

# Reminiscences of The Old Fud

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Paul, Vi, Illustrious Ladies and Gentlemen. When Paul asked me if I would make a few remarks tonight, he asked me if I would feel comfortable reminiscing for a few minutes. I replied that you should never offer John Pearson a podium if you weren't entirely sure you wanted him; and incidentally how many minutes did he consider a few?

According to Webster, Reminisce is to indulge in reminiscence, which is defined as recall to mind of a long-forgotten experience or fact; or the process of telling about a past experience - often used in plural as Reminiscences 'of the old settler'. Well, in my case it will be Reminiscences of the old Fud.

When one has had the good fortune to have associated with so many, and had the opportunity to serve with so many on the Board of Life Insurance Medicine, the old Executive Committee of the MIB, and the several Committees and the Executive Council of ALIMDA, I could reminisce for hours, if anyone was willing to listen.

But, as Paul allowed as how I could have 5-10 or even 15 minutes, I'll mention just a few experiences which will recall to mind some of our illustrious confreres and some of the accomplishments of our Association.

A short and grossly incomplete reference to some of ALIMDA accomplishments:

1. The Herculean efforts of a few to bring to fruition an organization which would establish a means of training doctors in the specialty of life insurance medicine, culminating in the Board of Life Insurance Medicine, which happily has been sponsored by ALIMDA since its inception.
2. The release of direct administration of the MIB which finally culminated in its Incorporation just a couple of years ago. Some will recall that the MIB was started by ALIMDA and its functions were run by a Committee of this Executive Council for many years.

3. The reactivation of mortality investigations with the formation of the Mortality Monograph Committee which culminated in the publication of Medical Risks, and the continuing studies going on now with the prospect of a Volume II in the near future.
4. The accreditation of ALIMDA as a certifying body for continuing Medical Education.
5. The trials and tribulations associated with obtaining recognition of life insurance medicine as a specialty in medicine, to the point that we now have a representative on the Inter-Specialty Council of AMA, and as reported to us this morning by Paul Metzger, - have been approved for membership on the Inter-Specialty Advisory Board of the AMA.
6. The support our Association gave the now defunct Life Insurance Medical Research Fund, and the successful efforts of Tom Sexton to organize and establish the Insurance Medical Scientist Scholarship Fund to replace it.

I've written previously about potential mergers of insurance organizations and about competition in our everyday underwriting, so won't bring these two up here tonight.

Now, let's go on to *people* and indulge in some name dropping. Unfortunately time does not allow me to make an exhaustive list, but here are a few.

First, Roland A. Behrman, V.P. and Medical Director of the John Hancock who was first boss in this industry and Joseph L. Tansey who taught me the first rudiments of the job.

And then there was Harry Dingman, the crusty but very humorous author of the basic textbook on Risk Selection. Harry almost never said or wrote anything in sentences - just phrases.

Paul Langner whose job of Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Life Insurance Medicine I took over. Paul was

one of the truly researchers of our group - he was *the* recognized expert on the esoteric subject of hi-frequency electro-cardiography.

Tom Sexton, who I mentioned earlier as having kept the torch of insurance industry support of medical research and education alive after the Life Insurance Research Fund went down the drain.

Whit Reynolds who as President of ALIMDA conceived the idea of a Seminar for an annual meeting of the American Medical Association. A few of us worked many hours putting together a program whose objective was to educate the practicing physicians about life insurance medicine.

Al Larson, who for years was a tower of strength in this organization and who first approached me about ALIMDA officer status. That proposal came in the corridor at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco during the aforementioned AMA Seminar.

Those who were in attendance at our meeting in New Orleans will never forget Ralph Simmons in a white tuxedo and his wife dancing to the tune of the Anniversary Waltz on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Harry Cochran, and the sheer guts he displayed to at least open his meeting as President at the Palmer House in Chicago.

Frank Mathewson's 1969 attempt to give the Executive Council a dinner of Wild Canadian game at the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City, and having to settle for roast suckling pig instead.

Grant Irving's Committee to produce a uniform life insurance medical examination form in 1966-67. All of us on the Committee liked *our* form the best. Its amazing that Grant did get the job done. Then we had one hell-of-a job getting it approved by all of the state insurance commissioners. I recall that Illinois was one of the most capricious - approving the form for one company, but disapproving an identical submission from another company.

Don Yochem who invented an insulin syringe for the blind diabetic, and devised a self-locking and leak-proof top for urine specimen containers.

Charlie Kiessling, who with Annie Mary Lyle repeatedly astounded us with results of their research using the tremendous EKG file maintained by the Prudential.

Serge Pepper - at whose meeting in 1963 in New York we were served Dr. Pepper soft drinks at coffee break.

Last, but certainly not least, Harry Ungerleider. As a brash young stud in the business I had the gall to stand up and dispute with Harry one of his pontifical statements in discussion of some paper that had been presented. He promptly cut me down to size - but he never failed to recognize me thereafter.

And then there are and were the spouses. I wouldn't dare single out a few of them and it would take too long to name them all. So suffice it to say - they added much to our meetings long before we had any lady members.

I will always fondly remember the personal joys I've had watching those who carry on in the affairs of ALIMDA develop and assume greater responsibility within the organization.

Finally, I ask you all to remember that this Council, its officers and its Committees constitute the body which furnishes the continuity and has made the Association what it is and what it will continue to be. Handle your obligations wisely, remember the deeds of those who preceded you *only* to inspire further successes, and our association will continue to be, in the words of Mohamed Ali, the greatest.

Now - would you all please stand and join with me in raising a glass in salute and thanks to Paul and Vi for this wonderful evening. I am particularly grateful as Paul has allowed me to take an active role in the proceedings.