

Obituary

WILLIAM MATHESON ANDERSON
WALTER LLOYD BLACKADAR
JOSEPH J. CLAIR
DAVID LEE DeSMET
LORNE KENELM FILE
PAUL K. FRAZER
FRANK J. GAGLIUSO
PHILIP CHASE IRWIN
CLYDE W. JAMES
HARRY W. JONES
STANFORD Z. ROTHSCHILD, SR.
JONATHAN GUMMERSAL SHARP
PEARCE SHEPHERD
CHARLES ALFRED SPOERL

1905 . . . William Matheson Anderson . . . 1969

William Matheson Anderson, former president of the Society of Actuaries, died in Toronto, Ontario, on September 24, 1969, after a lengthy illness.

Mr. Anderson was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on June 18, 1905. After attending high schools in both Winnipeg and Toronto, he entered the University of Toronto on a first Edward Blake scholarship and graduated in 1926 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics. He completed his examinations for his Fellowship in the Actuarial Society of America in 1928 and received his degree two years later at the age of twenty-five.

After several periods of part-time work while still at university, Mr. Anderson entered full-time employment with North American Life Assurance Company in 1926 and climaxed a distinguished career by serving as president from 1955 to 1963 and as chairman until his death. He had been a director since 1946.

Mr. Anderson was elected a vice-president of the Society in 1950, continued as a member of the Board of Governors, 1952-54, was re-elected vice-president in 1954, and was elected president in 1955. During the following year he represented the Society at the centenary of the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland and was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty. He was for many years an active participant in the affairs of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries and its predecessor organizations, the Canadian Association of Actuaries and the Actuaries Club (of Toronto), of which he was elected president in 1941.

In addition to his activities in the actuarial bodies, Mr. Anderson was prominent in industry affairs in Canada and the United States, having served on committees of most of the major life insurance associations. He was president of the Life Insurance Institute of Canada, 1946-47, president of the Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association, 1947-49, and a director of the Life Insurance Association of America, 1963-65.

The diversity of his interests is illustrated by his work on agents' compensation with the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau and its successor, the Life Insurance Agency Management Association; on investment research with the Life Insurance Association of America; and on discussions and papers on expense analysis and taxation before the Society and other bodies. He also was an active member of the Society Committee on Papers for five years prior to his term as president.

Following several months' service on loan to the Canadian government as director-general of the National Housing Administration in 1945, for which he was awarded the designation "Commander of the British Empire," Mr. Anderson showed an ever increasing interest in social welfare and social legislation, both as a representative of the life insurance industry and as a private citizen. He was active in numerous presentations and discussions before government bodies on these subjects. He occupied responsible offices in the Canadian Welfare Council, the Ontario Cancer Institute, the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto, the United Community Fund of Greater Toronto, and the Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto.

A few years ago, Mr. Anderson became a director of the General Accident Assurance Company of Canada and, at the time of his death, occupied the position of chairman.

His first official appointment in North American Life as Supervisor of Field Service set the stage for a lifelong interest in agents and their problems and needs. His continuing concern for product improvement and acceptability and his wealth of ideas for application in the market place

placed him in the highest esteem of the company's sales force, by whom he was regarded as the ultimate in market-minded actuaries.

Mr. Anderson was married in 1928 to Marjorie Crawford, who survives him. Also surviving him are a sister and three brothers.

1888 Walter Lloyd Blackadar 1969

Walter Lloyd Blackadar died May 16, 1969, in Plainfield, New Jersey. Mr. Blackadar was born in Canada in 1888. He graduated from McMaster University in Honor Mathematics and Physics and later studied actuarial science at the University of Toronto. The actuarial profession was familiar to him, since both his father and an older brother were actuaries. In his turn, Lloyd Blackadar became a Fellow of the Actuarial Society of America in 1916.

Mr. Blackadar joined the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States in New York in 1911. During World War I, he was engaged in special work with the War Department in Washington and later received his commission as an officer in the field artillery. He held various posts in the Equitable, becoming an associate actuary in 1937. As a member of the Society of Actuaries, he served on its Examination Committee, the Joint Mortality Committee, and for many years as an assistant editor. He retired from the Equitable in 1953.

In addition to his office responsibilities, he was active in his community and in his church. For many years he was a deacon in the First-Park Baptist Church in Plainfield, New Jersey, and he was elected second vice-president of the New Jersey Baptist Convention in 1954.

