

Obituary

HELMUTH G. BRUNNQUELL
LAWRENCE MACLAGAN CATHLES
WILLIAM ARTHUR WATT

1879 . . . Helmuth G. Brunnquell . . . 1958

Helmuth G. Brunnquell, an Associate of the Society of Actuaries, died in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on June 3, 1958 in his seventy-ninth year. He was born in Milwaukee on June 20, 1879 and throughout his career was identified with the insurance industry in his home state.

His life insurance career started in 1898 in the Secretary's Department of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company. The exposure here to accounting and statistical methods aroused his interest in actuarial work and prompted further study and training with special tutoring through West Division High School in Milwaukee to prepare him for entry as a special student at the University of Wisconsin. He resigned in 1912 to pursue these further studies at the University. On their completion he joined the Actuarial Branch of the Wisconsin Insurance Department in 1915. He served that Department as Assistant Actuary and Actuary until his return in 1930 to the Northwestern as an Assistant Actuary. He continued with this Company in that capacity till his retirement in June 1949.

He was admitted an Associate of the Casualty Actuarial Society in 1918 and of the American Institute of Actuaries (now Society of Actuaries) in 1919.

Mr. Brunnquell was admired and respected by all who knew him. His wide acquaintance both in the supervisory field and in the field of life insurance generally, developed particularly during his years with the Insurance Department, was a source of deep pleasure to him. His interest in people was not simply a passing interest; it was a continuing interest in their activities and well being in every respect—a kindly interest. His remarkable memory for the important dates in their lives was a constant source of amazement to all who knew him.

Though he retired in 1949 he maintained an active interest in events

until shortly before his death. Those interests included, in addition to the contacts with his many friends, activity in the Washington Irving Reading Society, a group with which he had been closely associated for over sixty years. He was a member of the Milwaukee City Club and of St. John's Lutheran Church of Port Washington, Wisconsin.

He is survived by his wife, Hazel, and by two brothers, W. G. and Herbert G. Brunnequell, both of Port Washington.

1877 . . . **Lawrence Maclagan Cathles** . . . 1958

Lawrence Maclagan Cathles died in Scarsdale, New York, May 11, 1958 as a result of a severe stroke suffered two weeks before.

He was born July 21, 1877 in Edinburgh, Scotland, and received his education at George Watson's School of the same city.

A few months after his graduation, he entered the employ of the Scottish Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, where began his tutelage by and intimate association with Henry Moir, the actuary eminent internationally for telling and lasting contributions to the development of life insurance. Leaving the Scottish Metropolitan in 1903, Mr. Cathles resumed his association with Mr. Moir, becoming his assistant at the Provident Savings Life Insurance Company. From 1905 to 1908, Mr. Cathles was Actuary of the Franklin Life Insurance Company of Springfield, Illinois, and for twelve years thereafter he was Secretary and Actuary of the Southwestern Life Insurance Company of Dallas. From 1920 to 1923 he was Vice President and Actuary of the Southland Life Insurance Company of Dallas. In 1923 he was chosen to assist in the organization of and then to lead the North American Reassurance Company of New York, of which he was President until 1948, and thereafter Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of the Board.

Professionally Mr. Cathles' attainments were great. He was a Fellow of the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland, an Associate of the Institute of Actuaries of Great Britain, a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, and from 1922 to 1924 was President of the American Institute of Actuaries. He attended regularly meetings of the Life Insurance Association of America and of The American Life Convention and had been a member of the actuarial and nominating committees of the latter. He had served as a member of The United States Advisory Board of Zurich General Accident and Liability Insurance Company, Ltd., and as a Director of Zurich Life Insurance Company, of North American Casualty and Surety Reassurance Corporation, and of North American Fire and Marine Reassurance Corporation.

Few men had greater impact on the life insurance business not only in the Eastern part of the country but especially in the Southwest. Coming to Texas shortly after so many companies had left the state on account of the passage of the Robertson law, Mr. Cathles truly pioneered in the development of life insurance in that section. There are many Texas Companies that even today feel Mr. Cathles' influence through the advice he had given them over the years and through men now active in the business who had the benefit of training under and association with him. His position as President of North American Reassurance Company brought him in contact with practically every life insurance company in the United States, and few there were that did not seek his advice not only in matters actuarial but also in the broader field of company management in which he was so well-versed and competent. His extensive travels took him into the European insurance scene, where his keen insight and sound judgment brought him an international reputation.

High as he had risen professionally, Mr Cathles was always cognizant of his duties as a citizen and always did his part to fulfill them.

But it is as a friend that Mr. Cathles will be longest remembered. He always had time for anyone, and especially young men of actuarial aspirations, who sought his advice and counsel, and there were many. Unfailingly, his first approach to the solution of any problem was a search for the right thing to do, and his ability in this direction was uncanny. His influence on men and institutions with which he was associated will be felt for many years to come.

His survivors are his wife, Mrs. Esther Bain Cathles, who often accompanied Mr. Cathles in his travels and who is well-known and greatly admired in life insurance circles; his daughter, Mrs. John Kenchington of England; his two sons, Lawrence M. Cathles, Jr., and Henry Moir Cathles.

1877 . . . William Arthur Watt 1958

On May 4, 1958, William Arthur Watt died at his home in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Mr. Watt was born June 21, 1877 in Pictou, Nova Scotia. After graduating from Pictou Academy as a gold medalist majoring in Latin and Greek, he attended Dalhousie University in Halifax, where his interests turned to mathematics. He graduated in 1898 with high honors in mathematics, and a year later received his Master's degree.

After a year's experience as a newspaper reporter in Montreal he joined

the home office staff of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada. By 1908 he had qualified as an Associate of the Institute of Actuaries of Great Britain, and in 1911 completed the examinations for Fellowship in the Actuarial Society of America.

Mr. Watt went to Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1912, to become Actuary of the Pilot Life Insurance Company, and two years later was elected Secretary and Actuary of that company, which he served for nineteen years.

Mr. Watt moved in 1931 to Montpelier, Vermont, where he assumed the office of Mathematician for National Life Insurance Company, devoting his talents primarily to the financial aspects of agency operations. He was a charter member of the Actuaries' Club of Boston. Upon retiring from National Life Insurance Company in 1947, Mr. Watt returned to his native Nova Scotia, initially to Pictou, his birthplace, but more recently he had resided in Halifax.

All those who knew him remember him as a most kindly, gracious gentleman. Mr. Watt is survived by his widow, his son, Mackenzie, and a daughter, Mrs. William C. Pett, all of Halifax, and by a second daughter, Mrs. Frank H. Conway, of Boston, Mass.