



## Flowers of the Forest



### Bruce Edward Montgomery

#### CMSI Member 237

On May 21, 2006, CMSI member # 237, Bruce Edward Montgomery, died of natural causes in Northside Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia. Bruce was born in Milan, Missouri on July 11, 1913 to Dr. John S. Montgomery and Elizabeth Calfee Montgomery. His only sibling, Hazel Montgomery Kanagy, predeceased him. He is survived by his wife Florence Merl Montgomery, whom he married on April 22, 1950 at All Saints Church in Atlanta, and his sons and daughters-in-law Donald Montgomery and Denise Jennings of Sandy Springs, GA and Carl and Barbara Montgomery and their children, Daniel and Sarah, all of Roswell, GA.

Bruce graduated from Park University, Parkville, MO with a degree in physics, and from Iowa State University of Engineering in Ames, Ia with a degree in electrical engineering. He was a Professional Engineer registered in the state of Illinois. His whole career was in aviation communications, working first in research and development at Northwest Airlines and United Airlines in Chicago, and later for the Civil Aeronautics Agency (now the Federal Aviation Administration) in Atlanta and Washington, D.C. After a time with the Air Navigation Development Board in Washington, he joined Lockheed Aircraft (now Lockheed-Martin) in Marietta, GA in 1956, working in preliminary design. He was a pioneer in the field of Avionics. In the obituary written by Kay Powell for the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, a former co-worker, Robert S. Duggan, said that Bruce was a pioneer in designing antennas and communications systems for airplanes. "He was a quiet guy, but everybody knew that he was the guy to go to if you had any questions," said Mr. Duggan. "He was really highly regarded by all his co-workers." In 1978 Bruce retired from Lockheed and was able to give more time to his hobby, amateur ham radio.

Bruce was a licensed amateur radio operator for 75 years. He was a charter member of the Southeastern DX Club, formed in 1958. His wife Florence explained that DX stands for distance, and the members of the Club contact hams the world around. She said, "At one time, he was at the top of the honor roll because he had contacted someone in every country in the world. He worked on that for years. It's not something you just sit down and do." Bruce's call sign was W4BFR.

Another interest for Bruce Montgomery was the Clan Montgomery Society. The Montgomerys became members early in the Society's organization, and Bruce and Florence were active in events and happenings in Atlanta, GA. Former CMSI President James Morton Montgomery recalled that he had asked Bruce and Florence to help with the first AGM held in Atlanta in 1985. Jim said that they were ready to lend a helping hand, and were regulars at the Stone Mountain tent and other social get-togethers with CMSI members.

Bruce Montgomery was a quiet spoken man of great intellect. He was also a Gentleman, and it was an honor to have met him. Our sincere condolences to his family.

Submitted by Cathy Field

*Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time.*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: *A Psalm of Life*