

1982 Engineer of Distinction



William E. Griffin, Sr.
B.S. Civil Engineering, TPI, 1939

Posthumous: 1915-1980

Executive Vice President, Hoffman Rosner Corporation

President, DU-CO Construction Co.

President, Tri-Co Builders Supply Co.

President, North States Construction Co.

Citation

William E. Griffin, Sr. was born on May 4, 1915, in Nashville, Tennessee. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering in 1939 from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute. He practiced engineering for over 40 years, retiring from Hoffman Rosner Corporation in May of 1980. His death came on December 17, 1980.

Mr. Griffin served the Hoffman Rosner Corporation for over a quarter of a century, rising from Utilities Engineer in 1955 to Chief Engineer in 1956, to Vice President in 1957 and to Executive Vice President in 1972. He was named president of three subsidiary companies in 1972—DU-CO Construction Company, Tri-Co Builders Supply Company and North States Construction Company. He was responsible for land development; lumber and mill operations; and construction of medium and high-rise reinforced concrete structures, including apartment complexes, office buildings and hospitals.

Prior to joining Hoffman Rosner, Mr. Griffin was Assistant Plant Engineer for Carbide and Carbon Chemical Company in Paducah, Kentucky, for four years. He was Chief Engineer in charge of the engineering of a hydroelectric dam and powerhouse with all auxiliaries in San Salvadore, Central America, in 1950-51. He served Jones, Tomkins & Wright of Southhill, Virginia, as Construction Engineer on the Buggs Island Dam and powerhouse from 1948 to 1950. He was Construction Engineer for the Atomic Energy Commission's gaseous diffusion plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, from 1943 to 1948. Prior to that, he was Assistant Field Engineer for the Tennessee Valley Authority after beginning his professional career as a Project Engineer with the Works Progress Administration in 1939.

Mr. Griffin was a registered professional engineer in Arizona, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Wisconsin. He was active in the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers, the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers. He was a member of the Water Pollution Control Federation.

Throughout his professional career, Mr. Griffin was an active speaker, supporting engineering and the Chicago Home Builders Association., His service with the Home Builders Association was distinctive, receiving the Award of Excellence in 1977 and in 1978, the President's Award in 1979 and was named a Life Director in 1979. In 1980, he received a Special Tribute for a "life of willing service."

Mr. Griffin always gave much credit to his professors at Tennessee Tech for his successes in life.



Mrs. Griffin poses with other 1982 Engineers of Distinction Don Nichols and Paul Shoun