

# Faces of Risk Management:

## Truman Pope

*The best way to tell the story of URMIA and the growth of the profession is through the voices of our members. In this series, we explore our history through our members' own stories, photos and memories.*

### Words from the past: Early URMIA member Truman Pope

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This note from Truman Pope was submitted to URMIA in the late 1980s or early 1990s.

When Uncle Sam cut me off from the good life of free room and board plus almost \$20 a week, my plans were to become a member of the Indiana State Police. As the next recruit class didn't begin for eight months, I took a "temporary" position at Ball State University that turned out to last over 40 years. I found that a college campus is certainly a super place to be employed. Ball State joined URMIA in 1971, and I attended all the annual meetings except two during my tenure. URMIA was the most friendly and interesting organization that I ever experienced. The relationships were close, and, in Charlie Emerson's words, we became family. We still correspond with many of the former members and have visited several. During my time with URMIA, Mary Breighner and I established a recognition service for retiring URMIA members, which I hope is still being utilized as it has meant a lot to those who have retired.

*Truman Pope was risk manager at Ball State University and served as president of URMIA in 1982-1983. In 1994, Truman received URMIA's highest honor, the Distinguished Risk Manager award, for his contributions to the profession and the association.*



**URMIA's 1983 Annual Conference, Birmingham, AL**  
President Truman Pope at the 14th Annual Conference (back row, 4th from the right).



UNIVERSITY RISK MANAGEMENT &  
INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

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For Georgia and me, these are truly the golden years. We've been to England, Hawaii, and California several times. We enjoy our home on the banks of the White River and do a lot of flower gardening and lawn work. I'm probably the only employee who received a chainsaw as a retirement gift from his department, but how practical a gift it was. I've used it heavily each year, and it's essential to keep the river debris in check. Having been involved in Scouting since the '60s, I'm now a full-time volunteer Scouter. Along with three other adults, I took a Boy Scout patrol to England last year to an international Camp. I correspond by e-mail with Scouters in Europe, Hong Kong, and New Zealand. My interest in vexillology (flags) was heightened by finding a website for a national organization which I've joined.

Georgia is enjoying her club, sorority, herbs, baskets, and flowers. Yes, she still likes to laugh. We both enjoy the activities of our three married children and our one grandchild and are looking forward to more. We keep in touch with the university through our free passes to athletic events, stage shows, and cultural happenings, and it never forgets us in its many fund drives. We enjoy the four seasons and the Indiana winters, especially when we don't have to get out in the weather.

Charlie Emerson once told me the only good thing to come out of Indiana was I-65 bringing all the Hoosiers down to Kentucky to bet on the horse races, but I've found that it's a beautiful and interesting place to have grown up and raised a family. We've lived through interesting times: Coolidge; Hoover, the Depression; the Roosevelt years; that fateful Sunday of December 7; the post-war years; Korea; Vietnam; the working years; and, now, retirement. URMIA holds so many pleasurable memories for both of us, and each of our former friends holds a special place in our lives.

I hold my friends and colleagues in URMIA in great respect and affection. Of the awards that I have been presented during my many years of community service and university affiliation, the plaque in my office which is inscribed, "President - University Risk Management and Insurance Association, 1982-1983," is by far the one which I most treasure.



Eugene P. Marquart, Cindy Schmidt, Truman Pope, Mary Brieghner, Ernest Conti, Thomas C. Halvorson, President William O. Park, Alex J. Ratka, Neil A. Poppensiek, Robert L. Sinclair, Murray C. Edge, and Barbara Wolf.

## **URMIA's 1984 Annual Conference, Washington, DC**

URMIA's Board of Directors (Truman Pope pictured 3rd from right).



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Friends and Colleagues of University Risk Management Insurance Association

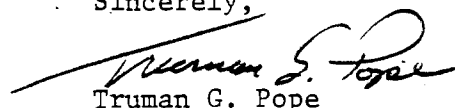
The academic year 1982-83 was probably the last "good year" before the debacle of '84 struck sending the insurance markets into one of the most disastrous situations in recent times. Umbrella coverage was readily available then at the rate of \$800 per million. Today a million may cost \$14,000 if you can find it. But despite present hard times, 1982-83, like most other years, was one in which we all did our best to supply our respective universities with adequate protection at the least cost. We are unanimous in our opinion that ours is an enjoyable occupation with a certain amount of excitement that one does not find in other areas of our department. The uniqueness of some of the situations in which we find ourselves could be the subject of an interesting book.

The RIMS university industry meeting of 1982-83 was held in Los Angeles, chaired by Marty Siegel and Mary Breighner, and fairly well attended by URMIA members. The highlight of the year was our annual conference which was hosted by the University of Alabama-Birmingham and its Risk Manager, John Walker. A first was established in that all name tags and programs were entirely computer produced. Many of us were most impressed by our first personal association with the London market in the person of Peter Wilson of H. S. Weaver Underwriters Agency. Our treasury had grown to around \$15,000 and we took steps to increase our own protection by purchase of a fidelity bond and additional liability coverages. We added ten new members, notably Vanderbilt and its Risk Manager, Bob Sinclair, to bring our total membership to one hundred fifty two of which the institutional split was about 40% private and 60% public. Work on the development of a History of URMIA was reported by Rena Schlager. Two committees were established, a Conference Committee and a Research and Development Committee. The Finance Committee was disbanded.

In a lighter sense, the group enjoyed a most memorable night at THE CLUB with its fabulous mountain top view of the lights and sights of Birmingham. The three actors known as "Wits Other End" had us rolling in the aisles and were just the dessert for a truly delicious meal. To add still further to these delights, John Walker arranged for a tour of the Alabama Space and Rocket Center and NASA. Most of have relived some of those educational moments in recent months of NASA publicity.

In closing, I wish to state that I hold my friends and colleagues in URMIA in great respect and affection. Of the various clubs and organizations with which I have been associated, I can truly say that my membership in URMIA has been one of the most pleasurable and rewarding relationships of my career. Of the awards that I have been presented during my many years of community service and university affiliation, the plaque in my office which is inscribed: PRESIDENT - University Risk Management Insurance Association - 1982-83, is by far the one which I most treasure. Thanks for the pleasure and memories of your past and continued friendship in a great organization.

Sincerely,



Truman G. Pope

President - 1982-83