

SASKATCHEWAN LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

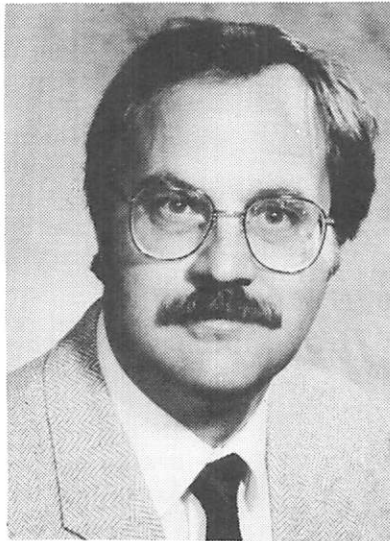
President's Message to the Membership

By M.A. Marien, SLS, President

I can remember staring out of my grade four class room window at spring while the buzz of learning went on in the background. Melting snow creating spring rivers down streets, rubber boots that were too short, rafting on sloughs that ended with a chilling dump and scoldings about catching a death of a cold. Not much has changed. Well perhaps everything has changed except the part about staring out my window at spring. I sometimes have a difficult time convincing myself that this office work has to be completed when the temperature has changed from a chilly thirty below to a comfortable fifteen above.

I just returned from the Ontario AGM in Toronto. During the introduction of the new President, the nominator relayed a conversation they had. The prospective candidate asked his friend, a Past President, if he would do it again. "Not on your life" was his reply. He then went on to explain that he wouldn't have passed the opportunity up for anything in the world either. I checked around me to see Presidents from other provinces nod in silent agreement. I think the feeling is universal no matter what the task.

It has been an interesting year. With every new good idea that I discovered in my travels, I wondered why we had never thought of that and resolved to do something about it immediately upon returning. Another President agreed with my eagerness, but



admitted that he had little time left to complete the current workload let alone act on all the new ideas that he discovered in other provinces. I reluctantly had to agree. We even discussed the idea that the Vice President should do the travelling. This would allow him the time during his presidency to put in practice what he had learned. All being Presidents in the discussion, we laughed and tossed that idea aside.

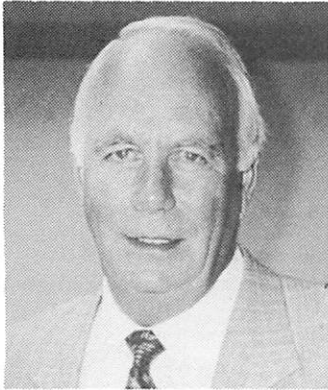
The most frequent comment heard, not matter where I travelled, was how similar the questions are that we all had to deal with. When I look back on the recent initiatives within our own association, I see that many are modelled after similar projects across the country.

(continued on page 491)

Inside This Issue

• Council Highlights	476
• Surveyor's Corner	477
• Promote and Prosper	480
• Relief for Battery Addicts	484
• Nomination Committee	485
• CCLS Report	487
• Councillor's Comments	490
• And MORE!	

Council Highlights



**By M.R. Skelton, SLS
Executive Director**

The Saskatchewan Land Surveyors Newsletter is published by the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association for circulation to its members.

Deadlines for articles will be the last Friday in December, March, June and September.

The opinions of the contributing writers may not be consistent with those of the Council of the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association. Articles may be reprinted with appropriate credit given to the authors.

Address all correspondence to:
2nd Floor, 2402 2nd Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan S4R 1A6
Phone:306/352-8999
Fax:306/352-8366

Office hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1994/95 Council

President	Murray A. Marien
Vice President	Doug A. Bouck
Past President	Tom R. Webb
Councillors	Alan I. Jensen Ian R. Stark N. Scott Whitley Bill C. Soroski

Executive Director	Murray R. Skelton
Executive Assistant	Rhonda Sitoski
Editor	Doug A. Bouck

Sixth Meeting February 9, 1995

The sixth meeting of Council was held on Thursday, February 9, 1995 in the Association Boardroom. One member of Council was absent.

The President called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and highlighted his attendance at the Corporation of British Columbia Land Surveyors Association 90th Annual Meeting held in Vancouver on January 18, 19 and 20, 1995. He further advised he will be attending the Ontario Land Surveyors' Association Annual Meeting on February 22nd to 25th, 1995. The Vice President is representing the Association at the North Dakota Land Surveyors Annual Meeting.

Survey Monument Task Force

The latest draft was received and a meeting has been scheduled during the upcoming Seminar on February 17, 1995 at 8:00 a.m. at which time the Task Force will finalize the draft and proceed with the next course of action.

Cadastral Chair

Council discussed a letter received from L.H. Pratt, President of the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association. The Secretary Treasurer was instructed to advise Mr. Pratt that the membership and Council of this Association supports the continuation of the Cadastral Chair.

University of Calgary Award

A letter received from the University of Calgary dated January 18, 1995 indicated that the revised conditions which will be used to select the 1995 recipient as requested by Council has been accepted.

Discipline/Complaints

The Council dealt with three complaints against members, all of which have been resolved. The Council considers these matters closed.

Awards

Guy Craig presented Rob Bushman with the I.W. Tweddell Memorial Award at the University of Saskatchewan. As well, Mr. Kevin Sorenson was the recipient of the Association's Award at the University of Calgary.

The meeting recessed at 11:45 a.m. for lunch. John

Wolfenberg, Ken Engel and Trent Good from the Municipal Services Division of Saskatchewan Municipal Government joined the Council for lunch. The meeting reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

Professional Liability Insurance Seminar

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the Seminar will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 1995 at the Seven Oaks Hotel in Regina commencing at 12:30 p.m.

Executive Committee

Council reviewed the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of January 23, 1995 and a summary of administrative options.

Convention

The Chairman of the Convention Committee suggested 25 year pins be given to members at the supper dance at the Annual General Meeting. Council concurred

and instructed the Secretary Treasurer to order the 25 year pins.

