

Obituary

JOHN SINCLAIR DIXON

JAMES FORBES

RICHARD C. GUEST

RAYMOND J. McNAMARA

EDWARD CHARLES GUILLAUME OLIFIERS

LUMIR F. SLEZAK

1905 *John Sinclair Dixon* 1962

John Sinclair Dixon, Actuary of The Northern Life Assurance Company of Canada, died in London, Ontario, on June 12, 1962, from injuries sustained as a result of a fall at his home.

Mr. Dixon was born in the village of Ailsa Craig, Ontario, on January 10, 1905. He graduated from the University of Western Ontario and started his actuarial career with the London Life Insurance Company. He joined the Northern Life in January, 1929, as a clerk in the Actuarial Department. In September, 1934, he was appointed Assistant Actuary and was promoted to Associate Actuary in June, 1945. In January, 1952, he was appointed Actuary, which position he held until the time of his death.

Mr. Dixon was a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and served on several committees of the Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association and also the Canadian Association of Actuaries.

Sinclair Dixon was a man of quiet and unassuming disposition. His wide knowledge and background in the insurance industry were respected by his associates. His advice was sought frequently and given freely with a friendliness for which he was well known.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, two sons, and three daughters.

1879 *James Forbes* 1962

James Forbes, an Associate of the Society, died on Friday, August 3, 1962, at the age of 83, in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Mr. Forbes was born in Scotland. Upon coming to Canada in 1903, he entered the Actuarial Department of the Great-West Life Assurance Company at its head office in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He soon showed an aptitude for claims administration, in which he became so proficient, especially the legal aspects of it, that he became known among Canadian life insurance companies and many members of the legal profession as one of the ablest men in his chosen line of work. He was appointed claims superintendent of his company in 1928 and held that position until his retirement in 1944. He took an active interest in the proceedings of the International Claim Association and for many years up to his retirement was the company's delegate to the Association.

Mr. Forbes was a member of the Assiniboine Lodge of the Masonic Order. He was a founder and charter member of the Winnipeg Actuaries' Club and chairman of the Club in 1935-36.

Mr. Forbes will long be remembered for his personal qualities and outstanding ability in his work which won for him the admiration and respect of all those with whom he came into contact, including the many members of the company's field force as well as his confreres at the head office of his company.

Mr. Forbes is survived by his wife, who resides in Vancouver, and by two sons and one daughter.

1897 Richard C. Guest 1962

Richard C. Guest, who had been President of the Society in 1953-54, died suddenly in Worcester, Massachusetts, on September 1, 1962, following a heart attack suffered while playing golf.

Mr. Guest had retired from active service as Vice-President of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company in the spring of 1962 after a brilliant career marked by substantial contributions to actuarial thought and to the institution of life insurance.

He was born in London, Ontario, on April 9, 1897, attended the London Collegiate Institute and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1920, receiving the B.A. degree.

He joined the State Mutual Life Assurance Company of Worcester in 1920 and after successive promotions was named Actuary of that company in 1938 and Vice-President and Actuary in 1942. He was elected a director of the State Mutual in 1946.

In 1950, Mr. Guest joined the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company in Springfield, Massachusetts, as Vice-President and was

elected a director of that company in the following year. He continued his interest in the affairs of the Massachusetts Mutual as a director up to the time of his death.

Mr. Guest was a Fellow by examination of both predecessors of the current Society and was a member of the Actuarial Society's Council at the organization of the Society of Actuaries in 1949. He became a member of the Board of Governors of the new Society, became Vice-President in 1951 and President in 1953. He was a member of the Permanent Committee for International Congresses of Actuaries and served on the Council of that body. He represented the Society officially at the XIVth International Congress held in Madrid in 1954.

He had presented papers to the American Institute and to the Actuarial Society and contributed to insurance publications. In the middle 1940's, he wrote jointly with E. M. McConney two historic papers published in the *Transactions* of this Society which have become landmarks in the subject of the compensation of life insurance agents.

During its formative period, Mr. Guest served as chairman of the Committee for the Preparation of Monetary Tables derived from the 1958 CSO Table and from the 1958 CET Table. He was the first chairman of the old Society's Press Committee.

Mr. Guest's interests in the life insurance industry were widespread. He was active in the Life Insurance Sales Research Bureau and was a pioneer in advocating the career contract for agents embodying service fees and retirement benefits. He was instrumental in the adoption by the Massachusetts Mutual of an advanced type of new agent financing plan under which the agent on completion of the financing period was free of the debt burden characteristic of conventional plans.

As one of the leading industry spokesmen, Mr. Guest participated in the intensive work which preceded the 1954 revision of that section of the New York Insurance Law concerned with expense limitation. He served on a number of committees of the American Life Convention and on joint committees of the American Life Convention and the Life Insurance Association of America. He was a member of the group of five men from the insurance industry appointed in 1955 by the then Secretary of the Treasury, George Humphrey, to collaborate with the Treasury and congressional staffs in studying the federal income taxation of life insurance companies. These negotiations resulted in the present tax applicable to life insurance companies.

