

Thurston Holt, who was born in his grandmother's house in Cape Elizabeth to Roscoe Holt and Margaret Thurston Holt on August 14, 1919, died after a brief illness in the house of his daughter Sally (Sarah) in Norman, Oklahoma, on January 1, 2020, with his daughter Meg (Marjorie) there too. He was 100.

In 2009, after 19 years in Cape Elizabeth, Sally, a landscaper, set up a house for him down the street from her in Norman, and Thurston, Meg, and Sally drove Thurston's white-with-a-blue-stripe 25th Anniversary Pontiac Trans Am cross-country, listening to his jazz CDs and stopping at Williams, where he was Class of 1942, and in Cincinnati, where he spent most of his career at Cincinnati Milacron and coached girls' soccer. They caught up with the movers in Norman and all had a party with Sally's friends and watched the Belmont Stakes together. Sally and Thurston had dinner together most nights, and Thurston maintained his interest in world affairs with talks at the University of Oklahoma and in art at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum.

Family and friends brought Thurston back to Maine every summer, where his niece Dr. Tina Holt had birthday parties for him in South Portland around the family get-togethers in Ellsworth and Hancock with her mother, Patricia Holt, a painter and the wife of his late brother Nicholas Holt, an architect.

Thurston said he was interested in practically everything except jigsaw puzzles and bingo. In 2004, he had a solo exhibition of photographs he had taken in Grenada, West Indies, where he visited his cousin, Marty (Martha) Giles, with proceeds going to Hurricane Ivan relief. He led charity drives at the Milacron, was a board member of Common Cause, moved up the ranks to president of the Maine chapter of the United Nations Association, was a member of the South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club and president of the Cape Elizabeth Seniors.

Taking a year off in Europe in 1938 between Deerfield Academy and Williams, he saw what Hitler was doing and joined the Navy in the summer of 1940. He spent three and a half years on the destroyer Biddle among other postings. He finally finished Williams in 1948 and moved to Cincinnati. In 1950, he married Betty Oliphant of South Portland, the daughter of Marjorie and Harold Duncan Oliphant, formerly the editor of The Portland Press Herald, and she died of leukemia in 1962, and Thurston brought up his daughters. He was married to Dorothy Bray, a widow with two teenage children, from 1972 to 1978, and lived in Northern Virginia until moving to Cape Elizabeth.

As well as his daughters, he is survived by Meg's husband, Ted Casselman, a musician/carpenter and fellow jazz fan, Patty Holt and her family, and the beloved families of his late sister Peggy (Margaret) and Rymund Wurlitzer of Milwaukee and of his late brother Dr. Prescott Holt and his wife, Juanita, of Washington, D.C., and Delaware. He took great delight in life and said one of his ideals was to help make the world a better place.