Education

A written report was received from the Chairman together with a proposed Professional Development Credit Form and a proposed letter to the membership. The Secretary Treasurer was instructed to forward the form to the membership.

E.J. Grenkie appeared before Council from 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. and gave a verbal report on his RPR Inspection Report.

The President adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m. The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Monday, April 17, 1995 in the Association Boardroom commencing at 10:00 a.m.♦

Surveyor's Corner

- The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17, 1995 in the Association Boardroom commencing at 10:00 a.m.

- The Professional Liability Insurance Seminar will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 1995 commencing at 12:30 p.m. at the Seven Oaks Hotel in Regina, 777 Albert Street. A \$200.00 discount is again offered this year. Hope to see you there!

- A Committee Workshop will be held in the Association Office on Tuesday, April 18, 1995 commencing at 10:00 a.m. to discuss strategies of the Committees for the future.

- Once again the Annual Meeting is fast approaching. The Committee Report deadline is Monday, April 24, 1995. Please ensure your reports are submitted. See you at the meeting!

- SIAST Palliser Institute will be holding a series of workshops to help you learn about GPS. Several of the courses are: Fundamentals of GPS

For Managers, Introduction into GPS, Advanced GPS and GPS/GIS Integration. These courses begin the latter part of March and run through May 1995. Anyone interested may contact the SLISA Office for more information or contact Blaine Renwick at SIAST Palliser Campus directly at (306) 694-3223.

- SACSTT Annual Meeting will be held at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel in Saskatoon on April 22, 1995. Guest Speaker Vicki Smith, Western Computer Link - Saskatoon, will present a seminar talk entitled "An Introduction to the Internet - Find out what all the hype is about." Anyone can attend the seminar for a \$10.00 registration fee.

- The Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (13 western state surveying societies) is having its bi-annual conference in Denver, Colorado, September 24 - 30, 1995. For more information call (503) 640-3405 or the SLISA Office.♦

Ramblings of a Disgruntled Surveyor

The following letter is from a "Disgruntled Surveyor" (Bill Webster, O.L.S.). The AOLS Council, Administration and Public Relations Committee share some of his concerns.

Buyer Beware

Title Insurance for the new Purchase/Homeowner/Property Investor seems to be an inexpensive alternative in the land transfer process. It may be a time bomb. Title Insurance seems to nicely satisfy the mortgage lenders **but** where does the new Purchaser fit into this scenario?

The inherent value of a land survey, being usually in the form of the "Surveyor's Real Property Report", must somehow be communicated to the consumer, the Purchaser.

Having only Title Insurance to rely on, how can a Purchaser be aware of, concerned with, or allow for, the possibility of the following conditions?

1. Prescriptive Easements or Rights-of-Way that the property may have become subject to, or together with over a period of time and/or usage, which do not show up as registered on title at the local Registry Office.

2. Does the actual legal description of the property conform substantially to the existing site conditions? Do occupied boundaries correspond to the paper title? Is there potential for claims of Adverse Possession?

3. Is the property satisfactorily and sufficiently Monumented by official or verifiable survey monuments? Are these monuments currently in their intended and correct positions?

4. Will you later discover Encroachment problems? If your property is encroached upon, it could cause a reduction in terms of the full enjoyment thereof. (Is this enjoyment reduction recoverable and at a reasonable cost?) What if in due course a neighbour contracts to have their property surveyed and discovers that your fence, hedge, pool, garage, curb or laneway or the like encroaches onto their property? Who owns the liability and who pays to rectify the situation? Does Title Insurance cover the Homeowner?

What if you decide to now hire a surveyor to verify for your own satisfaction that your neighbour's new survey is correct? What about potential court costs,

possible physical relocation costs for certain features of your property to remedy an encroachment, possible loss of a heretofore friendly neighbour?

5. Do Property Improvements constructed by prior property owners presently comply with local municipal rules and regulations? (such as carports, additions to main dwelling, garages, walkways, decks, etc.)

6. Does it seem wise to accept and rely on Statutory Declarations of Possession or Affidavits sworn by the present owner (vendor) attesting to existing conditions with respect to property improvements and zoning compliance? Does a vendor's unqualified opinion **protect the needs of the purchaser**? Also, honestly and most realistically, we must all recognize a perfectly natural and expected bias on the part of a vendor to want the sale to proceed.

A Surveyor's Real Property Report shows existing conditions up-front. Buyer Beware. Title Insurance is a purchaser's expense for a lender's enhanced security. A valid question a purchaser must address is, although it appears some cost savings may be realized now by accepting "cheap insurance" aren't they just engaging in a slick and sophisticated form of Russian Roulette?

The potential for long term savings in terms of a purchaser's property tenure and future marketability thereof should not be underestimated. **The Surveyors' Real Property Report is not only FULL value in terms of its cost, BUT, in the long run could prove to be the purchaser's best Title Insurance of all.** The purchaser can judge before closing, what problems may lie ahead and address them from a forewarned position.

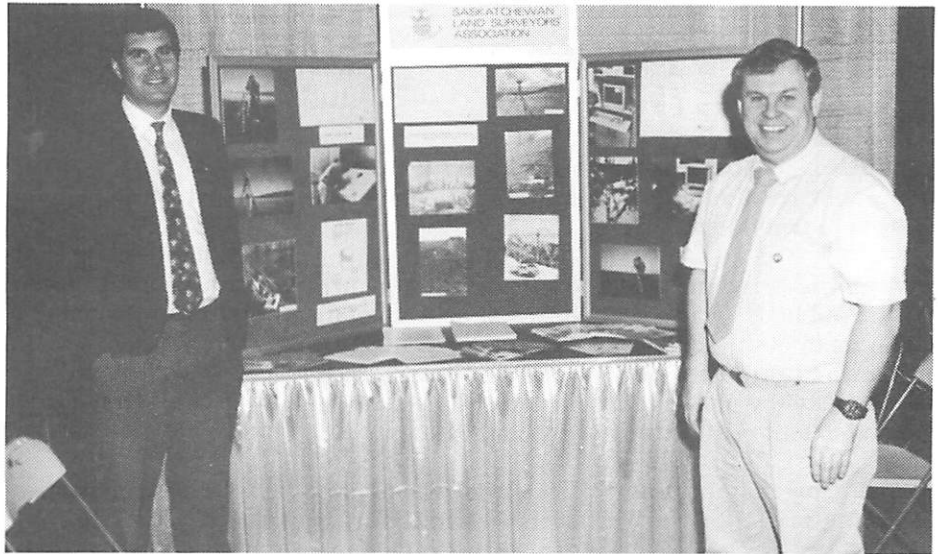
The mortgage lenders' interest lies in securely receiving mortgage payments, not in one's ability to fully enjoy the property as purchased. Strictly business on their part.

