

From the Desk of Hank Peelle

It is my pleasure to recognize the Centennial Anniversary of the A17.1 Safety Code. For more than 100 years, A17.1 has guided the vertical transportation industry and led the world in promoting Elevator and Escalator Safety. A17.1 is entirely a work created by industry professionals and practitioners who volunteer their time to ensure the safety of the riding public, inspectors, installation, and service personnel. It has been an honor for me to be a part of this open and inclusive process.

To all of us who have been a part of this process, Thank You. It is the volunteer and staff partnership that makes A17.1 the foremost and most comprehensive of Vertical Transportation Safety Codes.

H. E. Peelle III

Henry E. Peelle III, Chair

ASME A17 Standards Committee

Preface

Elevator World, Inc. is honored to be involved in helping celebrate the centennial of the *ASME A17.1 Safety Code* for Elevators and Escalators. In the 68 years we have been around, we have tried to chronicle the activities of the codes and the code-makers in our industry. William Sturgeon, my father and founder of Elevator World, realized early on that these safety codes were the heart of the industry. Forty years ago, he wrote an annual study on "The World of the Code Makers" with two objectives in mind: introduce our readers to the kind of people who become involved in the necessary interaction of writing code and the hope that when the code process was better understood more jurisdictions would find the A17.1 a well thought out and valuable set of sensible rules.

A popular saying, "*If you want a good job done, get a busy person to do it,*" certainly holds true for the men and women of the A17.1 code committees. They are executives, engineers, consultants, manufacturers, enforcers, insurers and labor representatives who accept the demands of code work as a heartfelt task for which they make a long-term commitment. They must make their time count in committee meetings where ideas and proposals are discussed and debated, all in a consensus process that can be painfully slow, but necessary to achieve credible results.

The men who have written this centennial booklet are codemakers and historians eager to honor the beginnings of A17.1, the scores of committee members who participated and the 100 years that followed. We thank them for their work.

*Ricia Sturgeon-Hendrick
Publisher/Elevator World*

Acknowledgements

The A17 story unfolded more than a century ago when 65 people came together in the Engineering Societies Building, NYC, to formulate the first model elevator safety code, subsequently identified as the A17 Code. Since those early days, scores of A17 Committee members have come together to produce 22 editions, 26 supplements and 15 addenda of the A17.1 Code. In addition, the A17 code-writers produced numerous other documents within the A17 family of publications. They were developed by countless people over a century.

The A17 story is about vertical transportation and people. Through this special historical publication, the A17 Centennial Project Committee will explore elevator industry history along the 1st century timeline and its many A17 Committee members who produced the A17 Code. The notable members are profiled in Appendix Charts 5 and 6, each covering half a century. They are the A17 “Movers and Shakers”!

The legacy Minutes of A17 Sectional Committee, A17 Executive Committee, and numerous subordinate A17 Committee and Sub-Committee meetings read like verbatim transcripts, and captured much of the thinking of the key committee members, as they discussed and debated technical and safety details. Unfortunately, much of the supporting documentation from the meeting Minutes is notably missing. There were no microfilm records of attachments to the ASME Minutes in the early A17 years. Notwithstanding, elevator history did leave a large footprint, much of which has been identified in the Bibliography, Appendix A, Chart 1.

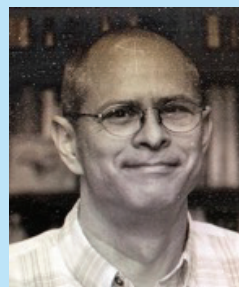
Last, but not least, we thank ELEVATOR WORLD for its hard work in bringing this commemorative publication to the industry readership. We give a special acknowledgement to the memory of William C. Sturgeon, founder of ELEVATOR WORLD, for his in-depth reporting on elevator code activities in “The World of the Code Makers” in the 1981 Annual Study. Bill Sturgeon conducted many direct interviews with the A17 Committee members in preparation for the Annual Study. Bill Cramer, Chairman Emeritus of the A17 Standards Committee, provided considerable history on the early A17 days. Our A17 story contains this history.



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George W. Gibson



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