

## Address of the Incoming President

—Joe E. Steakley

**T**HIS DISTINCTION of being elected your president in the 40th year of the American Society of Photogrammetry is the highest honor I ever hope to receive, and your confidence motivates me to develop the mission of the Society to the best of my ability. I have an appreciation for the magnitude of the responsibility, and I will put the business of the Society in first priority for all of my available energies. As I am in the transition between Government service and private business, it is possible for me to hold my business operations down to such a level that ASP business will come first.

Due to this unique personal situation, it is my intention to visit with every one of the Regions during the year to talk about photogrammetry, professionalism, and the work of the Society. My calendar already includes appearances at eight Regions, and I am awaiting invitations to appear at the others.

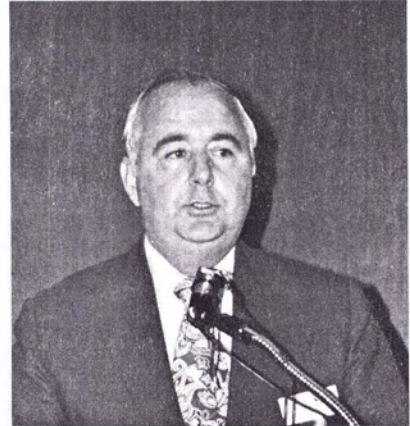
In 1934 a small band of photogrammetrists met in Washington to form this Society. In the first *News Letter of the American Society of Photogrammetry*, published in September of that first year, Lt. O. S. Reading wrote:

“This is the first issue of the *News Letter of the American Society of Photogrammetry*. While its initial steps may seem faltering, it is hoped that with practice they will become more firm and that the *News Letter* will grow into an effective vehicle for the exchange of ideas, the free expression of opinion, and the dissemination of valuable information to the members of the young but lusty profession of photogrammetry . . .”

As we look now at our membership of over 6,000, sustaining membership of over 100 commercial firms, and a half-billion-dollar photogrammetry business in this country, then we must marvel at the prophetic vision and dedication of our founders.

Referring back to Reading's article in the first *News Letter*, he said, further:

“Anyone listening to discussions of the relative merits of single lens and multi-lens photographs, of focal-plane versus between-the-lens shutters, of plotting machines versus photographs combined with plane table, will be impressed with the resemblance of the present state of photogrammetry in this country to the fable of the three blind men examining an elephant. As I remember the story, one



Incoming President Steakley

blind man felt the trunk, another the legs, and a third the tail. Each thought the other very stupid and very much mistaken as to the *character* of the animal. In much the same manner, each of us has had more or less limited experience with different types of photographs . . .”

If (now) Capt. Reading had been sitting in our ASP Board meeting 40 years later, he would surely make the same report. We are faced with growing diverse uses of photogrammetry—remote sensing, close-range photogrammetry, simultaneous block adjustment, hybrid stereo-plotters, holography, digitized outputs, and so on.

Our Professional Activities Committee is facing up to all of these diverse notions of the *character* of photogrammetry. We need to be constantly aware of the fact that “Photogrammetry is the art, science and technology of obtaining reliable information about physical objects and environment through processes of recording, measuring and interpreting photographic images and patterns of electromagnetic and accoustical radiant energy and magnetic phenomena.” As we enter into our Professional Certification Program, we must be aware of the entire domain of photogrammetry.

This matter of professionalism, ethics, and certification is the highest priority matter on my objectives for this year. As we get the certification program underway, then we need to establish liaison groups to work

within each state with the registration boards to gain public acknowledgement of the profession of photogrammetry.

A necessary adjunct to this objective is the establishment of quality standards by our Society. With this achieved, it will be possible for government agencies and private firms to have increased confidence in their photogrammetric contracts by specifying that "work will be performed in accordance with ASP Specifications and Standards under the supervision of certified photogrammetrists."

Each of our Divisions and Committees have important projects underway, and they

all represent a continuance of the spirit of work in the Society established by our founders. Perhaps the greatest undertaking of new work in 1974 will be the beginning of the *Fourth Edition of the Manual of Photogrammetry*.

As it was expressed by Lt. O. S. Reading in 1934, it is also my hope that "the activities of the American Society of Photogrammetry will serve to unify and make effective the present scattered hopes, aspirations, ideals, knowledge, and experience of its members..."

## Council of Past Presidents (COPPS)

AT THE SUGGESTION of the (then) First Vice President Joe E. Steakley, and with the concurrence of other Society officers, President Wright authorized the establishment of a Council of Past Presidents (COPPS).

The Council is not to be a formal organization within the official structure of the

in the form of a breakfast during the 1974 Annual Convention in St. Louis, Mo. with 12 Past Presidents and Officers attending. The agenda included a review of the Status of the Society Administration by Executive Director Jacobs, 1973 Review of Progress by President Wright, 1974 Objectives of incoming



The Council of Past Presidents (COPPS) at a breakfast meeting during the 1974 Annual Convention in St. Louis, Mo. (Left to right, front row): Joseph P. Burns (1971), W. Sidney Park (1955), Frederick J. Doyle (1969), William A. Radlinsky (1968). (Back row): Marshall S. Wright, Jr. (1973), Joe E. Steakley (1974), Arthur J. McNair (1961), G. Carper Tewinkel (1960), First Vice President Elect John H. Wickham, Jr., Kenneth E. Reynolds (1957), and Alfred O. Quinn (1953).

American Society of Photogrammetry but, instead, is considered to convene annually (most likely during the Annual Convention) to provide a basis for an informal exchange of ideas and information between the Past Presidents of the Society and the current officers.

The first meeting of the Council took place

President Steakley, and an open forum of comments, ideas, criticism, plaudits, etc.

Steakley outlined his plans as president with special emphasis on implementing the proposals of the Professional Activities Committee, particularly the Professional Certification Program.