Choices and their implications should be clear and informed. Perhaps it is the onus of the surveying

(continued on page 479)

SIAST Palliser Campus - Career Fair

On February 7, 1995, Doug Bouck (left) representing the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association and Jim Wicks (right) representing SACSTT, attended the SIAST Palliser Campus Career Fair. Several long discussions were had with a number of students on surveying as a career. ♦



An Effective Executive Director!

As seen in the HP Views, November 1994 issue.

- Is a consensus builder
- Involves board members
- Knows the issues which affect the organization including the pros and cons, and has the facts
- Enables the board to govern knowledgeably by communicating the right amount of information at the right time
- Provide synthesis, analysis and options for action; boards require governance, not management, information
- Communicates complete, concise and accurate information. ♦

Ramblings of a Disgruntled Surveyor (continued)

(continued from page 478)

profession to inform (educate) the legal profession. Is it not our responsibility to help lawyers protect themselves and their clients by enabling them to properly inform their clients of the benefits of an up-to-date Surveyor's Real Property Report? Could our input to lawyers enable them to be more

knowledgeable and thereby more professional in terms of their real estate clients? Thus they possibly would respect our input and our professional position and endorse our surveying activities more enthusiastically!

Promote and Prosper!

By John Ward, O.L.S. as seen in the Ontario Land Surveyor, Winter 1995 issue.

Promotion of the Profession

Good public relations is essential if the interest of the public is to truly be protected.

Good public relations like good marketing ensures that the public is aware of the very real benefits of the procurement of the services of a professional surveyor. An informed public is better equipped to maximize these benefits by making informed decisions as to the type and extent of surveying services they require.

Consider for example the work dentistry has done promoting preventative dentistry. What about the advantages to a developer of integrated and "controlled" survey engineering systems?

An informed public is protected. They are protected from inadvertently selecting inappropriate or substandard services.

Professional Development

Trainers who work extensively with professionals often "mask" marketing skill development with names like business development skills, negotiating skills or communication skills. Whatever the label, marketing skills are an indispensable tool for any service business.

Perhaps it is possible, in theory, to build a business without marketing but in practice the facts are that the top entrepreneurs invest 50% of their time in marketing.

"the facts are that the top entrepreneurs invest 50% of their time in marketing"

It is also a fact that most professionals who skillfully promote business relationships instead of projects are awarded bigger shares of the market.

Regardless, tough markets are forcing professional firms to follow examples set by other business and to participate in marketing activities. These activities can be detrimental to the company and the profession if the sales representatives are unskilled and

inexperienced.

Unskillful selling is also bad for the already tarnished reputation of sales professionals. There are illustrations available daily on American television where lawyers set out to imitate professional sales people with their rendition of the "hard sell". Usually it is not the content but the crude unskilled presentation technique that offends the viewer.

In the past, exposure to these offensive commercials has led many of us to swear off marketing. The activity is deemed to be humiliating and representative of conduct unbecoming a professional, an activity best left for those suffering from a chronic lack of both self esteem and integrity.

Yet many of the marketing skills, techniques and activities duplicate those of good communication and negotiation. Studies indicate that clients value interpersonal (communication/marketing) skills over technical competence. This leaves the untrained professional with principles intact but client relations at risk.

Furthermore, the untrained professional is at a disadvantage when negotiating with people trained in sales and communication techniques.

Finally, the client is at risk since they are expected to select professionals and professional services without a clear appreciation of either the service or the associated client benefits.

"Studies indicate that clients value interpersonal (communication/marketing) skills over technical competence."

Sales research and practical examples confirm the prosperous businesses with steady work flow are sustained as much by marketing as by economy, competence and consistency of service.

Why then do most of us fail to acquire these business

development skills and apply them?

Personally, I didn't learn about these marketing skills because I just didn't want to! I had enough dusty life skills in my cranial cupboards. Enough disappointments. The thought of selling myself, my company or my profession terrified me — it was that simple!

If, like me, in attempting to market, you have your share of what marketing people call "challenges and

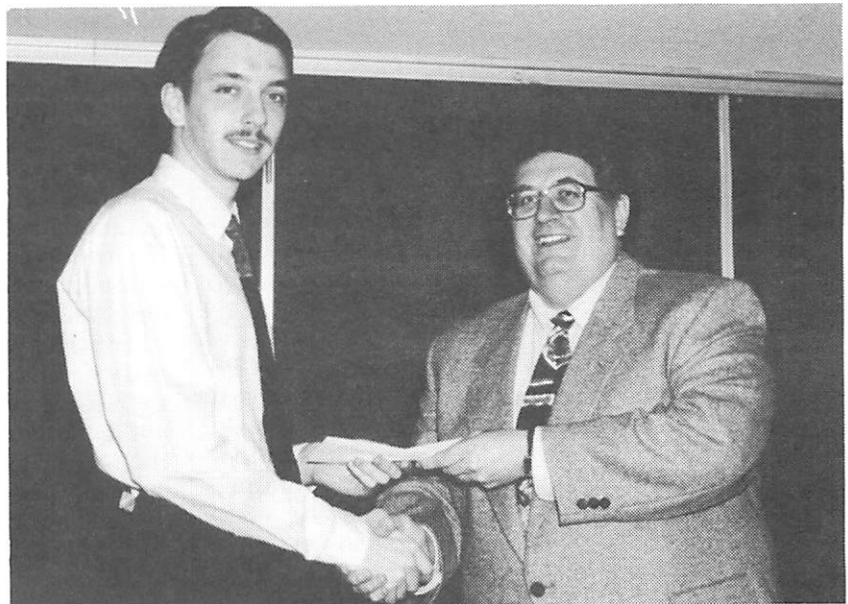
opportunities in disguise" (i.e. failure, frustration, humiliation) then perhaps you need:

