

## **Obituary**

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GEORGE SAMUEL BERE

JOHN M. BLACKHALL

LAMBERT A. HOLLOWAY

PERCY STEWART McLEAN

JOHN LEONARD ROBERTS

EDMUND B. WHITTAKER

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### **1896 . . . George Samuel Bere . . . 1957**

George S. Bere, Group Actuary of the London Life Insurance Company, died on October 24, 1957 in his 61st year. His sudden death shocked and saddened his many friends in the London Life and in the community.

Mr. Bere was educated in London schools and at the University of Toronto, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree. He joined the London Life in 1916. During World War I he was on leave of absence to serve two years with the 63rd Field Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery.

Mr. Bere attained his Associateship in the Society of Actuaries in 1924. For many years he was responsible both for policy drafting and for Group insurance in the Actuarial Department. During this time the Company entered the Group Sickness and Accident insurance field, and under his direction the Group business of the Company grew from a small beginning to a large department. In 1951, having risen through successive steps, he was appointed Group Actuary. Mr. Bere was Chairman of the Group Life Committee of the Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association, and had served as a member of the Uniform Act Committee of that Association.

He will be remembered by his associates as a kindly and genial person, who always took a keen personal interest in those who worked with him. His judgment was highly respected and he could be relied upon

to give most thorough and methodical consideration to any problem which confronted him.

Mr. Bere was a member of the session of Metropolitan United Church in London. At one time he served on the Pension Committee of the City of London. He had also been treasurer of the London Branch of the United Nations Association of Canada. A member of the London Hunt and Country Club, he was a prominent horseman, and was particularly successful in raising and showing hunters.

Mr. Bere is survived by his widow, the former Gladys Brown, who prior to their marriage was a member of the London Life home office staff, two sons, Donald and Arthur, and a daughter, Rosemary.

### 1914 . . . . John M. Blackhall . . . . 1957

John M. Blackhall, Assistant Actuary of California-Western States Life Insurance Company, passed away on November 14, 1957, in his home at Sacramento, California. His death was due to a sudden heart attack. He was 43 years of age.

Mr. Blackhall was a native of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He was a graduate with honors from the Mathematics Course of the University of Toronto, Class of 1936. After serving two years with Professors Mackenzie and Shepherd, consulting actuaries in Toronto, Mr. Blackhall spent the next four years in actuarial work with the Monarch Life Insurance Company of Springfield, Massachusetts. From 1942 to 1946 he served as a weather forecaster with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Mr. Blackhall became associated with the California-Western States Life Insurance Company in 1946 and was Assistant Actuary at the time of his death.

Mr. Blackhall was an Associate Member of the Casualty Actuarial Society as well as an Associate of the Society of Actuaries. He was currently Secretary of the Actuarial Club of the Pacific States.

Mr. Blackhall took a very active interest in religious, civic and charitable organizations. Among his affiliations were the Serra Club, Golden Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Toastmasters Club and United Crusade Drive.

Mr. Blackhall's keen, analytical mind and friendly personality will be missed by all his many friends and associates. He will be remembered by the many younger associates whom his enthusiasm inspired with the desire to learn more about the insurance business.

He is survived by his wife, Oretta, two sons, John, Jr. and Malcolm, and his father, Wilmot R. Blackhall, of Toronto.

**1908 . . . Lambert A. Holloway . . . 1957**

Lambert A. Holloway, an Associate of the Society of Actuaries, passed away suddenly at his home at 15 Godfrey Road, Upper Montclair, New Jersey, on November 1, 1957.

Mr. Holloway was born March 30, 1908, in Lumberton, North Carolina. He attended the U. S. Naval Academy Preparatory School, Annapolis, Maryland, and graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1930 with a degree in Engineering. He was employed by the Koppers Coke Company for five years before joining the Actuarial Division of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in 1935.

In 1943 he received a leave of absence from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to join a small group of civilians who through the Offices of Scientific Research and Development formed an Operations Research Group in the office of the Headquarters of the Commander in Chief, United States Fleet. Among other things, Mr. Holloway was charged with the gathering, analyzing, and interpreting of data on submarine operations in the Pacific. The information thus obtained was used by Navy Headquarters to improve the effectiveness of subsequent submarine operations. For his work with the Operations Research Group he was awarded the Certificate of Merit by the United States Navy.

Rejoining the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in October 1945, Mr. Holloway was appointed as a Research Analyst assigned to studies pertaining to mortality experience, underwriting procedures, and related matters. When the Company decided to enter into the field of electronic data processing, he was one of the original group selected to make the methods studies incident to the conversion of insurance records from manual and punch card procedures to electronic procedures. He was given increasing responsibilities in this area of work and at the time of his death was a Supervisor in the Electronic Installations Division.

Mr. Holloway continued his interest in Operations Research after his assignment with the Navy. He was a member of the Operations Research Society of America. He was also a Member of the Chi Phi, Tau Beta Pi, and Phi Kappa Phi fraternities. His courtesy and thoughtfulness endeared him to all who knew him. He will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife, Harriett, and two children residing at the above address.

**1887 . . . Percy Stewart McLean . . . 1957**

One of our senior members, Percy Stewart McLean, died suddenly on his seventieth birthday, October 16, 1957.

Mr. McLean was born in Bruce County, Ontario, and received his early education in Port Elgin and Owen Sound. He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1909 with first-class honors in mathematics and immediately entered the service of the North American Life. This service was interrupted by the First World War, during which he served with distinction in the Canadian Field Artillery. Before he returned to Canada he qualified as an Associate of the Institute of Actuaries in 1919. In 1924 he became a Fellow of the Actuarial Society of America.

