



Tom Hensler

Genealogy Research Instructor
at Bayley University
Cincinnati, Ohio

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From the Dawn of Electronic Data Processing — 63 Years Later

On **May 22, 1963**, the young men in the first photograph were part of a pioneering team at Western & Southern Life Insurance that helped move the company from a paper-based operation into the emerging world of **electronic data processing**.

Think about that date. This was long before personal computers, the Internet, smartphones, or cloud computing. These men were helping introduce computers into everyday business when corporate computing itself was still in its infancy.

Two members of that team, **Ray Mazza and his boss, Ray Blankenship**, formed a friendship that has endured ever since. Over the years, they continued to celebrate the anniversary of that important 1963 accomplishment—and, perhaps even more importantly, the friendship that grew from it.

Now fast-forward **63 years**.

The second photograph was taken today at the celebration of **Ray Blankenship's 100th birthday**. Standing with him is **Ray Mazza, now 91**.

And joining them is **John Barrett, the current CEO of Western & Southern**—personally honoring two men who helped bring his company into the computer age more than six decades ago.

There is something wonderful about these two photographs side by side: **the pioneers who helped build the future in 1963, still together in 2026—and today's leader of the company taking the time to honor the people who helped make that future possible**.

Technology changes. Companies change. Generations of leadership come and go.

But friendship, loyalty, institutional memory, and respect for the people who came before us can endure.

Congratulations on 100 years, Ray Blankenship—and what a wonderful tribute by Western & Southern to a remarkable piece of its history.

Classy indeed.