- some advice
- some skill
- some support

If so, why not talk to your Public Relations Committee representatives at the next Association of Ontario Land Surveyors' convention? Maybe together we can find a comfortable way to promote and prosper. ♦

SLSA Award

Dr. Brian Wood, Program Head of Surveying Engineering Technology (right) presented the annual \$250.00 SLSA scholarship award to Mr. Derek Joseph Seeley (left) at the Engineering Technology Division Scholarship Presentation Ceremony on Wednesday, February 22, 1995 in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. ♦



Regina Regional Group Meeting

The third Regina Regional Group Meeting was held on January 18, 1995 at the Regina Flying Clubhouse.

Topics of discussion included: The Survey Monument Task Force, WCBE problems, Destruction of Survey Monuments in Prince Albert, the new Act, Cadastral Chair,

Public Relations, Real Property Report standards, RPR registry and the Executive Director's position.

Considering the current increase in the economy and our surveyors being busy, the meeting was a success with thirteen members attending. ♦

The Ultimate GPS Bearing Tree

As seen in the ALS News, December 1994 issue.

GPS, the ultimate bearing tree?

Land surveying has always been a mixture between the "art" of evidence and records evaluation and the "science" of measurement and adjustment. The average citizen does not distinguish between these two elements. Unfortunately, many a land surveyor cannot distinguish between the two either. The advent of EDM's and calculators or computers brought the science side to the forefront; while the other side has begun to truly be a lost "art".

This evolution is about to make another major jump. GPS has inundated us with toys, new math, and new techniques to apply to our surveying projects. While geodetic surveys are primarily the best application for GPS at this time, cadastral work has been done successfully also. What scares this author to death is the science side of surveying starting to think about the idea of GPS replacing monumentation on the ground.

There are many arguments for the "accuracy" of GPS and its applications to the real world. Most agree that at least a minimal geodetic network needs to remain on the ground by existing monuments. Granted, datum changes and new "adjustments" may continue through the future and a monument will receive a new "official position". But what about the land net?

I have heard people talk about GPS becoming the ultimate bearing tree: A reference to the corner location that truly could not be cut down, burned, pushed or even falsified. Some surveyors are starting to have the idea that there is no need for permanent monumentation — the position could be re-established so easily once GPS is an everyday tool, and so more accurately.

I agree, there is a use for GPS in the cadastral world. Jefferson or Lincoln would be shocked to think that we could reset a position more accurately from a satellite thousands of miles away than we could from a bearing tree 50 feet away; and we probably could! Accuracy is one of the big selling points for GPS. But we must be careful not to lose sight of the relationship between accuracy and the "true" position of a corner.

Since Biblical time, the sanctity of a land monument

has been codified. One might assume the purpose of a monument was to remind the surveyor where he measured from the last time he was there. But the real purpose of a monument was to forever fix the bounds of a tract of land. This was more for the benefit of the landowner than the future surveyor. Monuments are the real world tie the landowner has with his deed and/or survey. (This same point highlights how our profession has sold its soul; the setting of multiple monuments or the calling of a local monument to be out of position does not serve the landowner. He cannot understand five rebar in a 1 foot circle or a single rebar which is noted on a plat as not being the true point.)

Surveyors are told to "retrace the old surveyor's footsteps." The basics of land law demand that a lost monument be placed back in its original position. The method used to re-establish a corner point starts with accessories, such as bearing trees. GPS could serve well as an accessory, but not to the exclusion of other evidences. What may happen in the next few years of this? GPS will become a rather common methods of measuring. Land boundary monuments will be damaged or destroyed, as has always been. The new generation of surveyors will quickly access the local GIS (or equivalent) to obtain the "true official geodetic position of the corner". They will go out to the field with their little GPS unit and reset the corner at the precise geodetic position. The project will be complete and with the bill will be sent out.

Something important is missing from the scenario given above. I have no doubt that given the proper tools and approach to GPS, the point can be "re-established" within a few millimetres. But that is not the issue. Where was the original monument? There are so many other considerations before this mathematical solution should have been employed. What about local monuments that purport to be in the original position? What about other ties from surveys or deeds? What about testimony from a competent local resident? What about a property orientation to other monuments in the area? These all must be considered heavily.

When the EDM arrived, many so-called surveyors quickly gave up the art of searching for the corners

and became expert measurers and adjusters. GPS will bring this "wave" of new thinking again. We should be teaching our new surveyors that accuracy is of little value to the land surveyor — it is evidence of the original position that counts in this sort of case. We must be ready for a continued exodus from professional land surveying to the wilderness of mathematical solutions.

How then, can GPS fit into this framework of procedure to set an apparently missing corner? If geodetic coordinates have been established on a monument, they cannot be ignored. They must be weighed in with the other evidences. But the "lazy" or unprofessional surveyor will opt for the quick-fix location; reset at the "record" coordinate position. But what if the GPS position of record was done incorrectly? Is there a legal document field showing the method, computations, adjustments, and assumptions made when those coordinates were established? Of course not? So the GPS coordinates of "record" are of no more value than any of the other solutions.

When establishing a "lost" GLO corner, would we use the GPS solution before using the methods of proportionate measurements given in the BLM Manual? It certainly is worth considering if no other local evidence is available. We sometimes forget that proportioning is to be the absolute last resort. This is the sort of situation where a GPS geodetic coordinate solution might be acceptable. But not until all of the other possible sources of evidence have been exhausted. What is the conclusion of all this? GPS is a wonderful tool for measuring. It is not corner evidence. I firmly believe we need to establish good geodetic positions on all land corners for the purpose of common referencing in a GPS.

