

## Obituary

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JAMES RAYMOND DALRYMPLE

MERVYN DAVIS

RICHARD FONDILLER

GARDNER FLICK KNIGHT

THOMAS M. MOTT

JOHN WEIR RITCHIE

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1888 . . . James Raymond Dalrymple . . . 1962

James R. Dalrymple, retired Assistant Actuary of The Prudential Insurance Company of America, died suddenly at his home in Maplewood, New Jersey on May 30, 1962. He was 74.

Mr. Dalrymple was born in Newark, New Jersey. He joined the Prudential in 1902 and took evening courses at the Newark Technical School and Newark Institute of Arts and Sciences. He became a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in 1926.

During World War I, Mr. Dalrymple served in a civilian job in Washington with the Army's Quartermaster Corps and Ordnance Department. After the war he joined The Travelers Insurance Company in Hartford, Connecticut. He returned to the Prudential in 1928 and was made Mathematician in 1929, Supervisor in 1935 and Assistant Actuary in 1946.

He was affectionately known as "Dal" by his associates, young and old. He had a penetrating wit and was a firm believer in the ability of the individual to educate himself and to accomplish things for himself.

During the last dozen years of his career at the Prudential Mr. Dalrymple was in charge of the valuation of individual life policies. He was assisted in this assignment by a steady succession of younger actuaries, all of whom learned a great deal because of their exposure to his intimate knowledge of the Company's history and operations and his penetrating questions about every aspect of the problems which came to his attention. Many of his younger associates had the experience of learning more during discussion with him of what they had thought was a finished report than during the preparation of it.

Even after his retirement he maintained a keen interest in actuarial affairs. He looked forward to receiving the issues of the *Transactions* and read them carefully and with enjoyment.

He is survived by his wife Jane, two daughters and two grandchildren.

## 1881 . . . . Mervyn Davis . . . . 1962

Mervyn Davis died on April 28, 1962, at the age of 81, in his home in Upper Montclair, N.J.

Mr. Davis was born in England on February 18, 1881. He attended the Old Haileybury School and received an A.B. degree from Sidney Sussex College of Cambridge University in 1903. After teaching mathematics in England and then in Toronto, he joined the Actuary's Department of the Connecticut General Life Insurance Company in 1906. He left that company in 1909 and spent the next three years as Secretary and Actuary of The American Home Life Insurance Company of Fort Worth, Texas, where he met Dorothy Lowrey and married her in 1912. He became Actuary of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa in 1912, leaving that company in 1918 to join The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States as Assistant Actuary.

Mr. Davis became a Fellow of the Actuarial Society in 1917 and was also an Associate of the Institute of Actuaries. He contributed importantly to actuarial literature, and his paper on Total and Permanent Disability Benefits, published in the *Transactions* in 1916, was for many years recommended reading for actuarial students.

In 1928 Mr. Davis was transferred to the Group Department of The Equitable to serve as Group Underwriter until 1936. While in this capacity his knowledge and ability carried him into all phases of the group operation. He became widely known as one of a number of actuaries who had much to do with the rapid development of group insurance. He was particularly active in the introduction of group hospitalization and surgical expense benefits.

In 1936 Mr. Davis was advanced to Vice President of The Equitable and placed in charge of all underwriting. His broad understanding of, and capacity to assist with, field problems made him widely respected throughout the company. In February 1950 he was appointed Executive Vice President, retiring in May 1953.

Mr. Davis was a brilliant mathematician, often astounding students with his quick grasp of problems and speed in arithmetic. While Mr.

Davis was predisposed to quick decisions, he was also something of a perfectionist, requiring efficiency and accuracy of himself and his subordinates. His fellow workers found him inspiring, witty, and a delightful companion.

Mr. Davis is survived by his wife, his son, Keith, and by a host of admirers.

1884 . . . . Richard Fondiller . . . . 1962

Mr. Richard Fondiller, president of Woodward and Fondiller, consulting actuaries, died April 29, 1962, in New York. He was 77.

Mr. Fondiller was a graduate of New York's City College and Columbia University, receiving Master of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees from the latter institution. He was admitted to the New York Bar in 1913.

After four years as assistant actuary of the New York State Workmen's Compensation Commission, he joined The Equitable Life Assurance Society, serving as superintendent in the group insurance department.

In 1922, Mr. Fondiller established the consulting actuarial firm of Woodward and Fondiller with the late Joseph H. Woodward. The firm provides actuarial services to insurance companies, state insurance funds, corporations, and fraternal organizations. Mr. Fondiller was also a specialist in actuarial calculations of taxes and served federal and state agencies in special actuarial investigations.

He was a member of the New York and Federal Bars; Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, Casualty Actuarial Society and Insurance Institute of America; member, Conference of Actuaries in Public Practice, Fraternal Actuarial Association and Permanent Committee for International Congresses of Actuaries.

A nationally known actuary, an authority on workmen's compensation insurance, a consultant to federal and state officers, Richard Fondiller will be remembered for his kindness, patience, keenness of mind, and sense of humor, and for his tremendous interest in and efforts on behalf of his firm's clients.

Perhaps his greatest memorial will be the many young men and women he helped to enter and to develop in his beloved actuarial profession. Placing the progress of the profession on a par—at least—with the advancement of his own firm, he served for 35 years as secretary-treasurer of the Casualty Actuarial Society.

## 1901 . . . Gardner Flick Knight . . . 1962

Gardner F. Knight, Senior Actuary of the Berkshire Life Insurance Company of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, died on April 13, 1962, following a long illness.

