

In Memoriam

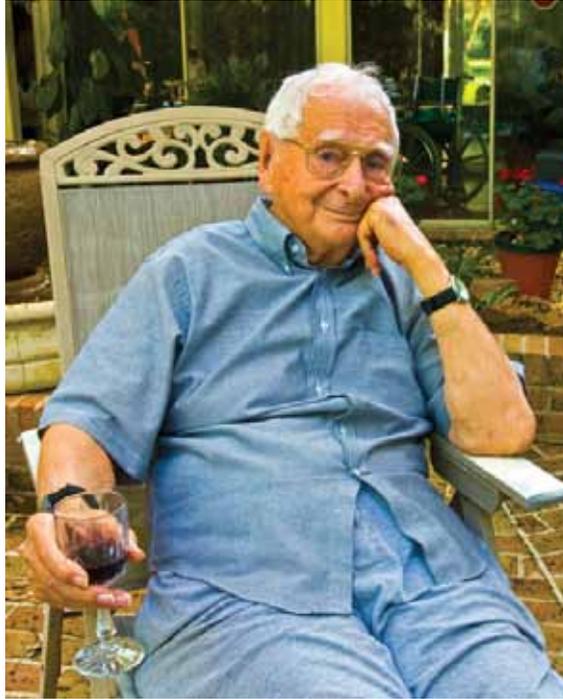
William C. Sturgeon

William C. Sturgeon, founder of ELEVATOR WORLD, passed away on October 11 at the age of 95. He was born the oldest child of William D. Sturgeon and Katherine Mate Sturgeon in Bronx, New York, and grew up in Utica, New York. He was preceded in death by his wife of 45 years, the former Mary Sands Dreisback, a native of Mobile, Alabama; granddaughter, Lisa Kay MacKinnon; and sister, Kay Sturgeon Smith. He leaves behind a loving family: daughter, Ricia S. Hendrick (Jimmy); grandson, T. Bruce MacKinnon (Dana); six great-grandchildren: Clint MacKinnon, Olivia MacKinnon, Mary Thomas MacKinnon, Eli MacKinnon, Lily Grace MacKinnon and Harbour MacKinnon, all of Mobile; a sister, Jeanne Blackburn of McAllen, Texas; five nieces, Chris Layfield, Valerie Blackburn, Adriene Coffey Melissa Trimble, and Kimberly Works; and a nephew, Jay Blackburn.

Sturgeon served in World War II in the Pacific Theater and returned to Mobile, where he had been stationed, to marry Mary Sands and help manage his father-in-law's small elevator company, Mobile Elevator Co. In the decades following the war, he built the company, founded the Mobile International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 124, and eventually sold Mobile Elevator to Montgomery Elevator. In that time, he also helped found the National Association of Elevator Contractors, on the board of which he served as a director, volunteer executive director and eventually president, and started EW (1953).

As editor of EW, Sturgeon traveled the world from China to Germany, Italy, India and South America building a network of correspondents. He helped found the Canadian

Elevator Contractors Association, the National Association of Elevator Safety Authorities and the British Lift Association, while assisting other magazines around the world that were starting to flourish. Continuing over the years in his quest for expanded cohesiveness and communication in the industry, he grew EW, worked with National Elevator Industry Educational Program on the education of mechanics and interviewed every major leader in the industry. In the early 1980s, he conceived of the "Bridgebuilders," a group of association leaders that could communicate and cooperate on industry issues. From this group, the Elevator Escalator Safety Foundation (EESF) was created, and Sturgeon served as the first campaign chair.



Sturgeon worked with his daughter, Hendrick, for 30 years and lived to see his grandson join the company and grow in his footsteps, an enormous path to follow. After his retirement in 1997, he created the only online museum for the elevator industry (www.theelevatormuseum.org). Sturgeon continued to write for the magazine well into retirement. He lived a rich and rewarding life, enjoying his family and a wealth of friends in many countries and the elevator industry. He recently completed and published his memoir, *More Ups Than Downs*, a story of the life and times in which he lived.

Sturgeon's wishes were to be cremated and scattered in the Pacific Ocean, where he served in the war and witnessed the first atom-bomb test. There will be a memorial service held in Mobile at a later date. Sturgeon asked that memorials in his name be donated to the EESF, 362 Pinehill Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36606 (www.eesf.org). 