These same positions can help the land surveyor in his evidence evaluation for a boundary to be established. But GPS cannot be the ultimate bearing tree. It cannot replace the need for the land owner and society itself to see and touch the controlling corner of a parcel of land. GPS should not be the panacea to missing monuments of record, no matter what is used to establish the "record" coordinates. GPS is just like any other data in the survey of land boundaries; another piece of evidence to be weighed in the determination of a property corner.

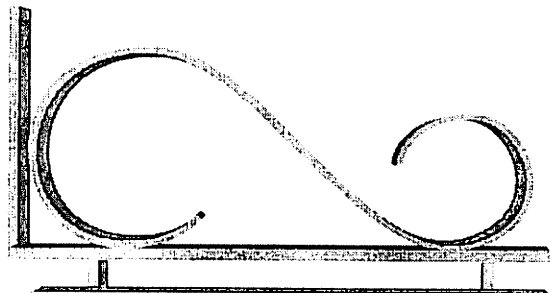
Let us be watchful of our attitude towards technology in general. High-tech is a tool for us to get in the right

neighbourhood, but the Professional Land Surveyor will truly walk in the footsteps, and will consider the art that makes him different from the scientist. We must be sure our land surveyors in training are not given the wrong idea of what GPS is going to do. Let's make sure we don't oversell the use of GPS to the public, and how we will put in their property corners in the "precise" position. Let's just put in the correct location.

Why do I have such fears of a stampede in the wrong direction? Because we did exactly that when EDM's came along — we sold our soul to technology in the public's eye and forgot what our profession is all about.

GPS - the ultimate bearing tree?

Not really. Just another tool to mention along with chains, brush hooks, compasses, theodolites, and total stations. It is a measuring tool, not a monument or an accessory. Let us be sure we understand the difference so we can maintain and upgrade the professional side of our trade. We will always need monuments on the ground that really do represent the corner, and we will always need real land surveyors to weigh the evidence. ♦



FOR SALE

In Calgary!

Land survey company, established 30 years, proven sales and cash flow, vendor will carry qualified purchaser, package available, enquiries to
Fax (403) 281-5389.
Phone (403) 251-5433.

Relief for Battery Addicts

By Vaughn C. Button, L.S., as seen in *The Cornerpost*, Journal of the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors, September 1994 issue.

There I was — 4:30 p.m... About a 45 minute hike back to the van...One more pin to set — the day would be complete — a sizable check was waiting — not to mention a cold one in the fridge...

Hold it! Low Bat??? - Can't be.

There it goes... a soft wailing squeeeeeeel....

My shoulders slumped. I charged these batteries myself just yesterday. Damn. No tape with us. Pack it up, head out. Three hours wasted before we could get back to this... All for the lack of ten minutes more battery time!

This ever happen to you? As the technology we depend upon in this business advances, we have become increasingly more dependent on rechargeable batteries. E.D.M.s, radios, calculators, maybe a laptop computer, etc. Each battery-operated piece of equipment has a different battery configuration. I'm convinced this is to justify charging \$200, for a battery package to run your instrument, when you can get a double battery pack to run a kid's toy car for \$12.98 at K-Mart.

Anyway, I ran across an article by Mark Minasi in *COMPUTE* magazine November, 1992, which goes a long way toward explaining the care and feeding of rechargeables. The authority consulted was Phil DeSantis, marketing and sales manager of the Battery Systems Division of HM Electronics in San Diego.

The most shocking revelation - rechargeable batteries do not have a "memory!" What does take place inside the case is a build-up of salt-like crystalline formations called "dendrites". Dendrites form from the heat of charging. A certain amount of heat is inevitable during the charge cycle, but overcharging is the real culprit. Putting your batteries on the charger every night just to be sure they won't betray you on the job, is probably the most detrimental to the battery. Another life-shortener — charging a hot battery.

So, do you play taps over the carcasses of your lifeless cell cases? Call the caterer for the wake? Is it Sayonara to the slick black cub with the oriental

hieroglyphics on the side? NO!! Cheer up! You can perform the miracle of resurrection and restore youth to these relics.

"Where do I plug in" you say. First, discharge the battery until each cell produces no more than one volt, then recharge. Repeat this cycle twice more. This will disperse most of the dreaded Dendrites.

Be careful not to discharge below one volt because it's possible to reverse the polarity of the battery which would unleash unspreadable atrocities within your equipment (you might be able to turn angles only to the left, or all your coordinates would increase toward the south!)

If you are sure that the battery is a total loss, you can recell it yourself. I have replaced the individual cells in the battery cases for my instrument several times. First, I was absolutely sure I needed to buy a new battery, therefore I could afford to experiment with the old case. The most difficult part of the operation was opening the case. These cases are usually two pieces of plastic glued together. I was able to detect the seams and insert a sharp object like an Exacto knife. (If this doesn't work, hold the battery very carefully at the pointy part of the wedge on your woodsplitter... watch your fingers!)

Once separated, you can identify the voltage, size and number of individual cells required. (I was able to obtain an exact match at Radio Shack for twelve bucks.) The cells need to be soldered together, but if you pay attention to the orientation of the olds cells, you can easily assemble the replacements. Be sure to keep the unit as compact as possible...the case has no extra room. I simply wrapped the case with wide shipping tape afterward, instead of regluing. The rebuilds work fine, and took about as long to repair as watching a Rosanne rerun. ♦

*Criticism is something we can avoid easily
by saying nothing, doing nothing and
being nothing.*

Aristotle

Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee is pleased to present a proposed list of candidates for Council of the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association, to be presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting in May 1995

Respectfully submitted.
T.R. Webb



Vice President
Max E. Putnam



Councillor
Michael L. Waschuk



Councillor
Roy P. Pominville

Seven Sustainable Wonders!

As seen in the BCLA Reporter, September 1994 issue.