When the T. Eaton Life Assurance Company was created in 1920, Mr. McLean was appointed Manager of that company. In 1922 he joined the staff of the Canada Life Assurance Company in the Group Division. He was appointed Assistant Actuary in 1924 and in 1925 was attached to the British Isles Division of the Company where he served as Branch Actuary until shortly before his retirement in 1950 and made a valuable contribution to the development and success of the Company's operations overseas. Following his retirement, he acted as tutor in mathematics at the University of Toronto School of Practical Science and also assisted on a part-time basis in the establishment in Canada of the Holland Life Insurance Society.

Mr. McLean had many talents and interests as a mathematician, an actuary and a highly accomplished musician. Combined with these, he had a quality of friendship that endeared him to all those with whom he came in contact. This applied to the ladies as well and the surprising part of it is that he never married.

It is regrettable that only the older members of the Society had the privilege of close acquaintance with one who combined the qualities of a capable mathematician and actuary with those of a charming cultured gentleman.

His brother Jack, now living in Calgary, who also served in the Canada Life for a number of years, is the only survivor of his family.

**1888 . . . John Leonard Roberts . . . 1957**

John Leonard Roberts died at Brunswick, Maine, on December 10, 1957 after several months illness.

He was born November 29, 1888 in Lewiston, Maine, and graduated

from Brunswick High School in 1907 and from Bowdoin College in 1911. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and received his master's degree from Columbia University.

Mr. Roberts taught for some time in Puerto Rico and later at Richmond College, Richmond, Virginia, and at University of Maine. He was a veteran of World War I. He attained his Associateship in the Society of Actuaries in 1927 and was associated for several years with the Prudential Insurance Company of America. For the past twenty-five years he has been in retirement.

Mr. Roberts was interested in music and has written various articles for educational magazines, such as "Human Minds and Physical Objects" in the *Journal of Philosophy* in 1932. He was a member of Pleasant Street Methodist Church.

Surviving are a sister, Mrs. Gerald A. Rose, and a brother, Brice W. Roberts, both of Brunswick.

### 1902 . . . Edmund B. Whittaker . . . 1958

Edmund Boyd Whittaker, Vice President of The Prudential Insurance Company of America, died March 10, 1958 after a brief illness.

Mr. Whittaker was born in Cambridge, England, August 5, 1902. He spent his youth in St. Andrews, Scotland, and was graduated from Fettes College, Edinburgh. He also attended the University of Edinburgh where his distinguished late father, the internationally-known mathematician Sir Edmund Taylor Whittaker, was professor of mathematics.

Mr. Whittaker launched his insurance career as an actuarial apprentice with the Scottish Widows' Fund in Edinburgh. He came to the United States in 1926 and, for the next three years, was employed in the actuarial department of the New York Life Insurance Company.

In 1929 Ed made the change from the New York Life to the Prudential to become the assistant to Mr. Valentine Howell, who was then Assistant Actuary. He spent the next five years on general actuarial duties, and in 1934 was advanced to Assistant Actuary in charge of group insurance underwriting. He was named Associate Actuary in 1941, and in 1943 was elected Second Vice President and Associate Actuary, with the responsibility of reorganizing the Company's group insurance activities. This phase of Prudential's business was greatly expanded in the next few years, and in 1946 Ed was elected Vice President and placed in charge of the Company's newly created Group Insurance Department. In this

position, he was in charge of all of the Company's group activities, including group pension planning and sales.

Mr. Whittaker was a Fellow of the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland and of the Society of Actuaries, and was keenly interested in the professional development of young actuarial students. While serving as Chairman of the Joint Educational Committee, he was very largely responsible for reorganizing the examination system in order to encourage students to complete their actuarial careers. Beginning in 1930, he initiated and continued to develop the Prudential's very complete program for recruiting and training actuarial students. He further served the Society as Chairman of its Group Mortality and Morbidity Committee.

He was one of the insurance industry's most prominent advocates of its ability to protect the public without government interference and served on many industry committees. As a member and also Chairman of the Joint Group Insurance Committee of the Life Insurance Association of America and the American Life Convention, he frequently appeared before State legislative bodies and Congressional committees investigating the public health insurance needs. In this connection, he received national recognition for his stimulating drive to promote the public acceptance of major medical expense insurance throughout the United States. He also pioneered in the development of group coverage for the millions of workers employed by small businesses throughout the country and of group creditors insurance in connection with the public's instalment credit transactions. As an appointee of the former New Jersey Governor Alfred E. Driscoll, he served as a member of the State Council on Disability Benefits. Until 1948, he was a trustee and member of the executive committee of the Hospital Service Plan of New Jersey.

In his important offices, Mr. Whittaker demonstrated many talents. He was endowed with a brilliant intellect which he used wisely and beneficially. He applied his astute, analytical mind to the many problems of both business and government with sincerity and conviction. For him, there was never a moment without a sense of duty to serve the public, the insurance industry and his company.

Ed was an enthusiastic sports fan, with particular emphasis on soccer, baseball and golf. He was also an expert bridge player and was a spark plug in the formation of the Prudential Bridge Club and the Commercial Bridge League of Northern New Jersey, which he served as president.

It was characteristic of him to perform his tasks with a habitual sense of humor which endeared him to all. He was a faithful friend who loved

and admired his colleagues and business associates, and constantly aided them in the work they had to do. His death is a grievous loss to his family and to his many friends who held him in such high esteem.

Mr. Whittaker is survived by his wife, Nancy Livingston Whittaker, a son and two daughters, all living in the United States, and by his mother, Lady Mary Whittaker, two brothers and two sisters living in Great Britain.