



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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ACTUARIES AT WORK IN OTHER LANDS: THE PHILIPPINES

by Alfonso P. Garcia, Jr.

Ed. Note: Readers around the world are invited to contribute companion articles for this series. Having visited the Philippines, all too briefly, in 1981, this editor heartily draws attention to Mr. Garcia's closing paragraph.

The Actuarial Society of the Philippines began its organizational evolution (as the Philippine Actuarial Society) on March 12 1953. Its eight founding members—one American and seven Filipino actuaries—were Emeterio Roa, Sr., Luis Salvosa, Exequiel Sevilla, Federico Roa, Sr., Manuel Hizon, Orvar Ehrenclou, Emeterio Roa, Jr., and Conrado Roa. Notably, all these seven Filipinos had their actuarial education beginnings at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Although envisioned as a vehicle by which practicing actuaries could exchange views on professional and procedural topics, the Society served in those days more as a social forum.

In 1959, spurred by strong desire to emphasize more the professional, technical, and academic aspects of actuarial work, the Society assumed a more formal structure. Its first Annual Actuarial Convention proved to be a big success as selected members presented thought-provoking actuarial papers for discussion.

Then, on January 20, 1969, the Society officially began to assume a juridical personality by virtue of its incorporation. Its name was changed to "Actuarial Society of the Philippines," and by-laws were adopted conducive to "study and discussion of actuarial and allied phases of life and disability insurance, annuity and pension funds, accident and health insurance, with

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SEE HOW WE GROW

At the end of 1929 our roster of Fellows (counting both the Actuarial Society and the American Institute but eliminating duplications) totalled 360. Half a century later, the number was 4,024. Here are the details by decades:

End Of	Number of Fellows	Compound Annual Growth Rate For Decade
1929	360	
1939	471	2.7%
1949	673	3.6
1959	1,081	4.9
1969	1,888	5.7
1979	4,024	7.9

The corresponding average annual growth rate through the first two years of the decade of the '80s has been 6.7%. These two years are measured, in conformity with our current Yearbook practice, from November 1, 1979 (3,934) to November 1, 1981 (4,480).

Doubling Times

Starting from 1893 when the 80-Fellow mark was reached, our doubling periods have been:

Number	160	320	640	1,280	2,560
Yr. Reached	1909*	1927	1948	1962	1974
Doubling Time	16 yrs.	18 yrs.	21 yrs.	14 yrs.	12 yrs.

*The 160-Fellow milestone might not have been reached until about a decade later had not the American Institute come into being in 1909 with 42 Charter Fellows.

If, as seems likely, we reach 5,000 Fellows by 1984, thoughts will naturally turn to a 10,000-Fellow organization in the 1990s. Director of Education Linden N. Cole cautions us though that the number of Part 1 candidates has been declining.

E.J.M.

SOCIAL SECURITY DIARY: 1981-1982

by Robert J. Myers

Ed. Note: At our request, Mr. Myers tells of a recently ended segment of his remarkable career, and another just beginning. Readers may care to look also at his one-page statement at an earlier turning point (TSA XXII (1970), D313).

In March 1981, I accepted a political appointment as Deputy Commissioner of Social Security (for Programs). The basic responsibilities were to develop policy and aid in legislative steps, to

implement enacted legislation, and to have general supervision over SSA's actuarial and research functions. Although often tempted to don my "actuarial hat" I tried hard to avoid interfering with the professional work of OACT, the Office of the Actuary.

It will be no surprise to my fellow actuaries that I strongly supported the OACT in its many important activities. I was particularly pleased to be able to restore its independence, so that after having been relegated to a lower level it again reports directly to the Commissioner of Social Security through the

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Actuaries At Work

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particular reference to conditions and problems obtaining in the Philippines."

Today, the ASP has a roster of 48 Fellow members, 23 Associate members, and 74 Affiliate members. It is run by a Board of Governors composed of four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and six governors including its Immediate Past President ex-officio. It has twenty standing committees, each chaired by a Fellow, the more important ones being the Career Development and Actuarial Placement Committee, the Education and Examination Committee, and the Committees on Mortality Studies, Persistency Studies and Expense Analysis Studies.