In the March/April issue of the Utne Reader, Alan Thein Durning, Director of Northwest Environment Watch, a sustainability think tank in Seattle, offers his seven sustainable wonders of the world:

1. The bicycle. The most thermodynamically efficient transportation device ever created, and the most widely used private vehicle in the world, the bicycle lets you travel three times as far on a plateful of calories as you could walking.
2. The ceiling fan. Appropriate technology's answer to air conditioning, ceiling fans cool tens of millions of people in Asia and Africa.
3. The clothesline. The perfect solar clothes dryer, it takes few materials to make, is safe for kids, requires no electricity or fuel, and gets people outside to talk to their neighbours.
4. The telephone. The greatest innovation in human communications since the printing press, and the only item on this list invented in this century. Telephones are an extension of the most time-tested means of human communication: speech.
5. The public library. The most democratic institution yet invented, public libraries represent access to information for any person who comes inside. Libraries are waste reduction at its best.
6. The interdepartmental envelope. These put modern recycling to shame with their string closures and dozens of lines for rerouting.
7. The condom. It's a remarkable device — highly effective, inexpensive, and portable. There may be a little excess packaging, but this is a trivial objection considering the work the condom has to do: battling AIDS and stabilizing human population.❖

To Be A Statistic.....

By Mark A. Peterson, L.S. as seen in the Arizona Surveyor, December 1994 issue.

It's 6:30 a.m. and you're suddenly awakened by a loud buzzing in your ears. It takes a moment of tossing and turning before you roll out of bed and groggily turn your alarm clock off. The day has begun. After washing, shaving, eating, and kissing your wife goodbye, in that order just like every other morning, you are out the door and on the way to the office. The same old routine you think...but is it? Little do you realize that by the end of the day the life of you and your loved ones will be changed dramatically.

Sometime today you will become a statistic. It's not a very unusual thing that will cause you to become distinguished above others. You are going to sustain an injury, not just any injury, but one of approximately two million other disabling work related injuries that will happen this year in the United States.

The two key words in the above statement are disabling injury. The National Safety Council defines disability injury as "an injury causing death, permanent disability, or any degree of temporary total disability beyond the day of the accident." Think about that definition for a moment. Reference is not made to a cut finger that requires stitches, or a twisted ankle, or a bumped head or any other type of injury that may lay you up for a few days. This is an accident that will create great bodily damage, very likely permanent, and possibly fatal. Accidents deemed "freaks" are rare. Consequently, your chances of having a freak accident are not very likely. Of the two million work related disabling injuries that will happen this year, two hundred thousand of those will happen to people employed in the construction field. Twenty one hundred of those two hundred thousand will die.

Possibly your accident happened like this....It's a hot summer day. You and your partner have been shooting topography in this field for the last six hours and the job is almost complete. A thunderstorm has been brewing in the west for a while and you thought you had it beat, but now the thunder and lightning is almost on top of you. Just ten more shots and that's it. Your partner is standing five feet away with a sixteen-foot rod leaning over a weary shoulder. There's a loud crack and simultaneously a blinding light. All you needed was ten more shots... You've been working on the highway all afternoon and except for that car full of teenagers that tried to slalom

through your cones, things have gone pretty well. With your back to the traffic, three hundred feet away from the instrument man and beyond the protection of your cones, you kneel down on the pavement to set a point. A panel truck is speeding toward you and doesn't change lanes until he's within two hundred feet. The driver of the compact car that was tailgating the truck suddenly focuses on the cones ahead of you. He doesn't see the crouched figure directly in front of him. You never knew what hit you.

The above examples are only two of a countless number of ways that on the job injury could occur. As can be seen, they were avoidable. If they weren't avoidable the term accident could not be used. Normally a combination of factors, such as weather conditions, work surroundings, alertness of those around you, and safety procedures will be the cause. Equipment like vests, cones, hard hats, ear plugs, safety goggles, and even your own senses are only good to deter accidents if implemented properly. When necessary, use your safety equipment, and always be aware of your surroundings. If you're an experienced person don't become complacent. Use your knowledge to protect those who look to you. As a greenhorn, you've got a lot to learn, so watch the old hand. Hopefully that person hasn't gotten this far by being reckless. Imagine a serious injury occurring on the job. What do you do? Do you know? In the case of head injury, do you elevate the head or the feet or neither? How should a bandage be applied? If a drowning or electrocution occurs, how does one determine if CPR and/or artificial respiration should be applied? Do you know how to apply them? In the event of a severe laceration, when is pressure on the wound adequate and when should a tourniquet be administered? Of course it is not expected that we have the training to apply medical aid like a paramedic. However, the immediate first aid given by a friend or by-stander to an accident victim often will save the life of that person. As an employer, have you ever considered sending some of your people to a CPR or first aid course? As an employee, have you ever thought of pursuing this matter on your own? For an insignificant fee, the American Red Cross offers good courses in both these subjects. There are also other organizations that may be contacted about not only first aid training, but also concerning lecturers pertaining to on-the-job safety. If by attending

instructions such as these a life can be saved, their value is immeasurable.

As surveyors we consider ourselves a hearty breed. We buck the elements year round, and there are few surveyors if any, that don't take pleasure in their job. It is challenging and rewarding, but at the same time,

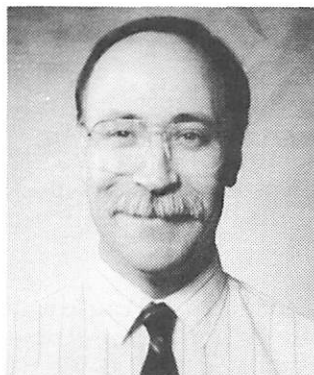
on every highway or construction site, danger awaits. It jumps out at those who forget it's there, or at those that aren't aware. It doesn't discriminate between black or white, male or female. So keep your head up or you might become just another number in this year's book of statistics. ♦



Canadian Council of Land Surveyors Conseil Canadien des Arpenteurs-Géomètres



INCORPORATED 1976
INCORPORÉ



*by Tom R. Webb, SLS
CCLS Director*

The AGM of the Board of Directors of the CCLS is scheduled for April 23 and 24, 1995 in Jasper Park, Alberta. It is being held in conjunction with the ALS's AGM on the 21, 22 and 23rd. A new CCLS logo will be unveiled.