Mr. Knight was born in Somerville, Massachusetts, on April 22, 1901. He attended Cambridge Latin School and was graduated by Harvard University in 1922 during midterm of his senior year. He became a Fellow of the Actuarial Society of America in 1935.

From 1925 to 1927 he was Assistant to the State Actuary of the Division of Savings Bank Life Insurance. From 1927 to 1935 he was Examiner and Assistant Actuary of the Massachusetts Insurance Department. He was appointed Associate Actuary of the Berkshire Life Insurance Company in 1935, Actuary in 1938, Vice President and Actuary in 1942, and Senior Actuary in 1960.

Mr. Knight was a charter member of the Boston Actuaries Club and did not miss a single meeting from its formation in 1931 until the time of his last illness.

A devoted and dedicated citizen of unsurpassed moral integrity, he gave generously of his talents and his substance. Everything he did he did with ability, with courage and with great good will. He was active in many important civic and social organizations in the community—having served as chairman of the Community Chest and as a member of the board of several agencies, including the Girls Club, Salvation Army, and the Red Cross. He was President of the Berkshire Harvard Club in 1948.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church and was a lay preacher for the Berkshire Union Chapel. He was also a past president of the Pittsfield Area Council of Churches.

The following comment which appeared in the editorial column of the local paper indicates the position which Gardner Knight held in his community:

The community suffered a severe loss in the passing of Gardner F. Knight, whose thoughtfulness, quiet humor and keen sense of civic duty made him always a valued friend and community leader. He had a deep affection for Pittsfield, and the feeling was reciprocated by those who were privileged to know and work with him.

Mr. Knight is survived by his wife, the former Elsie F. Nelson, a sister, a brother, an aunt, and two nieces.

1899 . . . . **Thomas M. Mott** . . . . 1962

Thomas M. Mott, Senior Vice President and Controller of Republic National Life Insurance Company, died suddenly of a heart attack in a Dallas hospital on Friday morning, May 4, 1962. He was an Associate of the Society of Actuaries.

Mr. Mott was born in Kansas City, Missouri, May 29, 1899. He attended public schools in Kansas City and was graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.S. degree in 1921. He became associated with Republic National Life in 1938 as Secretary, Treasurer and Actuary, following several years of experience with other life insurance companies and, also, as a consulting actuary.

In his 24 years with Republic National Life Mr. Mott served in many capacities and his judgment and thinking were relied on greatly in management decisions. In 1949 he was named Vice President and Actuary in the Group Department and in 1955 he became Vice President and Actuary of the newly created Statistical Department. In April 1961 he was elected Senior Vice President and Controller of the Company. At the annual meeting of stockholders held in March of 1962, he was named to the Company's Board of Directors.

Mr. Mott was very active in a number of life insurance organizations. These honors include membership as an Associate in the Society of Actuaries; Associate Member of Conference of Actuaries in Public Practice; Associate Member of Life Office Management Association; Actuaries Club of the Southwest, of which he was President from 1953 to 1954. He was past President of the Dallas Chapter of the National Office Management Association from 1941 to 1942. He was General Chairman of Southwest Region of the Insurance Accounting and Statistical Association, 1956 to 1957, and National Vice President of that organization in 1960. He was also past President of the Dallas Control of the Controllers Institute of America from 1954 to 1955. He was active in the Salesmanship Club of Dallas, and from 1946 to 1947 he was President of the Highland Park Quarterback Club.

Mr. Mott had a wide acquaintance of friends in the life insurance industry throughout the country. He was most cooperative and willing to work with others in helping to solve their problems. He had an exceptional talent of finding an efficient and prompt solution to many questions and problems that he was confronted with or that others would bring to him.

His many friends and associates feel a great loss along with his family.

Mr. Mott is survived by his wife, Miriam Mott, a son, T. M. Mott, Jr., and a married daughter, Marilyn Frances Richards.

1908 . . . . John Weir Ritchie . . . . 1962

John Weir Ritchie, a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and an Associate of the Institute of Actuaries, died suddenly at his summer home near Sorel, Quebec, on April 21, 1962.

Mr. Ritchie was born in East Calder, Midlothian, Scotland, on April 12, 1908. He graduated in 1930 from Edinburgh University with the degree of Master of Arts with Honours in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. Later that year he came to Canada and joined the Head Office staff of the Sun Life Assurance Company. He was appointed Assistant Actuary in 1945, Associate Actuary in 1950, and Actuary in 1954. In 1957 he was named an executive officer and in May, 1961, was appointed Vice President and Chief Actuary. He became an Associate of the Society in 1934, a Fellow of the Society in 1937, and an Associate of the Institute of Actuaries in 1938. In recent years his duties brought him into contact with the application of computer techniques to life insurance, and he served for some time on the Society's Committee on New Recording Means and Computing Devices. He was interested in all kinds of sports, especially association football.

Mr. Ritchie brought to all his activities a keen analytical intelligence and great vitality and thoroughness. He was particularly skillful in the elucidation of complex subjects, and his stimulating and forceful personality, combined with a ready sense of humor, enlivened any discussion in which he participated. He had a friendly democratic outlook that gave him a lively interest in everyone with whom he came into contact. He will be long remembered for the guidance and inspiration he gave to younger men.

Mr. Ritchie will be greatly missed by his many friends and associates, all of whom held him in high esteem. He is survived by his wife, the former Neomi Church Wright; a son, Robert; three daughters, Sandra, Bonnie, and Susie; his parents; and two sisters.