PRICE, Irene. January 16, 1902–March 13, 1999.
Indiana University (BA 1926, MA 1927, PhD 1932).

Irene Price was born in Parr, Indiana, the second of five children of Ruth Elizabeth (Schroer) (1875–1954), originally of Zanesville, Ohio, and William Edward Price (1874–1930), born near Rensselaer, Indiana. Her mother attended school through the eighth grade and her father through about the sixth grade. Her parents, who married September 24, 1899, farmed in northwestern Indiana. Her older sister, Lilly (1900–1932), finished high school and taught for four years before her marriage. Her next younger sister, Gladys (1903–1976), completed a master's degree and was a biology teacher in Macon, Georgia, until her marriage. Her brother, Lawson (1908–1984), was an electrical engineer and then a farmer before his retirement, while her youngest sister, Esther (1912–2006), finished high school, married, and was a beautician.

Irene Price attended high school in Rensselaer, Indiana, 1915–19 before teaching grade school in Rensselaer for the next four years. During the summer of 1921 she studied at Indiana State Normal School (now Indiana State University) in Terre Haute.

Price recalled many years later that she entered Indiana University thinking she knew what she wanted to do. "Mathematics was always my favorite subject and I just intended that eventually teaching high school was my goal, but when I got in college I had some very good professors who encouraged me to go on and get a doctorate" (Smithsonian meeting tapes 1981). She completed the work for her bachelor's degree at Indiana in 1926 and stayed there the next three years for her graduate work in mathematics. She was a part-time instructor at Indiana 1926–29, was awarded a Clara Javen Goodbody scholarship in 1927, and was an instructor in the extension division 1927–29. She earned her master's degree in 1927, and an article with the same title as that of her master's thesis appeared in the *American Mathematical Monthly* the following year. While at Indiana she also worked on a tables computation project directed by Harold T. Davis, which was published as a two-volume work in 1933 and 1935. Price's doctorate was granted by Indiana in 1932. At Indiana she was a member of Pi Lambda Theta and Kappa Delta Pi, education honor societies; Sigma Xi; and Phi Beta Sigma, a service fraternity.

After her graduate studies, Price had three somewhat distinct careers. She was a college professor for about fifteen years, then worked as a statistician for the US Air Force for a dozen years, and finally was self-employed as a real estate agent for more than forty years. From 1929 to 1944 she was professor of mathematics at Oshkosh Teachers College (now University of Wisconsin Oshkosh). She went to Oshkosh the year after the arrival of May Beenken, the department head. While there Price taught the full range of mathematics courses offered by the college. In addition to maintaining memberships in various professional associations, she was active in the Wisconsin Section of the MAA and served on the program committee 1934–35 and 1939–40 and as chairman of the section 1941–42. She also belonged to the Oshkosh Education Association, for which she served as treasurer for several years after 1936, and the AAUW, for which she was president of the Oshkosh branch 1942–43.

In 1944 Price began her employment as a statistician for the Headquarters of the Air Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. While

in Ohio she coauthored a technical report and taught several evening courses in college mathematics in Dayton and at Miami University in nearby Oxford. Price remained in Ohio until 1949, when she moved to Alamogordo, New Mexico, where she directed mathematical research on guided missiles at the Holloman Air Force Base until 1953. She then took a position as a mathematician at White Sands Proving Ground where she stayed until 1956. While in these positions she authored, sometimes jointly, technical reports about data reduction. These reports dealt with the recording of measurements made by sophisticated instruments such as miniature infrared analyzers (MIRAN) and firing error indicators (FEI). According to her obituary, "she was charged with developing mathematical theories of tracking the speed, path, and trajectory of missiles being tested at White Sands Missile Range." She also gave talks about this and related work in the early 1950s at conferences held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Holloman Air Force Base, and White Sands Proving Ground.

In 1956 Irene Price became owner of Price Realty and after 1956 was engaged in a number of professional activities associated with this business. She held various offices in the Alamogordo Board of Realtors, was district director of the New Mexico Realtors Association 1962–64, and was a member of the National Association of Realtors. In 1971 she taught a college course in real estate practice to retiring military at Holloman Air Force Base, and in 1978 she was named Alamogordo Realtor of the Year by the Alamogordo Board of Realtors. She retired from the real estate business in January 1998 at ninety-six.