The Directors from Newfoundland and Saskatchewan will present a final draft of their investigative report on "The Surveyor and the Environment". Response from survey associations would indicate that this topic is not a forefront issue. The committee will recommend that this project not be funded nationally and that provincial associations pursue environmental education on their own.

The CCLS budget will be a major issue at the AGM. Providing quality products and service on a shoestring budget will be a challenge.

CCLS projects that are or will soon be completed are: Sample Contracts Manual; Title Insurance

presentation, Expanded Profession Research; PR questionnaire and research; International Relations project; and self-funding Professional Liability Insurance.

Possible topics at the AGM: pursuit of passport application approval status for surveyors; career promotion in land surveying; sponsorship of the 2nd edition of "Survey Law in Canada"; approaching Quebec for reinstatement; policy on Directors input into CCLS publications and national project concerns and requests. ♦

CCLS Contracting

The CCLS Contracting Booklet entitled "Surveying Services" is available from the SLSA Office at a price of \$7.50 per booklet plus GST.

OPEN FORUM

The "Newsletter" encourages provocative thoughts and rebuttal from the membership. This edition's contributors are by Mr. W.W. Stockton, SLS, CLS.

The Lost 11 Days by W.W. Stockton, SLS, CLS

While reading some survey history, I came across an interesting reference to the change-over in Great Britain from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar in the year 1752. Since the U.S. and Canada were under British rule at the time, adoption of the new calendar happened simultaneously in this part of the world.

The Julian calendar was established by Julius Caesar in 45 B.C. with the advice of Egyptian astronomer Sosigenes. The length of the year was set at 365 days with a leap year occurring every 4 years. This resulted in an error of 11 minutes, 14 seconds per year. At the time of the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., the vernal equinox fell on March 21. By 1582 the accumulated annual error resulted in the vernal equinox occurring on March 11. In that year, Pope Gregory XIII instituted the Gregorian Calendar annulling the 10 days and making what otherwise would have been October 5, October 15 instead. In order to correct the previous annual error, the new calendar provided that only the century years divisible by 400 would be leap years. While the year 2000 will be a leap year, the year 1900 was not.

In England, the new calendar was adopted in 1752 by an Act of Parliament. Prior to that time, the legal year began on March 25. The new Act decreed that 11 days should be dropped from the calendar and that the year should thereafter begin on January 1. The

last day of the old calendar was Wednesday, September 2. The first day of the new calendar (the following day) was Thursday, September 14. This adjustment resulted in the vernal equinox occurring once again on March 21 as it had in 325 A.D. It was noted that this nominal dropping of 11 days caused riots throughout Great Britain.

The change in the beginning of the year has resulted in some distortions in the dates of recorded history. For example, January 14, 1752 under the old calendar, would be the same as January 25, 1753 under the new calendar. In order to avoid confusion, history books often record the figures of both years, thus: January 25, 1752-53.

The adoption of the new calendar did not cause a great deal of problems in the survey profession. Existing tables, however, had to be adjusted by 11 days until a new ephemeris was published.

The invention of the atomic clock in recent years has resulted in a much more accurate record of time. Periodically, an additional second is added to the length of the year to keep the system in balance. I can recall 3 or 4 years ago when on such occurrence took place. Comedian, Johnny Carson quipped that it was enough time for Stephen King to write another novel. ♦

Buyer Beware by W.W. Stockton, SLS, CLS

In June 1994, we completed a Real Property Report for a client living in Whitmore Park, Regina. The house had been purchased 12 years earlier, however, the owner had just become aware of a problem with the SaskEnergy gas line.

When our client went to reconstruct his rear fence he contacted SaskEnergy to locate the gas line. During the location procedure, it was found that the service

line passed under the garage. The main gas line was located 2 feet behind the garage. SaskEnergy then insisted that the service line be moved at a cost of \$1,800.00. Fortunately, they did agree to share in the cost if our client agreed to have the work completed before November 1.

(continued on page 489)

Open Forum (continued)

(continued from page 488)

Our survey revealed that the garage encroached on the 6 foot SaskEnergy easement by 3.6 feet. At the time our client purchased the house he assumed an existing mortgage. The mortgage company therefore did not require a new survey. The lawyer acting for our client, who was also a friend of our client, did not advise that an up-to-date survey should be obtained. Perhaps he thought he was saving his friend a few dollars.

After the service line was relocated and the bill paid, our client did some research as to who had constructed the garage. He found there had been three previous owners, however, the garage had been constructed by the original owner. He also found that the original owner had not obtained a Building Permit. Our client therefore decided to take the original owner

to Small Claims Court.

At the court appearance the original owner was represented by a lawyer. The lawyer argued that our client had no contract with the original owner and therefore had no claim. The judge agreed. The judge ruled that our client's contract was with the person he purchased the property from and any claim would have to be made against that owner. The previous owner would then have to make a claim against the second owner who could in turn make a claim against the original owner.