Mr. Guest's memberships included the Senior Actuaries' Club, the Hartford and Boston Actuaries' Clubs, the Longmeadow Country Club, the Colony Club (Springfield), the Tatnuck Country Club (Worcester)

and Quinsigamond Lodge A.F. & A.M. He was a member of Christ Church Cathedral of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts and served on the Chapter's Executive, Finance, and Building Committees.

Richard Guest was a person of great ability who enriched every area he worked in. A whole generation of actuaries will long remember him and miss his cordiality, his valued friendship, his helpfulness, and his kindness toward all those with whom he came in contact.

Mr. Guest was married in 1922 to Mary Ann Hobbs, who survives him. He also leaves two daughters, Mrs. Carl A. Lindstrom (Dorcas H. Guest, M.D.), of Arlington, Massachusetts, and Miss Ann T. Guest, of Cambridge, Massachusetts; a sister, Mrs. John Grieves of London, Ontario; and two grandsons.

1924 . . . Raymond J. McNamara . . . 1962

Raymond J. McNamara, Associate Actuary of the Aetna Life Insurance Company, died June 13, 1962, after a short illness. He was a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries.

Mr. McNamara was born in Albany, New York, on March 2, 1924. He was graduated from New York State College for Teachers in 1948 and received his Master's degree from Columbia in 1950.

Ray's association with the Aetna began in 1950. He was appointed Actuarial Assistant in 1954; he was subsequently appointed Assistant Actuary in 1955 and Associate Actuary in 1960. During his entire service with the Aetna he was associated with the group annuity department. He was responsible for the experience rating and valuation of all the Aetna's group annuity contracts. In this capacity he was respected by contract-holders, group field representatives, and his associates.

Ray was an extremely capable actuary and a very conscientious person. He possessed an unusually fine sense of humor.

He maintained an active interest in the Actuaries' Club of Hartford and for several years instructed students in actuarial classes sponsored by the Club.

Mr. McNamara is survived by his parents, his wife, Jane, and four children.

1886 . . . Edward Charles Guillaume Olifiers . . . 1961

Edward C. G. Olifiers, consulting actuary, Associate of the Institute of Actuaries of Great Britain, Fellow of the Actuarial Society of America,

Fellow of Society of Actuaries, Fellow and Charter Member of the Casualty Actuarial Society, Member of the Instituto Brasileiro de Atuária, member of A.S.T.I.N., died on May 13, 1961, at the age of 75, of leukemia, in Petropolis, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Mr. Olifiers was born in Brussels on May 27, 1886, where he received his early education and graduated in commercial and financial sciences from St. Ignace Institute, Antwerp, in 1906. Going to England in 1907, he specialized in life insurance, becoming an Associate of the Institute of Actuaries in 1912.

Practicing successively in Canada and the United States during the period 1911-15 as consulting actuary, Mr. Olifiers published in 1915 the "Tables for Valuation of the Death Benefits Provided by the New York Workmen's Compensation Law of 1914," which won him a New York State prize. He became a Fellow of the Actuarial Society of America in 1916.

He made many contributions over the years to actuarial literature, including several papers presented to the Institute of Actuaries and several to the Actuarial Society of America. He presented his most recent paper to the Actuarial Society of America in 1947, "The Evolution of the Exposure Formulae" (*TASA*, XLVIII, 76), and his most recent paper to the Institute of Actuaries in 1953, "The *a* and *b* Distribution Concept" (*JIA*, LXXIX, 221).

Mr. Olifiers came for the first time to Brazil in 1914 as chief actuary of the Sul America Life Insurance Company. From 1917 to 1923 he worked out the Brazilian insurance system for work accidents. During the period 1930-42 he was general manager of the Providencia do Sul Insurance Company. At the time of his death, he was preparing a work covering his long years of experience in Brazilian insurance and working also for the introduction of medical insurance in his country.

He is survived by his widow, Hulda Doberstein Olifiers, and by two sons, Christian Olifiers and Jorge V. Olifiers.

1908 Lumir J. Slezak 1962

L. F. "Skeex" Slezak, Second Vice-President in the Controller's Division of the Occidental Life Insurance Company of California, died suddenly at his home on July 28, 1962. He was 54.

Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1908, "Skeex" received his Bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Southern California in 1930 and his Master's three years later from the same university. From 1934

to 1947, he was with the Metropolitan Life in New York in the actuarial division and then joined Occidental Life, where his engineering background served him well, for in 1952, he was chosen to head Occidental's planning activity for the use of electronic equipment.

Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, "Skeex" was active in fostering the application of electronic data-processing equipment to the operation of life insurance companies on an industry-wide basis.

Soft-spoken, even-tempered, "Skeex" was a responsible citizen, serving in the Marine Corps during World War II and was a colonel in the Marine Reserves at the time of his death.

During his fifteen-year career with Occidental, Mr. Slezak advanced from Assistant to the Actuary to Second Vice-President, and his many friends will long remember his ready friendliness and will miss his exceptional sense of humor.