In about 1940 Price described her hobbies as going on picnics and gardening. In 1981 Price reported other interests; she wrote that she was affiliated with the Christian Church and was a member of the John Birch Society, Business and Professional Women (treasurer 1957), the Republican Women's Club 1963–65, Women Aware, and the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce. She was also a trustee of the Betty Dare Foundation and a member of the advisory board of the Betty Dare Good Samaritan Center, a nursing home.

Irene Price was ninety-seven when she died at the Aristocrat Assisted Living Center in Alamogordo, New Mexico, in 1999. She was cremated and a memorial service was celebrated at a Christian Church in Alamogordo. She was survived by a sister, a cousin, and nieces and nephews.

Organizational affiliations: AMS, MAA, ASA, Econometric Soc., AAUW, Sigma Xi.

Thesis and dissertation:

1927 Laplace's calculus of generatrix functions. MA thesis, Indiana University.

1932 On a certain type of polynomials. PhD dissertation, Indiana University, directed by Kenneth Powers Williams and Harold Thayer Davis. Printed version, 1933, Edwards Brothers, Ann Arbor, MI.

Publications:

1928 Laplace's calculus of generatrix functions. *Amer. Math. Monthly* 35:228–35. Review: *Rev. semestr. publ. math.* 34, pt. 1: 30 (R. C. Archibald). Presented to the MAA, Greencastle, IN, 30 Apr 1927; abstract: *Amer. Math. Monthly* 34:344 #4.

1933–35 (Contributor) *Tables of the Higher Mathematical Functions*, 2 vols., compiled by Harold T. Davis. Bloomington, IN: The Principia Press. Volume 1 (1933): Table 6, The reciprocal gamma function, 269–73; Tables 7 and 8, The psi function, 291–311 and 313–33. Reviews of vol. 1: *J. Amer. Stat. Assoc.* 29:235–36 (T. Abel); *Quarterly Rev. Biol.* 10: 117. Volume 2 (1935): with Anna Lescisin and Marion B. Shelley, Gram polynomials: Table 40 the straight line, 325–29; Table 41 the parabola, 331–35; Table 42 the cubic,

337–39; Table 43 the quartic, 341–43; Table 44 the quintic, 345–47; Table 45 the sextic, 349–53; Table 46 the septimic, 355–59. Reviews of vol. 2: *Amer. Math. Monthly* 43:486 (P. Franklin); *J. Amer. Stat. Assoc.* 31:759–60 (J. D. Elder).
1942 I doubt it–a mathematical card game. *Amer. Math. Monthly* 49:117.

Technical reports:
1948 with M. A. Schneiderman. Use of sampling for verifying IBM cards. Project CA-M-14, Analysis Office, Comptroller's Department, Headquarters of the Air Materiel Command, Dayton, OH. April. Restricted distribution.
1950a Location of target boards for cinetheodolites at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. Holloman Air Force Base, NM.
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1952b with W. G. Holland. Determination of yaw and pitch of a missile from photographs. Report no. 2, Technical Staff, Holloman Air Force Base, NM. Restricted distribution.
1953a with C. A. Bodwell. Accuracy requirements of timing for cinetheodolites. White Sands Proving Ground, NM. December. Restricted distribution.
1953b with C. A. Bodwell. Theoretical evaluation of the capabilities of the Miran instrumentation system. Holloman Air Force Base, NM. February. Restricted distribution.
1955 with C. A. Bodwell. Tables of the derivatives of the orthogonal polynomials. White Sands Proving Ground, NM. May. Restricted distribution.

Abstract not listed above:
1935 Concerning a special type of polynomial. *Amer. Math. Monthly* 42:471 #2. Presented to the MAA, Milwaukee, 4 May 1935.

References to: AmMSc 6-8, 9P; AmWom 1935–40.
"Irene Price, 97, Alamogordoan." (Obituary) *Alamogordo Daily News*, 16 Mar 1999.

Other sources: Owens questionnaires 1937, 1940; Smithsonian questionnaire 1981; Smithsonian meeting tapes 1981; communications with Indiana University Alumni Association and Alamogordo (NM) Public Library; US Census 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 IN, 1930 WI; SSDI.

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