His associates were always impressed not only by his technical abilities but by his unswerving fidelity to principle and his loyalty to his associates.

He is survived by four sons, a daughter, and seventeen grandchildren.

1897 Joseph J. Clair 1969

Joseph J. Clair, a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, died July 1, 1969, at the age of seventy-two from postoperative complications.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on February 15, 1897, he lived his early years in the Pittsburgh area, completing preparatory courses in the city's public schools and being graduated from the Science School of the Carnegie Institute of Technology. While still attending college, he worked for the Duquesne Light Company, and, after graduation, he became a licensed engineer and the assistant to the master mechanic.

He joined the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as an actuarial research clerk on August 10, 1925. He completed his actuarial examinations and became a member of the Actuarial Society of America in 1931. After serving in various actuarial capacities with Metropolitan, he was appointed a supervisor in its Ordinary Actuarial Division and became an officer of the company with the title of assistant secretary in the Accounting and Auditing Division in 1939. Five years later, he was appointed the controller of the company. After a fruitful and productive thirty-nine-year career with Metropolitan Life, he retired in 1964.

In addition to being a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, he was active in the affairs of the Institute of Internal Auditors, serving as an auditor, secretary, and for a number of terms as director of that organization. He also served on important committees of the Financial Executives Institute (formerly the Controller's Institute of America) and of the Insurance Accounting and Statistical Association. He was active in the New York Actuaries Club and in the New York Insurance Accountants Club.

During his entire career, Mr. Clair was known for his judgment, decisiveness, and integrity. His guidance in financial matters was sought and valued by his associates. Those who knew him best were aware of a dry, wry wit that underlined his points and contentions. His high standards have served as foundations and guidelines for his associates long after his active years.

He is survived by his widow, a son, and a brother.

1936 David Lee DeSmet 1969

David Lee DeSmet died on June 17, 1969, after enduring a malignant melanoma for four years.

Mr. DeSmet was born on April 20, 1936, in Colton, California. After graduating from Venice High School, he spent two years at Riverside City College. In 1960 he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from the University of California, Riverside campus.

During the last two years of his studies, he was a civilian education officer with the United States Air Force; he taught mathematics, physics, and English to Air Force personnel.

Upon graduation, Mr. DeSmet entered the life insurance field as actuarial assistant for Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company in Los Angeles. Four years later, in 1964, he joined the American Life Insurance Company as assistant actuary; he became group actuary in January, 1969.

He is survived by his widow and a son.

1879 **Lorne Kenelm File** 1969

Private funeral services were held on July 4, 1969, for Lorne Kenelm File of Toronto, formerly a chief actuary of the Canada Life Assurance Company. He was ninety years old and was active and in good health up to a few days prior to his death.

Mr. File was born in Ameliasburg, Ontario. Following graduation as a Gold Medalist from the University of Toronto, he earned his Fellowship in the Actuarial Society. In 1909 he became a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries of Great Britain and joined the Canada Life. He was appointed assistant actuary in 1913 and associate actuary in 1924 and assumed his duties as chief actuary in September, 1938. Retiring from this position early in 1944, he continued as consulting actuary until the end of 1947.

His knowledge and experience were highly regarded in the international life insurance and business world. He was the oldest living member of the Senior Actuaries' Club of New York and was a Charter Member of the Canadian Actuaries Club, now the Canadian Institute of Actuaries. A past-president of the Insurance Institute of Toronto, he was also a member of the Council of the Actuarial Society of America, now the Society of Actuaries.

He is survived by his three daughters and seven grandchildren. His wife predeceased him in December, 1963.

1906 **Paul K. Frazer** 1969

Paul K. Frazer, senior director of underwriting at the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, died on October 5, 1969, with his wife, Edith, as a result of a fire in their home.

Mr. Frazer was born in Ottumwa, Iowa, on December 1, 1906. He graduated from the State University of Iowa in 1928, having majored in actuarial mathematics. His scholastic ability was recognized by his election to membership in Phi Beta Kappa. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, a social fraternity.

Following his graduation, he began his lifelong career with the Northwestern Mutual. Mr. Frazer became an assistant actuary of the company in 1943. Two years later he was named assistant director of underwriting. In 1956 he was advanced to director of underwriting and in 1968 to senior director of underwriting.

