



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

The Actuary

December 1973 – Volume 7, No. 10

PACIFIC INSURANCE CONFERENCE

by E. J. Moorhead

The Pacific Insurance Conference is an organization strongly supported by actuaries. At present all its officers are members of the Society; in fact, of its 28-member Executive Committee, 12 are actuaries, 10 of these being members of the Society.

The Conference exists for the purpose of helping to spread ideas about the conduct of life and health insurance through the countries in the Pacific Rim area. Its sixth biennial meeting was held this year at Hotel Mt. Fuji, Lake Yamana, 80 miles north of Tokyo. This event was attended by 143 delegates and 32 spouses; of these, 26 delegates and 13 spouses were from U.S.A. and Canada.

Actuaries who are thinking of attending the 1976 meeting of the International Actuarial Association in Japan may be assured that the renowned organizing ability and warm hospitality of the Japanese people are every bit as strong as ever. The general Chairman of the 6th P.I.C., Gen Hirose, President of Nippon Life Insurance Company, and his organizing committee (especially its chairman, Masao Fujimoto, and its secretary, Tamao Kobayashi, who served also as acting chairman during Mr. Fujimoto's illness) put together a Conference the most colorful and exciting of those yet held.

The procedure for the meetings is to solicit in advance papers on the several Conference topics. These papers are a valuable source of information on life insurance activities in the Pacific Rim countries. While they last, sets of these papers are available for a modest fee as follows: for the 1973 meeting, from Meno T. Lake, Los Angeles; for the 1971 meeting, from E. J. Moorhead, Winston-Salem, N. C. Also available, gratis, is a history of P.I.C. written by Professor Robert I. Mehr.

The 1975 Conference will be held in California under the general chairmanship of Mr. Lake, and the 1977 meeting probably again in a country on the other side of the Pacific Ocean (not Japan). If you are interested in more details of what transpired at the 1973 meeting and what the organization is accomplishing, ask any of the following Society members: Charles M. Beardsley, Kevin V. Claridge, (Hong Kong),

Profit Sharing

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ing plans. This includes communications to employees, administration of participant and trustee record keeping, and the reporting required by governmental agencies.

To illustrate the format of this book and its information, consider a typical chapter, 36 (Investment of Profit Sharing Funds) and its companion statistical data chapter, 37 (Investment Provisions of Member Plans). The first chapter gives the reader a perspective of the subject. Most of the important considerations are identified and discussed: who has primary responsibility of investing trust assets; legal and moral obligations of trustees; problems created by investments in employer securities; liquidity needs of profit sharing plans; differences of risk assumed by participants in pension and profit sharing plans and implications to investment policy; criteria to judge good investment management and establishing realistic investment goals.

Chapter 37 starts off with highlights from its survey of member plans: investment of company contributions is determined solely by the Trustees in the majority (60.1%) of member plans; investment committees are responsible for investments in 25.6% of plans and share the responsibility in 6.4% of plans; slightly more than a fourth (26.9%) of member plans permit investment in employer stock.

Survey details are given showing who determines plan investments (Trustee, Investment Committee, Plan Provision, Participant, Investment Counsel) by the characteristics of type of plan, size of plan, age of plan and pension coverage in effect. Similar data is given for investing in employer stock.

The book is concise, covers much territory, and should prove to be an excellent reference book for all interested in this subject. □

George R. Dinney, Peter N. Downing (England), Ardian Gill, Narindra Nath Handa (Singapore), Richard Humphrys, Meno T. Lake, Douglas R. McCulloch, Ian G. Michie, Wendell A. Milliman, E. J. Moorhead, Emeterio Roa, Jr. (Philippines), Walter W. Steffen, George N. Watson, Huntly G. Walker (Australia).

Actuarial Meetings

- Jan. 10, Baltimore Actuaries Club
- Jan. 21, Chicago Actuarial Club

Letters

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Centenarians

Sir:

The letter from Wilmer Jenkins (*The Actuary*, September 1973) stirred memories of the long history of the study of centenarians. Two instances may be mentioned.

Charles Babbage, FRS, the well-known mathematician, published in 1826 *A comparative view of the various institutions for the assurance of lives*, which included a table relating to 1,751 persons reaching the age of 100 and upwards. In this he was, perhaps, less critical of the ages than he should have been.

Thomas Emley Young, who was President of the Institute of Actuaries in 1896-98, published at about that time a book *On centenarians and the duration of the human race*. It was a careful and full enquiry which listed 27 cases of undisputed centenarians.

It is a pity that so much treasure lies forgotten and unworked.

Maurice E. Ogborn, F.I.A.

Another Definition



TERM

(Courtesy of Trinity Universal Insurance Company of Dallas, Texas)