

Obituary

PHILIP ARTHUR ALEXANDER

E. GORDON BLACKADAR

ARTHUR COBURN

ALLEN W. ELDRED

1922 . . . Philip Arthur Alexander . . . 1963

Philip A. Alexander, associate actuary of London Life Insurance Company, died on August 4, 1963. He was in his forty-first year and he had been in apparent good health up until the moment of his death.

Mr. Alexander was born in Maldon, Essex, England, and received his early education in that area. During World War II he served in the Royal Air Force and spent part of his training period in Canada. Released from the R.A.F. at the end of the war as a flight lieutenant, Mr. Alexander entered the life insurance business with the Law, Union and Rock Insurance Company of London, England. In 1947 he moved to Canada and on October 1 of that year joined London Life. By 1950 he had attained his Fellowship in the Society of Actuaries—a remarkably speedy achievement, especially considering that he had not had a university training in mathematics. During the next year he was awarded Associate standing by the Institute of Actuaries. Mr. Alexander was appointed an assistant actuary of London Life in 1954, associate group actuary in 1959, and associate actuary, with general administrative responsibilities in the Actuarial Department in 1960.

Phil Alexander's rapid mastery of the requirements for Fellowship in the Society was a sure guide to the thoroughness and dispatch with which he approached the problems of an all-too-short business career. His close associates invariably found in him a colleague with a deep, warm interest in the welfare of those with whom he worked.

Mr. Alexander was an active churchman. He had served on the Board of Management of St. George's Anglican Church in London, Ontario, and he had also been a member of the Synod of the Diocese of Huron (Anglican).

Phil Alexander made his mark in the profession at an early age, and it can only be supposed that his death at the age of forty-one has deprived his company and the profession of what would otherwise have been the benefits of many years of fruitful business experience. Mr. Alexander is survived by his wife, the former Barbara L. Clifford, two daughters, Lynn and Lee, at home, and a brother, Eric R. Alexander, of Newborough East, Victoria, Australia.

1882 . . . **E. Gordon Blackadar** . . . 1963

E. Gordon Blackadar, a retired Associate of the Society, died at his home in Ottawa, Ontario, on June 1, 1963, after an illness of several months.

Mr. Blackadar was born in Ottawa, attended Ottawa Collegiate, and received his B.A. degree from McMaster University in 1904. He then became an actuarial clerk in the Canada Life Assurance Company, Toronto, and received his A.A.S. in 1906. In 1909 he returned to Ottawa as accountant of the Annuities Branch, which was then in the Department of Trade and Commerce. Shortly thereafter he was made actuary of the Branch. He became superintendent of annuities in 1927 and held that position until his retirement in 1946.

Under Mr. Blackadar's guidance, Canadian government annuities became increasingly popular. He was instrumental in setting up an agency system for the sale of annuities and backing it up with national advertising.

Away from the office he was a keen fisherman, and in his younger days did much sailing on the Ottawa River with the Britannia Yacht Club. Mr. Blackadar was a staunch Baptist. He devoted considerable time to the pension plans of various Baptist conventions. A member of First Baptist Church, Ottawa, he received the rare distinction of being made an elder of that congregation, the second person in one hundred years to receive the honor.

Mr. Blackadar is survived by a son, a sister, and a brother. It is noteworthy that his father was an actuary, as is also his surviving brother.

1888 . . . **Arthur Coburn** . . . 1963

Arthur Coburn died in Dallas, Texas, October 8, 1963, after a lengthy illness. He was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, October 29, 1888, and entered the life insurance business there at the age of sixteen.

At the age of twenty, Mr. Coburn became a Fellow of the Faculty of Actuaries, one of the youngest men ever to be accorded this honor. In 1911 he came to the United States and became associated with the New York Life Insurance Company. He left that company to become an assistant actuary in the Northwestern Mutual Life in Milwaukee in 1918. In 1923 he returned to New York to become vice-president and actuary of the newly formed North American Reassurance Company. In 1934 he became vice-president and a member of the Board of Directors of Southwestern Life Insurance Company in Dallas. He held this position until his retirement on March 31, 1959.

Mr. Coburn's professional attainments were great. Besides Fellowship in the Faculty of Actuaries, he was also an Associate of the Institute of Actuaries and a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries. He served the American Institute of Actuaries as president in 1928 and 1929. In addition to numerous assignments to standing committees of these two organizations, he served on numerous special industry and professional committees, the most recent being the Special Committee on New Mortality Tables, which committee was responsible for the development of the 1958 CSO Mortality Table.

Mr. Coburn is an example of an actuary whose interests and talents broadened at an early age to encompass many areas of the life insurance industry. It is interesting to note that the four presidential addresses that he delivered to the American Institute of Actuaries were on four unrelated subjects: "Disability Insurance," "Life Insurance Company Investments," "Supervision," and "The Responsibilities of the Actuary." During his years at Southwestern Life he developed a keen interest in problems of the agency end of the business, and later he headed the underwriting functions. His great breadth of knowledge and the eagerness with which he accepted the challenge of a new field of activity will long be remembered by his associates.

Not only did Mr. Coburn serve the insurance industry well but he also served the community and his church. For several years he was on the budget committee of the Dallas Community Chest. For two terms (in 1946-47) he was president of the Dallas Council of Social Agencies and later was chairman of the Citizens Advisory Council for a city-wide survey of hospital facilities. In 1952 he received the annual award of the Dallas Hospital Council for his work as chairman of the county's chest X-ray survey. He also served his church as senior warden.

Despite his busy life touching on so many areas of his business and his community, Mr. Coburn always had the time to encourage those just entering the life insurance business. His tremendous faith in youth resulted in the development of many young men with whom he came in contact considerably beyond their apparent abilities. His friendly, warm leadership and his ability to present a challenge in a very human way will long be remembered.

His survivors are his wife, Gertrude McCankie Coburn, who often accompanied him on business trips and who is known as a gracious and charming individual in life insurance circles; his daughter, Mrs. David Hannah, Jr.; his son, Arthur Coburn II; and his sister, Miss Gertrude Cockburn, of Scotland; and six grandchildren.

1920 . . . Allen W. Eldred . . . 1963

Allen W. Eldred, associate actuary—pensions, of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, died suddenly, July 7, 1963, while vacationing on Cape Cod. He was a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries. Mr. Eldred was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, on November 19, 1920. He attended high school in Springfield, and was an honor graduate of Harvard University in 1942.

After serving overseas with the Army Air Corps during World War II, he joined the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company in 1946. He was appointed assistant actuary—group in 1952 and associate actuary—group in 1956. He became affiliated with the Massachusetts Mutual's Pension Department when it was established in 1961. During his entire service with the Massachusetts Mutual he worked in the field of employee pension planning.

He was a member of the Actuaries' Club of Hartford and the Boston Actuaries' Club.

A soft-spoken man, he was a brilliant actuary, with an outstanding knowledge of pensions. His keen insight and ability to master a difficult pension problem were valued by his business associates, who feel a great sense of loss by his untimely passing. His close friends particularly enjoyed his sense of humor. He enjoyed music and the arts, and one of his favorite pastimes was to prepare a fine French dinner for his friends and associates.

Mr. Eldred is survived by his mother, Mrs. Allen D. Eldred, of Longmeadow, Massachusetts, and a brother, Richard, of Waban, Massachusetts.