Mr. Frazer obtained his Fellowship in the Society in 1941. Since that time he has been active in the Society, particularly through his contribu-

tions in committee work—ten years on the Education and Examination Committee, five years on the Committee on Review, and, since 1959, on the Committee on Mortality under Ordinary Insurances and Annuities.

He was also active in the Home Office Life Underwriters Association, having served as its president in 1962–63 and on its executive council in 1948–1950 and again in 1960–1965. In 1965 he was chairman of the Medical Information Bureau.

Mr. Frazer participated in many community affairs in Milwaukee, his strongest interest being the Boy Scouts of America, which he served through its executive board and its long-range planning and finance committees. For this he was recognized through receiving the Silver Beaver Award.

He is survived by two daughters, a son, and a brother.

1928 Frank J. Gagliuso 1969

Frank J. Gagliuso, a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, died on July 29, 1969, at his home following a long illness. He was forty-one years of age.

Mr. Gagliuso was vice president-investment of the Paul Revere Life Insurance Company and president of the Paul Revere Equity Management Company.

Born in Berlin, New Hampshire, Mr. Gagliuso was graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics, *summa cum laude*, in 1952. He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and the Ben Thompson Club and president of Pi Mu Epsilon, honorary mathematics fraternity.

Mr. Gagliuso had been associated with the Paul Revere companies for seventeen years at the time of his death. He had served the former Massachusetts Protective Association, Incorporated, and the Paul Revere organization as assistant actuary and as associate actuary before being named a second vice-president of the companies in 1963. Four years later he was named vice-president and a member of the companies' executive committee. With the formation of the Paul Revere Corporation in early 1968, he was elected assistant treasurer and assistant clerk of the parent holding company in addition to his executive assignments in the life and variable annuity companies. He was elected the first president of the Paul Revere Equity Management Company, a newly formed company incorporated in 1968 to manage the Paul Revere Courier Fund, Incorporated.

As a Fellow of the Society, Mr. Gagliuso maintained an active interest in the work of both the Boston and Hartford Actuaries Clubs.

Throughout his entire career in the insurance business, Mr. Gagliuso's keen, perspective mind won for him the genuine respect of all with whom he came in contact. Decisiveness and thoroughness were cornerstones which characterized his business success. At all times the excellence of his work was appropriately flavored with an easy and gracious sense of humor.

Mr. Gagliuso is survived by his mother, two brothers, and a sister.

1894 Philip Chase Irwin 1969

Philip Chase Irwin, a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, died in Des Moines, Iowa, on June 18, after an extended illness.

Mr. Irwin, a native of Shenandoah, Iowa, graduated from Coe College at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and served in World War I before joining Equitable of Iowa in Des Moines in 1919.

Mr. Irwin was appointed assistant actuary of Equitable in 1926, associate actuary in 1938, actuary in 1943, actuarial vice-president in 1948, and vice-president and actuary in 1955, which position he held until his retirement in 1959. He was also named a member of the company's board of trustees in 1956, on which he served until his retirement.

As a warmly human person, Mr. Irwin concerned himself deeply with the problems of people, both home office employees and field men. Professionally, this gave a sales and service orientation to much of his business career, and he maintained a continuing interest in the work and compensation of the agent.

Mr. Irwin served his community as well as his company. He was very active for many years in the affairs of Plymouth Congregational Church, serving for six years as chairman of its board of trustees. He also provided vital leadership in the planning and construction of the state headquarters building of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ and of Plymouth Place, an apartment building sponsored by his church for low-income retired people. He was a past-president of the board of trustees of the Public Health Nursing Association and was a charter member of the Board of Trustees of Iowa Blue Shield, on which board he served for many years. He was given the Outstanding Layman Award by the Iowa Medical Society early in 1969.

Mr. Irwin is survived by his widow, a son, three daughters, a brother, and ten grandchildren.

1903 **Clyde W. James** 1969

Clyde W. James died in Lincoln, Nebraska, on August 15, 1969, at the age of sixty-six. He was born in Keokuk, Iowa, on January 21, 1903, and educated in the Keokuk public schools. In 1927 he graduated from the University of Iowa with Phi Beta Kappa honors, being also a member of Pi Kappa Alpha and Phi Kappa Rho.

