

ACTUARIAL RESEARCH CLEARING HOUSE 1978 VOL. 2

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This issue of ARCH is devoted to the written presentations given at the Actuarial Research Conference on New Methods and Applications of Life Contingency Mathematics, held at Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana from August 31 to September 2, 1978.

The Conference was jointly sponsored by the Committee on Research of the Society of Actuaries and the Department of Mathematical Sciences of Ball State University. Richard Ziocck was Program Chairman of the Conference and John Beekman was Local-Arrangements Chairman. This was the thirteenth annual actuarial research conference sponsored by the Society of Actuaries.

The main concern of the conference was to explore current developments in life contingency mathematics. On the conceptual level, attention was given to surveying and comparing the conventional, rather deterministic model of mortality and interest rates with more modern, stochastic approaches. Calculation methods were reviewed in the light of recent advances in computer technology, and the value of the commutation functions used in traditional actuarial work was re-assessed. There was general agreement on the advisability of developing a more modern text on life contingency mathematics.

A helpful overview of the Ball State Conference presentations and discussions is given by James C. Hickman in the first paper of this issue. The presentations appearing in the remainder of the issue vary greatly in form, content, focus, length, relative amounts of textual and tabular material, and bibliographic detail. The reader is encouraged to review the material within his range of interest, to explore any thoughts or questions directly with the respective authors, and to communicate any suggestions regarding the planned new text book to one of the members of the writing team.

Our gratitude goes to Ball State University for their fine hospitality, to Dean Robert Carmin for his gracious welcome; and to Professor Duane Deal, Chairman of the Department of Mathematical Sciences, Professor John Beekman, and Dr. William Wetterstand for their splendid handling of the local arrangements.

