

## Spurling - Steven Stanley Spurling (1921-)

Steve Spurling: 92 and Still Building Boats  
Great Cranberry Native's Life has Revolved Around Boats, Big and Small  
by Laurie Schreiber  
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Southwest Harbor - Steve Spurling, who is 92, has been a boat captain and boat builder all his life. He still builds small craft, including Whitehalls and dinghies of his own design, in a shop behind his house. Come spring, he pulls the small boats out onto his front lawn to sell.

Spurling grew up on Great Cranberry Island. As a young man, pre-World War II, he rode every morning from the island to Southwest Harbor, and back in the late afternoon, so he could work for the Southwest Boat Corporation, run at the time by Lennox "Bing" [sic] Sargent and owned by Sargent and Henry Hinckley. The first boat he worked on was a 90-foot wooden dragger which was being built outdoors; the crew had to work in all kinds of weather.

When World War II stormed in, Spurling went off to join the heavy machine gun section in Company D of the Army's 351st Infantry Regiment. In 1944, he was awarded a Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action in Italy, when his platoon leader and six other members of the company were killed under intense enemy machine gun and mortar fire, and he assumed command and kept the men going.

Back home, he took the job as captain for textile magnate Roger Milliken Sr. and his family. That job lasted 50 years.

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Title: Spurling - Steven Stanley Spurling (1921-)

Type: Reference

Subject: People

Description: Father: Spurling - Francis Milton Spurling (1896-1958)

Mother: Stanley - Esther Mabelle (Stanley) Spurling (1895-1984)

Birth Date March 11, 1921

Born at Cranberry Isles, Maine

Occupation Boat Carpenter Sea Captain

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