To date, our client has not decided whether he will pursue the matter any further. SaskEnergy have agreed to provide an encroachment agreement which will permit him to leave the garage on the easement.❖

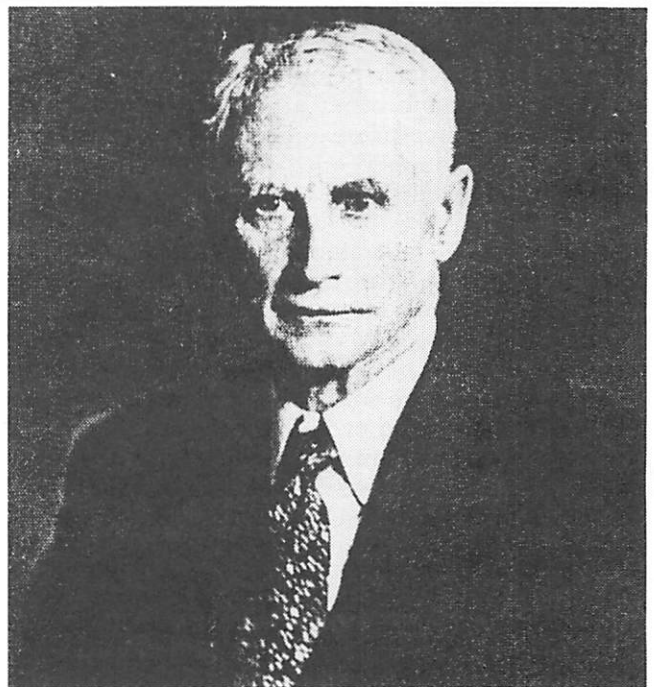
Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Mr. Jack Webb, S.L.S., C.L.S., between golf games in Mesa, Arizona, has delivered the first in a series of biographies on deceased members. Jack's first article is about William Robinson Reilly, P.L.S., D.L.S., S.L.S. (1857 - 1936).

Mr. Reilly held Commission #7 and was President of the SLSA twice throughout his career. He surveyed in an era when conveniences were few and far between. His career makes for a most interesting read.

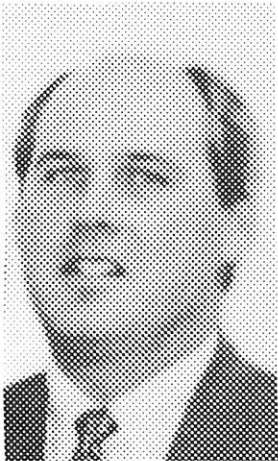
Due to the length of the article we were not able to print it in the March SLS Newsletter however the Editor has included it as an addendum hereto.

We thank Jack for his work in recounting the experiences and adventures of some of the first members of our Association. We look forward to the next one Jack!❖



*Mr. William Robinson Reilly, P.L.S., D.L.S., S.L.S.
(1857 - 1936)*

Councillor's Comments



*Prepared by Scott Whitley, SLS
Councillor*

You Only Get Out Of It What You Put Into It

Surveying is as old as civilization. Surveyors have always been recognized for their major contribution throughout history. As land surveyors we must stand tall and proud. We must support our profession and continue to advance in our fast paced world of high technology and change. We look to our association to provide educational opportunities for the membership, we learn from each other and we benefit from the expertise of other professions. It is our duty as professionals to support our self governed association and continue to help it grow.

We are a small membership, an association that often loses more members to retirement than it gains each year. The size of our membership represents both the human and financial resources we have in which to advance our association. This is a source of frustration for us as we have few hands to support and lead the way and even fewer dollars in which to recognize dedication of members within our association. Our tasks often seem monumental due to the degree of commitment required by our members to uphold our standards and achieve our goals.

It is often said that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. This expression can be likened to any team or organization. I have been a member of the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association for nine years and for most of the time I was a weak link! It is always easier to let others participate on Council or work on various Committees. It always seemed that those dedicated few were great public speakers, had

more time and always knew more than me. There are many excuses for lack of commitment and each of us likely have our own personal favorite.

It has long been acknowledged that the majority of the association work is done by 20% of the membership. This is a sobering thought as not only does it mean that our professional responsibilities are distributed unequally amongst our membership but also the decision making process within our association is directed by only a few individuals, within our association.

I recognize the very real issues such as distance and time away from work and family contribute to the lack of participation by members of the association. Perhaps we need to address these issues and support projects and Committee work that can be done by the members in their own offices and homes. In the past few years this has become a reality with the introduction of fax machines, teleconferences and computers within the business community. Technology promises unlimited possibilities for our profession.

"It is not hard to get involved. It is simply a matter of letting others know you are both interested and willing."

Over the past year I have realized the personal benefits of participating in the activities of the association. I have increased my knowledge of changes and advancements within the profession and enhanced my understanding of the functions of the association. My involvement has also served to promote the image of land surveyors within my work place. We have all gained a greater appreciation for the work done by the association.

I have always considered it a privilege to be a member of the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors' Association. All through history we have been represented by loyal dedicated men, who upheld the standards of our profession. Each of us have inherited this responsibility. We must contribute to our profession

and continue to participate as knowledgeable, ethical and progressive members of society. Many of us only get involved when we are asked, coaxed or in some cases begged. This can create an awkward situation for both the asker and the prospective volunteer. It is not hard to get involved. It is simply a matter of letting others know you are both interested and willing. We are faced with a constant challenge and I urge each of you to participate. In some way each of us can make a contribution. I think we would be wise to remember that any amount of participation can help us achieve our goals, but lack of involvement slows the growth of our association. Let's continue to lead the way and be the proactive group that society has come to recognize. We are investing in ourselves. Rewards are many!♦

President's Message - Continued

(continued from page 475)

It has become standard practice for Council to solicit information from our sister associations before we try to solve a problem or implement a new program. So perhaps those ideas do eventually get put into practice. The excitement of discovery requires the patience of implementation.

In other news, our new Act has had second reading as Bill 41 and may be passed as you read this. The New Act Committee is compiling the regulations for the new Act. Along with our Act, Bill 40 will amend the Land Surveys Act to allow the association to manage the sale of standard iron posts. The funds generated will allow us to start those programs that have been waiting on the sidelines.

We have a Loss Control Seminar on April 18, 1995. Along with the seminar we are having a committee workshop to review the goals that have been set out for the year. Our Annual General Meeting is coming up at the end of May. From what I have seen, the AGM committee is putting together a great package. I hope to see you there!

Judy and I will be attending the Alberta AGM in

Jasper on April 20, 1995.

Have a good Spring!♦



SLSA 85th

Annual General Meeting



- Golf
- Dine and Dance
- Meet Old Friends
- Make New Acquaintances
- Business Meetings
- Exhibitors

Ramada Hotel
Renaissance Conference Centre
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
May 25th to May 27th, 1995