Following graduation, he entered the actuarial field, being associated successively with the Missouri State Life Insurance Company, the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, and the Central Life Insurance Company of Illinois. In 1930 he became actuary of the Midwest Life Insurance Company of Lincoln, Nebraska, assuming the office of secretary in 1932, first vice-president in 1946, and executive vice-president in 1948. He retired in 1963.

Mr. James was a member of the Permanent Committee for the International Congress of Actuaries, a charter member of the Nebraska Actuaries Club, and past-president of the Insurance Institute of Nebraska.

Mr. James is survived by his widow.

1905 **Harry W. Jones** 1969

Harry W. Jones, retired director and senior vice-president of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, died on Monday, June 9.

Shortly after graduation from high school in 1923, Mr. Jones joined the mathematical department of the company and began studying for membership in the Actuarial Society of America. He became an Associate of the Society in 1926, a Fellow in 1930, and was elected to membership in the Senior Actuaries' Club in 1955.

Mr. Jones was appointed assistant mathematician in 1934, associate mathematician in 1945, and mathematician in 1946. Later that year he was elected vice-president, and in January, 1948, a member of the board of directors. He was elected senior vice-president in January, 1960.

Mr. Jones had served as a consultant to the state government on retirement funds for public employees. Following his retirement from the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, he became a full-time vice-president for the Hospital Service Plan of New Jersey (Blue Cross) and was recently elected to its board of trustees.

Mr. Jones is survived by his widow and a daughter.

1894 . . . **Stanford Z. Rothschild, Sr.** . . . 1969

Stanford Z. Rothschild, Sr., honorary board chairman of Sun Life of America, died at home on October 6, 1969, at the age of seventy-five.

Mr. Rothschild was born on June 7, 1894, in Richmond, Virginia, and attended public schools in Baltimore. Upon graduation from City College, he had attained the school's highest academic record to that date, and in 1965 he was elected to its "Hall of Fame."

He attended the University of Pennsylvania but transferred to the University of Michigan in order to specialize in the field of actuarial science. He graduated in 1916 with an A.B. degree, *summa cum laude*, and was a Phi Beta Kappa.

Mr. Rothschild joined Sun Life in 1916 as the company's actuary. During World War I he served as a captain in the Army and was one of the actuaries who created the original "GI" insurance system.

Returning to Sun Life after the war, Mr. Rothschild was elected vice-president in 1919 and became president in 1938. His professional competency in leading the company for twenty-eight years was to a large extent responsible for Sun Life's growth from a regional operation to one of nation-wide prominence. His fiftieth anniversary of company service was marked in 1966, the year he retired from his duties as president and became honorary board chairman. Although he retained this latter title, ill health forced his resignation as a director earlier this year.

A leader in his community, Mr. Rothschild was one of the founders of the Maryland Blue Cross-Blue Shield system and served it as a board member, treasurer, and member of the executive committee. He also served as a board member and vice-president of the Baltimore Association of Commerce; board member and secretary of the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland; a director and officer of Associated Jewish Charities; a board member of Sinai Hospital; and a founder and board member of the Baltimore Jewish Council.

Mr. Rothschild was a regional vice-president of the American Life Convention and a member of the Baltimore Life Underwriters Association. He was also a charter member and past-president of the Middle Atlantic Actuarial Club.

Mr. Rothschild is survived by his widow, one son, two brothers, and three grandchildren.

1894 . . . Jonathan Gummersal Sharp . . . 1969

Jonathan Gummersal Sharp, formerly senior partner of the firm of Woodward, Ryan, Sharp and Davis, Consulting Actuaries, in New York, died at his home in Montclair, New Jersey, on Sunday, January 26, 1969, after a brief illness. Until his retirement in 1966, he was very active in the general actuarial practice of the firm with which he had been associated for almost forty years.

His career—spanning as it did the depression years—was an exceptionally versatile one. It involved the rehabilitation of insurance companies; re-establishing accepted standards of solvency to unsound pension funds; introducing adequate rates for fraternal societies; and conducting mortality studies for religious and charitable organizations issuing annuities.

Mr. Sharp was born in Renfrew, Ontario, Canada, on October 19, 1894, and became a Fellow of the Society in 1925, about six years after his discharge from the Canadian Military Forces during World War I.

He was an honor graduate from Toronto University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in physics and mathematics, and he received his early training in actuarial science with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in New York.