Accreditation

Actuarial practice here finds support in the recently amended Insurance Code of the Philippines which now contains a title on Practice of the Actuarial Profession; it provides that the services of an actuary duly accredited with the Insurance Commission are necessary for a life insurance company to do business or to continue doing business in the Philippines. To become duly accredited, such actuary must be a Fellow in good standing of the Actuarial Society of the Philippines, which means passing a series of six examinations (the first three for associateship) along the lines of the ten-part Society of Actuaries examinations but adapted to the Philippine setting. Since November 1969, the ASP has been giving these exams regularly; nine of the 28 Fellows now registered as accredited became so via our exam system.

The ASP is actively carrying out the purposes for which it was formed. Our Annual Convention, climaxing a year-long program of meetings and symposiums, is usually participated in by actuaries from Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and sometimes Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. The ASP actively supports the teaching program leading to a Master of Science degree in Mathematics (with emphasis on Actuarial Science) at the University of the Philippines.

Asian Actuarial Society (AAS)

At the international level, the ASP in 1975 spearheaded formation of the Asian Actuarial Society. Although rather slow to get off the ground, it was un-

der its auspices that the ASP sponsored the first Asian Actuarial Seminar in 1978 which lasted for 2½ weeks in Manila with participants from the actuarial organizations of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Taiwan. The founders of the AAS nurture the dream that eventually it will be the vehicle for accrediting actuaries throughout South East Asia.

A Cordial Invitation

On behalf of the officers and members of the Actuarial Society of the Philippines, I extend to one and all in the actuarial profession an invitation to visit our country and give us a chance to share not just the hospitality of the Filipino people but the friendship of Filipino actuaries. □

Social Security Diary

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Deputy Commissioner; and I supported Chief Actuary Dwight Bartlett in his successful effort to have Statements of Actuarial Opinion appended to the annual Trustees Reports. The OACT, now under Harry Ballantyne's leadership, is in excellent shape, well staffed by qualified actuaries and held in high esteem by the Executive and Legislative branches of the Federal Government.

Resignation

After the close of the 1981 session of the Congress, I tendered my resignation, effective January 8, 1982. That session had produced significant legislation, but did not by any means fully address the short- and long-range financial problems of the Social Security program. The Reagan Administration had developed broad principles for solving these problems, which I supported and continue to support strongly.

Several considerations led to my resignation. First, I was dismayed at the layers of bureaucracy involved in decision-making within the Executive Branch—not that I had expected a free hand, but I had hoped to have a much more direct and influential role. Second, recognizing that the "action" in 1982 will be outside of the SSA, even outside of the Executive Branch, I came to believe that in a private capacity I could more effectively influence the difficult legislative decisions that must be made to put the Social Security program back on a sound footing.

Creation of a New National Commission

A legislative package that would have solved these problems was developed by an interdepartmental group, but certain of its proposals, specially those eliminating the minimum benefit for persons already receiving it and immediately cutting benefits sharply for those electing to retire at ages 62-64, met with such widespread opposition that little of the package was enacted.

Faced with all this political controversy, President Reagan proposed that a bi-partisan 15-member group be established to make recommendations. This plan having been accepted by the leaders in Congress, a National Commission on Social Security Reform has been created; its distinguished membership includes Alan Greenspan (a former Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors) as Chairman, four Senators and three Representatives.

I have been offered, and have accepted, the position of Executive Director of this Commission. □

SOME MATHEMATICAL '82'S

Perhaps readers will send us additions to the following short list of events in the mathematical world associated with years ending in the digits 82. These ones are taken from IBM's history chart, "Men of Modern Mathematics."

1382. Nicolas Oresme died. He was Bishop of Liseux, France. Said to be the first western mathematician to use ordinate and abscissa, he also wrote the first treatise devoted entirely to theory of money, and denounced astrology as as false science.

1482. First year that a printed edition of Euclid was available in Latin.

1582. Pope Gregory instituted the present calendar.

1882. One noted mathematician died, another was born. In France, Joseph Liouville (1809-82) founded and for many years edited the Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics, and *inter alia* introduced the concept of geodesic curvature. Amalie Emmy Noether, (1882-1935) was one of the great German scientists who fled Nazi political pressure in the early 1930's. She spent her last two years in Bryn Mawr College, Pa.

E.J.M.