

people in Chicago as they waited in Lawrence's house just to see him.

"I was waiting to see who this guy was, because he had been built up as 'the Old Man.' I thought it was going to be somebody intensely grey, one of those stereotypical wise-man types, but this guy was actually quite dapper. He was an old man to us, but at that time he would have been only 54 years old. Old guy!

"When he came down, he was quite charismatic. He talked about various things, and it was one of those situations in which the person you sit down with is the focus of the conversation. I think there were five or six of us there, because a couple of people studied with him regularly, but it was the Old Man's show. He hit on a bunch of different subjects. He said something about the use of recreational drugs and what people were using at that time, and I had an opinion about that so I spoke up about my opinion. Then he looked at me, and you know you always hear about piercing eyes, but he really had piercing eyes. He looked at me, and he just kind of smiled."

In that meeting, a lifetime student-teacher bond was made. Even though Tim says he didn't know it immediately, apparently Bill Lawrence knew it. Tim and his cousin spent a few hours talking Theosophy with the Old Man before they got up to leave. Tim recalls quite well the significance of that parting:

"We were getting ready to go and he walked us to the door. I said the standard farewell: 'Bye, thanks. It's been nice seeing you.' Then he looked at me and he said, 'I'll see you soon, son,' which struck me as a little odd. When he told me that, I said, 'Probably not. You probably won't see me too soon, because I'm leaving very early in the morning.' It was partly my concept of fact and partly a little nineteen-year-old arrogance or hubris that popped up.' He didn't change though; he just looked at me the same way with a bit of a smile. He said 'I'll see you soon, son.' And we walked out."

Tim explains that even though this was the first time for him to sit and talk in the Old Man's house, it was a common occurrence for Bill Lawrence to speak with the youth in the neighborhood. In fact, several years earlier, Bill Lawrence purchased a large house in one of the worst neighborhoods of Chicago, and then he invited the local youth gang to come and meet at his house.