

Incoming President's Address

Frederick O. Diercks

I ACCEPT WITH HUMILITY and pride the honor you have given me, to become the 36th president of ASP. I would not deny that I have desired this honor, albeit with trepidation; yet, upon receiving it, and looking over the list of my 35 illustrious predecessors, I cannot but be awed and feel my own inadequacy.

In the few minutes allotted to me, I would like to make just a few points, so that you may know my views a little better on certain matters, as I undertake to discharge the duties, however inadequately, of this year's ASP presidency. These points are seven, a lucky number, let us hope, and I would hope to devote my term of office to pursuing them: first, implementation of the society reorganization plan; second, certification of photogrammetrists and adoption of a code of ethics for the society; third, stressing the importance of society publications, in particular our journal, PHOTOGRAMMETRIC ENGINEERING; fourth, emphasis on the topographic or mapping aspect of photogrammetry; fifth another attempt to combine our society and ACSM; sixth, expansion of membership; and seventh, an appeal for your help.

With respect to society reorganization, I hope, with the memberships' approval of the necessary Constitution and Bylaws changes, to have the new organizational structure, as set forth in the Radlinski plan, incorporated in our next annual election machinery and in effect by the next annual meeting. The principal thrust of this reorganization as you know is to abolish the ASP Regional Council and conduct the election of most Society Directors on a Regional basis. Another organizational change for the better, already approved by you, which will continue to expand during the coming year, is the new Divisional structure of the Society, already off to a good start with the flourishing Remote Sensing and Interpretation Division, the recent activation of the Photography Division, and the soon to be active Photogrammetric Surveys Division. As these Divisions, and perhaps others, grow in size and development, they will inevitably make their imprint on the annual meeting program, on our publications, and all other Society affairs.

With regard to professional status of pho-

togrammetrists and a professional code of ethics, many of you have heard Al Quinn's Professional Activities Committee report and recommendations at this Convention. I propose to press forward with the accomplishment of these recommendations, approved at the last ASP Board of Direction meeting, by appointing the necessary implementing committees for certification of photogrammetrists, and policing of the Code. We shall need the help of many qualified volunteers to conduct this important work.

In connection with Society publications, I would like to state my firm belief that the most important function our Society performs is to publish our internationally respected *Journal*, PHOTOGRAMMETRIC ENGINEERING. If we carried out no other activity not even an annual convention, PHOTOGRAMMETRIC ENGINEERING would overwhelmingly justify our Society's existence. As long as Carp Tewinkel remains editor, and I sincerely hope he will for *at least* one more year, and as long as our membership and others continue to supply such a wealth of fine papers, our *Journal* will continue to occupy its eminent place in the world's scientific literature and to spread the latest technical information in our field to all who need it. One small improvement I would like to see in our publications program, at least I consider it an improvement although it is a return to past practice, would be to make Bill Lynn's excellent Newsletter once more a separate (as still done by ACSM); if this is not feasible financially, I hope we can at least afford to print it once again on a distinctive colored paper in the *Journal*.

By emphasis on mapping in the Society, I refer to the fact that we should not forget, as some of us occasionally do, that by far the widest support for this society comes from individuals, firms, and government agencies who *draw contours*, who prepare topographic or cadastral or engineering maps by photogrammetric methods, or who design and build equipment for acquiring or reducing the source materials for photogrammetric mapping. Certainly we should pursue photogrammetry into all areas where it may apply or serve, but we should not forget in these esoteric pursuits that photogrammetry was born

of mapping and still receives its use and nourishment largely therefrom. Our Society efforts and activities should be weighted accordingly.

This leads me naturally to my fifth point—I believe another attempt should be made to combine our Society and ACSM. Having belonged to both Societies since the early forties, I have believed for years that we should have one American Society of Surveying, Mapping and Photogrammetry. I am well aware of the previous abortive attempts to achieve this, and of strong feelings against it in some quarters, but I still believe that another attempt at amalgamation should be made. With the Board's permission, I propose to sound out ACSM with regard to holding discussions on such a merger. If they are willing, I shall appoint a negotiating team to meet with theirs to consider the details. I am certain economies could be achieved and professional progress furthered. And less our staff should be concerned by my expression of these views, I believe there would be sufficient administrative work in a combined Society to require all the present staff of each Society at least initially, and that any personnel economies could be achieved by normal attrition.

With regard to membership, our goal as you know was *7,000 members by 1970*. Well,

here it is '70 and we are at approximately 5,500. Personally, I think this is a very commendable figure. We knew the 7,000 target was extremely ambitious when General Jacobs coined this slogan. We have achieved healthy growth since he took over as Executive Director in 1966. And of equal importance, we have *retained* more members, that is, our turnover rate of members has greatly diminished. *Size* of an organization is important for financial stability of course, and we hope to avoid requesting a dues increase for at least another year, but *quality* of members is even more important. This latter we have in abundance.

Finally, I assure you I realize that the Society belongs to the members, not to the officers, not to the Board, not to the professional society staff. All three of these are your servants, not your supervisors. Please let me have your views on any aspect of Society affairs, on the matters I have touched on here today or on any others which concern you. Write me at Society headquarters, at the Coast and Geodetic Survey, or call me or come to see me. I want your views and I need your help. This applies also to all your officers and the members of the Board. They too want to hear from you.

Thank you again for your vote of confidence. I shall try my best to deserve it.



Mr. Joseph P. Burns (right), incoming First Vice President, is congratulated by outgoing President Doyle.



Newly elected Second Vice President receives congratulations.