

FORUM

THEODORE W. NORCROSS

UNFORTUNATELY, I was not privileged to know Mr. Norcross as "Ted". My dealings with him concerned the business of my contributions to PHOTOGRAMMETRIC ENGINEERING. These business dealings were always pleasant and charged with interesting and helpful bits of "Norcrossian" philosophy.

One of my agenda items at every annual meeting was to look up Mr. Norcross, at his station, and to discuss matters of his journal. His alertness, keen mind, sparkling wit and limitless patience were always a source of amazement and inspiration to me.

I witnessed a good exercise of most of those attributes at one of the annual meetings at the Shoreham. I think it was March 1963. Mr. Norcross and I were comparing publication and philosophical notes. From out of nowhere, this individual, whom I'd never seen before, breaks up our discussion and complains that the abstracts in PHOTOGRAMMETRIC ENGINEERING are the saddest he's ever seen.

Mr. Norcross smiled all through this verbal tempest. When the complainer paused for air,

Mr. Norcross very calmly asked him what he would suggest to improve the situation. The critic seemed to be caught off balance and sputtered a bit while he was fumbling for his reverse drive button. He then rather lamely admitted to having seen an article on how to prepare a good abstract. Mr. Norcross quickly replied that he would be indebted to the gentleman if he would send him a copy of the article. The critic promised he would do so, and departed rather sheepishly. It seemed that he expected resistance from Mr. Norcross, and, when this did not materialize, he became completely nonplussed. This was a flawless demonstration of Mr. Norcross disarming an opponent, patting him on the back and giving him a job to do. The incident made a deep impression on me.

To me, Mr. Norcross was the best exhibit the joint annual meetings ever had. I learned much on photogrammetry at the technical sessions and exhibits, but I learned about mental attitude and human relationships from Mr. Norcross. I am happy for my association with him. He will always be an inspiration to me.

—Joseph B. Theis