



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

The Actuary

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COMPETITION No. 3

We have noted that New York has adopted the Beaver as its official animal; the official insect of New Jersey is not its legendary mosquito but the bee. The Society and other professional bodies are seriously deficient in not having an official bird, animal, insect or flower. Some examples of the general idea are:

Las Vegas — Pigeon
 Fire Island — Pansy
 New York — Cockroach

Readers are invited to submit up to four suggestions for official symbols in any or all categories for the Society, the AMA, the AICPA, a Bar Association, veterinarians, chiropodists, what have you. There will be an appropriate prize for the winner in each category. Example, *Common Weeds of the United States*.

* * * *

Rules

1. All verse must be original (and printable).
2. The Editor and Competition Editor are *Ex Officio* not eligible.
3. Only one copy please, to be sent to
 Competition Editor
The Actuary
 Mail Drop 13-2
 1740 Broadway
 New York, New York 10019
4. Entries must be mailed within two weeks after your copy of *The Actuary* arrives (air mail from overseas).
5. Competition Editor's decision is not subject to appeal.

Rule four has been changed to the honor system. The reason for this is twofold: (1) The probability distribution of your receiving *The Actuary* within 30 days after printing is unknown, and (2) We wish to encourage entries from overseas readers. We have one entry to Competition No. 1 from the Philippines which we hope to print when the Editor provides an odd inch of space.

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Results of Competition No. 2

Entries were a little on the thin side (in quantity only), owing no doubt to the Society's mailing arrangements, which save us money but confound scheduling.

Not the only one to express his frustration, but the most poetic, was Larry R. Sluder, who wrote:

How the — ∞
 Can a meager fool like me
 Enter, anyway but late,
 A contest ending Feb. 28
 When the mail comes March 3?

We are awarding the prize, *Mathematical Magpie*, to Mr. Sluder, who took pains to see that his entries were real people and Society members, very much in keeping with the spirit of the competition:

Winner

Witt and Wisdom; Actuarial Advice
 or
 Games, Gamble and Dice; Actuarial
 Research

A non-entry from Mr. Sluder: Piano,
 Drumm and Horn; Musical Mortality.

Runner Up

We also especially liked Mr. Maltby's, perhaps because it conforms to a prejudice of our own:

With respect to Contest Two,
 here's a goodie just for you.
 There's a firm of Auditors I think,
 whose actions drive us all to drink;
 Hav'y'ever heard a name much
 slicker,
 than good ol' "Grouch and
 Nitpicker"?

And Honorable Mention to:

Wynott Gopher, Broker.
Wilfred A. Kraegel
 Don Rickles, Actuarial Insultant.
Steven Klubock

Stayn D. Black, Inc., Management
 Consultants.

Philip Ur, Soc., Sumerian Savings
 Assn. *Donald J. vanKeuren*

Makem and Brakem, Stock Analysts.
Jerrold Scher

Mu & Delta, "Forces in the Field".
Steve White

Oberstatt, Ehrnings & Schurplis,
 GAAP Statement Specialists.
J. A. Oates

Select and Ulti Mate, Marriage
 Brokers. *John W. Grantier*

$e_x + 1$, Greater Expectation Life
 Company — Σ Merrily Sub-
 mitted. *Julian L. Plant*

R. A. Dix, Life Tables. *Anon*

Trito, Makeham and Stay, Persisten-
 cy Tables. *Joseph A. Pagano*

C.E.

PSRO's AND THE LIKE

Health Services Information Systems in the United States Today By: Jane H. Murnaghan, B.A., *New England Journal of Medicine*, 290: 603-610 (March 14), 1974.

by L. J. Rupp

This article describes and, more importantly, identifies information systems which are either in existence or planned on the national, state, and local levels. It describes the data available on the national level from the National Center for Health Statistics, the Office of Research and Statistics of the Social Security Administration, the AMA, the AHA, etc. It also describes a number of state and local information systems and addresses itself to information systems for inpatient care, ambulatory care, and the needs and likely sources of data for PSRO's.

It provides a quick reference table for abbreviations used in health services information systems with a very brief description thereof and a bibliography with a wealth of references. It should be considered as a valuable tool for the actuary interested in health care information.

Reprints of the article may be obtained on request from the author, Mrs. Murnaghan, Department of Medical Care and Hospitals, Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health, 615 N. Wolfe Street, Baltimore, Md., 21205. □

Actuarial Economists

(Continued from page 6)

ments, such as increasing the widow's benefits payable for claim at age 65 or after from 82½% of the primary insurance amount to 100% thereof.

In summary, it is certainly amazing that economists should have the temerity to venture so deeply into the actuarial field without any hesitation or any qualification of their results. It is almost as amazing that the Federal Government should commission economists to make an actuarial study! □

Erratum

In the article on the Veteran's Insurance Act of 1974 in the March issue, the requirement for full time coverage for Ready Reservists should read, "... twelve periods of inactive duty training . . ."