrumental in the development of Chateau Girardeau beginning with a feasibility study in 1973, and continuing with its incorporation as the Cape Retirement Community, Inc. in 1975, and the completion of its construction in 1979. He was a member of the original Chateau Girardeau Board of Directors and served on the Board until 1990 when he became a resident. Since then, he has served often on the Residents' Council and the Chateau Foundation Board. Lou also served as District Chairman of the Osage District, Boy Scouts of America and has been a devoted supporter of Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services of Missouri. Surviving is his wife Betty Norman Sewell whom he married May 11, 1996. Other survivors include nephew Robert L. Schram (Cathy) of Ellisville, Mo; niece and great-niece Stephanie and Staciana Stock of Wildwood, Mo; nephew J. B. Weilepp of Springfield, Va; nieces Victoria Baker (Jim) of Almond, N.C. and Susie Weilepp of Fairfield, Calif. Lou was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Sara Lawrence Sewell, sister-in-law Corinne Schram, brother Bill Sewell and sisters Mary Sewell and Anna Ruth Porter. Visitation will be at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb 24, 2014, at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape Girardeau. A memorial service will follow at the church at 11a.m. with the Reverend Dr. Kim L. Nelson officiating. A committal service will take place the same day at 2 p. m. in the Missouri Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield. Full military honors will be provided by the Missouri Honors Team. Memorials may be sent to the Chateau Girardeau Foundation, 3120 Independence, Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 or First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 477, Cape Girardeau, MO 63702.

Tribute Wall

VB

“ *Louis was my uncle who instilled in the love of math and numbers. I became a mathematics instructor because of him. He was always so much fun and full of great humor. I will miss him dearly.*

Victoria Baker - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *When words are just not adequate, what is there to say except thanks, Louis. Thanks for being you and bringing so much joy to life. You will be missed by many.*

Joan and Wayne McPherson - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ *Louis Sewell*

Paul and Alice Kabo - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ *Mr Sewell was one of the kindest men I ever met. I had him for several math classes at Semo. He was one of the men who served as an inspiration for me to keep trudging the road in education, until I finally completed my Ph.D. I have often thought of him and have told many great and funny stories about my experiences in his class, He will be missed.*

Ron Gray - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ In the early '70s by chance Mr. Sewell was my math instructor for a semester at Semo. He was later my math instructor for 2 more semesters by my choice. I still remember his love of numbers, his kind voice, and his willingness to help his students. I remember him talking about his vision to see a retirement village for Cape - Chateau Girardeau. I have thought about him often over the years and still smile when one of his "numbers trivia" stories comes to mind like how many times it has rained on opening day of the Semo District Fair! RIP

Renae (Schenimann) Gibbs - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Betty, so sorry to hear of your husbands passing . I hope to see you on Monday but I am a little under the weather right now. Louis was a busy guy and you were by his side and took great care of him. You are in my prayers. Janet Robert

Janet Robert - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ My wife appreciated Mr. Sewell's wisdom and humor and goodness.

Tom Wallgren - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Lou Sewell was a wonderful friend and co-worker at the University. His laughter was contagious and he was always upbeat. His kindness was also contagious to all around him.

Jane Cooper Stacy - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ I am the son, of Donald T. Cosgro who flew with Louis during WW II in the 92nd Bomb Group. My father passed in 1999. I am sorry for your loss. I have some service photos taken in 1945 in England, I can share if you or any relative of Louis are interested. Again my condolences on your loss. I am told Louis was the last survivor of "King's Crew" (pilot) part of the "greatest generation" There is a group photo of them in front of a B-17 at www.fold3.com Sincerely Don Cosgro Plattsburgh, NY

Donald J Cosgro - May 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM