



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

The Actuary

January 1980 – Volume 14, No. 1

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES 1980

Eleven Fellows and four Associates are celebrating their 50th anniversaries as such this year. We heartily congratulate the following:

Fellows

Harry M. Atrubin Benjamin T. Holmes
Henry E. Blagden Daniel J. Lyons
William H. Burling Morris Monsky
Frederick J. John Y. Ruddock
Cunningham William L.
Alton O. Groth Wadleigh
Milton J. Wood

Associates

Leonard Roy Baker G. Emerson Reilly
Charles H. Jones Emetcrio Roa, Sr.

This year's list includes one overseas member and several who have been exceptionally prominent in their influence on actuarial matters through the years. We hope several of them will contribute to these columns during 1980, and will make the effort to attend Society meetings, to be greeted and to keep associations fresh. Also, actuarial clubs should not overlook the opportunity to extend them special invitations to club meetings so as to enjoy and benefit from their views and recollections. □

**APPEAL FOR MONEY BROUGHT
355 REPLIES**

The mail solicitation last April for contributions to the Actuarial Education & Research Fund garnered 355 responses from actuaries. This information was given at our Annual Meeting by Morton D. Miller, one of the two Society representatives on the Fund's Committee. The amount raised was \$8,000.

Our other representative is Cecil J. Nesbitt.

The Fund qualified as a 501(C)(3) organization, thus making contributions in the United States deductible. Consideration is being given, said Mr. Miller, to achieving similar status from the Department of National Revenue in Canada.

Another solicitation of actuaries is planned. Our readers will notice also the new wording in this newsletter's November Death Notices saying that those who wish to make memorial donations to the Fund are assured that these will be acknowledged to the donor and to the deceased member's family. □

**DUKE OF EDINBURGH ADDRESSES
ACTUARIES**

by E. J. Moorhead

Several American actuaries, including our own Julius Vogel in possibly his first presidential appearance, were among 1,500 actuaries and guests at Grosvenor House, London, to witness and enjoy another famous victory by the Institute of Actuaries—its Twenty-Fourth Biennial Dinner.

This traditional event, entirely social in character, gives British actuaries and their spouses unparalleled opportunity to mingle with visitors from other professions and countries. The after-dinner speeches were wisely limited to three, all brief and pleasantly varied.

The toast to The Institute of Actuaries was proposed by the Guest of Honour, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edin-

burgh, in highly polished and entertaining words. Prince Philip avowed that he hadn't the faintest idea what actuaries do. All he was sure of, and this on the authority of his hosts, was that if actuaries were to stop work for a week the fabric of industry and commerce would collapse.

Mr. Peter E. Moody, President of the Institute, performed his duties gracefully as proposer of the toasts to The Queen and, later, The Guests, as well as in replying to the Duke's remarks.

A clerical guest, The Rev. Richard Tydeman, found an ingenious and altogether acceptable way to bring variety into his response to the toast to The Guests; speakers faced with the problem of making bricks with little straw might use his idea as their model. First he allowed us to believe that he had become confused about what group he was

(Continued on page 7)

SOCIETY FINANCES

Our Treasurer, Mr. L. Blake Fewster, reported at Bal Harbour (see Item 3 of "Summary of Non-Routine Business" in our December issue) that the Society incurred a substantial deficit in our fiscal year that ended July 31, 1979. Remedial measures are, we understand, likely to be announced in these columns after the Board of Governors meeting on January 24, 1980. Meanwhile, here for our members' information is a comparative summary of accounts for the past three years.

Income and Expenses
(rounded to thousands of dollars)

	Year ending July 31		
	1977	1978	1979
Income			
Membership dues	\$ 435M	471**	515
Meeting registration fees	102	111	116
Examination fees & material	454	521	569
Sale of publications	127	98	82
Income from Amer. Academy	43	54	58
Investment income	32	35	42
Other income	46	106	94
	<u>1,239</u>	<u>1,396</u>	<u>1,476</u>
Expenses			
Membership activities	150	140	141
Meeting expenses	79	140	174
Examinations & materials	271	273	387
Cost of publications	44	29	30
Salaries	220	296	331
Other general & administrative	410	495	575
	<u>1,174</u>	<u>1,373</u>	<u>1,638</u>
Excess Income over Expenses	<u>65M</u>	<u>23M</u>	<u>- 162M</u>

** Omits effect of accounting adjustment, for which see TSA XXX, 492, Note G.

Solutions to November Actucrostics

by *The Competition Editor*

1. *Author:* Andy Webster. Work: "Last Editorial" (Dec. '78). "I consider myself fortunate and privileged to have acted as Editor of *The Actuary*. For me this has been an enjoyable way of recognizing and at least partly repaying my debt to the Society and to the profession. So I take my leave as Editor. . ."
2. *Author:* (Jack) Moorhead. Work: "Man From Aberdeen" (Jan. '79). "Finally let's remember that occasionally he had to accept brickbats, a specially trying necessity for one whose labors through the burden and heat of those many days were solely* for love. . . . But the messages . . . he is now receiving from around the actuarial world are All Homage."

* *Ed. Note:* Our C. E. testifies that when he finished Actucrostic 2 he had one "I" left over, no place to put it. His solution was to create a new word "soley". Messages from solvers who thought this odd have rolled in—for which C. E. thanks you. The ingenious James H. Hunt thought C. E. might have altered Definition I to "Dubious honor for famous actuaries" whence the solution emerges "Math Hall of Flame". Our inclination is to define that as "Actuary's Valhalla". □

Duke of Edinburgh

(Continued from page 4)

addressing, as he gave a pseudo-lecture on The Motor Car. Then, after regretting that his wife could not be there because she had other things to do, he brought down the house by voicing the opinion that the Guest of Honour might perhaps be in the same situation.

Clearly we in Canada and the U.S.A. would benefit if, somehow overcoming our difficulties of geography, we could find a similar way to bring our profession to the attention of those on this side of the Atlantic who are but vaguely familiar with our credentials. □

APOLOGY

Ed. Note: We learn that we erred in failing to list Reginald C. Bainsley in our roster (October 1979) of those who completed Associateship examinations before age 21.

Deaths

Serge A. Laplante, F.S.A. 1969
Frank G. Whitbread, F.S.A. 1931

Letters

(Continued from page 3)

whether your dog is fatter than your brother?) The two passages differ in content and, I suspect, in readership.

Also, each example has its problems. Had the novel been about John Jones and Sue Smith at Joe's Truck Stop in Maine, the Flesch score would have been roughly 20 points higher. This illustrates the arbitrary nature of these examples. One could write a passage entirely of nouns, or one in French, with marvelous Flesch scores. Would Mr. Raymond assert that a legislature would deem such passages easy reading?

I'm sure the author didn't intend to represent his rendition of the B.W. theorem as the work of Angus Taylor. Investigation of the source reveals that Mr. Raymond manipulated the proof to produce as high a Flesch score as possible. All formulas were removed; sentences and words were shortened. Although he destroyed the work's style, (evidently his apologies to Taylor go without saying), he did indeed render it more readable. Thus does he illustrate perhaps the best use of the Flesch test—to encourage improving readability by seeking to improve a text's score. This, I believe, is the usage intended by the Massachusetts legislature.

Mr. Raymond doesn't argue with the basic issue — that insurance policies should be more readable. The Flesch score, albeit not perfect, is a good, work-

able index. I'm sure that actuaries welcome constructive alternatives.

Deborah L. Adler

* * * *

Society-Decision-Making

Sir:

Barnet N. Berin (October issue) objects to the methods by which rules of conduct are adopted in our profession. Some of his criticisms may be justified for past rules, but not for present ones. Since 1977, any change in rules has required exposure to the entire membership, sufficient time for comments, committee analysis of those comments, a report of that analysis to the Board, and then a Board vote before that rule is adopted and printed.

Most rules have been prepared and adopted with little controversy or complaint. An important exception has been the set of Pension Plan Recommendations and Interpretations displayed in the 1979 Academy Year Book, pp. 350-379. One problem with them is that the two Interpretations beginning on p. 369 appear to have been adopted without the exposure they should have been given to all members of the Academy, the Society and the Conference.

There have been vigorous complaints, few but from active and influential members, about the content of those recommendations. One of Mr. Berin's objectives was lack of a public forum for discussion. In this case, public discussion seems an excellent idea, and I hope the actuarial bodies will provide opportunities for it.

William David Smith

* * * *

SOCIETY SEMINARS

Second half 1980

Listing for first half 1980 is on page 6 of December 1979 issue

When	What	Where	Length
July	Materials of Forecasting	New England & Midwest	2 days
August	Immunization	New York, Chicago, Denver	1 day
September	Valuation of Life Companies	New York, Chicago	1 day
November	Federal Income Tax Planning for Insurance Companies	New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Los Angeles	1 day