He is survived by his widow and by a son of a former marriage.

1901 . . . Pearce Shepherd . . . 1969

Pearce Shepherd, a past-president of the Society, died suddenly at his home in Montclair, New Jersey, on September 5, 1969, at the age of sixty-eight. He was the last of three brothers—Clinton, Bruce and Pearce Shepherd—each of whom was a highly distinguished actuary.

Pearce was born in Chicago, Illinois, on December 3, 1901. He was educated at Western State Normal High School in Michigan and at the University of Chicago, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Upon his graduation in 1921, he worked for the consulting firm of Marcus Gunn for a year. He then spent three years with Lynn A. Glover & Co. and seven years with the North American Reassurance Company.

Most of his career was spent with the Prudential Insurance Company, which he joined as a mathematician in August, 1932. Pearce advanced rapidly in the Prudential, ultimately becoming senior vice-president and chief actuary in 1959. In this post he was in charge of all actuarial and underwriting activities of the company and was responsible for the

Claim and Medical Departments and the company's labor negotiations as well. He retired from the Prudential at the beginning of 1967.

Since his retirement Pearce had concentrated on personal and Academy activities (he was chairman of the Admissions Committee of the Academy at the time of his death) but was also serving the Trans World Life Insurance Company of New York as a member of its board of directors.

Pearce's contributions to the actuarial profession and the insurance industry were distinguished and varied. He was a past-president of both the Society and the Home Office Life Underwriters Association. For several years, ending with the 1968 Congress, he served as secretary of the United States Section of the Permanent Committee for International Congresses of Actuaries. The Society publication, *Selection of Risks*, which he coauthored with Andrew C. Webster, is highly regarded both as an educational text and as a practical handbook. He also served the industry as executive committee chairman of the Medical Information Bureau, chairman of the Health Insurance Council, and as a director of the Health Insurance Association of America. In addition, he was a member of the Insurance Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and chairman of its Special Committee on Private Pension Plans.

Along with all these activities, Pearce found time for community service, notably in his work with the Boy Scouts, for which he received the Silver Beaver Award. He served the Robert Treat Boy Scout Council in various capacities for some twenty years and as its president from 1959 to 1961.

Pearce invariably gained the respect of those who came to know him, either through business contacts or in the course of his extensive services on professional and industry matters. There is a whole generation of people at the Prudential who, in addition to valuing him as a personal friend, found in his ways of thinking and conducting himself a model of what a senior executive should be. Those of us who knew him well are grateful to have had him as a friend and a teacher.

Pearce is survived by his widow.

1901 . . . Charles Alfred Spoerl . . . 1969

Charles Alfred Spoerl died October 5, 1969, in Hartford, Connecticut, after a long illness.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, he received his college education at Harvard, from which he graduated in 1921, *summa cum laude*. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Following experience with a New York insurance company, Mr. Spoerl joined the Actuarial Department of Aetna Life in 1925. Two years later he was transferred to the Investment Department, where he was promoted successively to assistant treasurer and to financial secretary. Returning to direct actuarial work in 1952, he became assistant vice-president and actuary and five years later was advanced to vice-president and actuary, the position from which he retired in 1963. Shortly after his retirement from Aetna Life, he accepted the post of actuary of the Connecticut State Insurance Department, a position which he held until his death.

One of the few individuals to complete the actuarial examinations in three years, he made substantial contributions to the work of the American Institute of Actuaries, the Actuarial Society of America, and the present Society of Actuaries. He contributed many papers and discussions to our literature. These concentrated in several areas of prime interest to him, including graduation theory, insurance company investments, and the education and training of students. A member of numerous committees, it was particularly noteworthy that he served as chairman of the Examination Committee for five years, as general chairman of the Education and Examination Committee for four years, and as chairman of the Advisory Committee on Education and Examinations for three years. He also served four terms as a member of our Board of Governors and one term as vice-president.

In addition to his services to his profession, he had contributed largely to the Hartford community. Among other activities, he served for many years as treasurer of the Metropolitan District and was a former president of the Symphony Society and president of the Hartford Conservatory of Music.

Mr. Spoerl was a man of widely varying interests. His mathematical ability and ingenuity were outstanding.

In addition to his widow, he leaves a daughter, a sister, and three grandchildren.