

Incoming President's Message 1977

—Vern W. Cartwright



President Cartwright

I DEEPLY APPRECIATE the honor that you, the membership, have bestowed upon me by electing me President of the American Society of Photogrammetry. I shall try to be worthy of your confidence by continuing the many programs initiated by past presidents, boards and commissions and to augment them with new programs of my own. In doing this, I will lean heavily on the expert counsel of Past Presidents Hugh Loving and John Wickham and our new Executive Director William French.

We will all miss Larry Jacobs, but he certainly will not be forgotten. He has made an imprint on our Society which will stand for all time. As his health declined President Loving was at his side daily, helping him run the Society. Those were difficult times and only a few of us knew of the ten-hour days and nights that Hugh gave to Larry and to the organization to keep things rolling.

Our new Executive Director is well aware of the relentless energy, wisdom and dedication that Larry gave to our Society, and all who have met Bill French know that he can do the job.

All things on earth change and there would be no need for photogrammetry or our Society's existence if this were not the case. Over two thousand busy people from all over the world attend our Annual Conventions to see and hear about changes.

Photogrammetry and its related technologies are an integral part of virtually all the fields of engineering and are invaluable to many disciplines of science. ASP has a heavy responsibility to disseminate new information to the membership and to the vast community that it serves. I feel that bold steps must be taken now to strengthen photogrammetry and that changes must be made to project our technology into the future. With this in mind, as your President I am taking the following actions.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHOTOGRAMMETRY INSTITUTE

I am proposing that a new, nonprofit corporation be established to train technicians in all phases of mapmaking. Everyone is aware that there is a tremendous need for technical help in our industry and this void must be filled. For the time being, let's call this new corporation the *American Society of Photogrammetry Institute*. It would not compete with our colleges and universities nor would it compete with private industry. It would initially train stereocompilers, topographic scribes and draftspeople; then as funds and equipment become available, train orthophoto-operators, digitizer operators, comparator operators, photographic laboratory technicians, aerial photographers, and offer other courses as decided by the Trustees. This cannot be accomplished at once or overnight and must be done on a priority basis. It must be started now and that is what I mean by "projecting into the future." The Europeans have been training our photogrammetric technicians for years and I can't understand why we should not be doing it ourselves.

I am appointing a special committee to evaluate the need for the proposed institute. They will then outline a management-financial plan and proceed by drawing up the constitution and by-laws. Their findings and recommendations will be presented to the Board of Direction at the next board meeting. The members of this committee will be appointed from private industry, education and federal and state governments.

DIGITAL MAPPING & DATA HANDLING DIVISION

I recommend the formation of a Digital Mapping & Data Handling Division. This is a comparatively new area of our science that I feel ASP must participate in vigorously. A national publication recently conducted a survey and found that their reader interest in computerized mapping and digital databanks had increased 457% in the last year and their

readers desired more articles on computer cartography and the utilization of interactive graphics. Looking to the future again, I feel I would be derelict in my duty as President if I did not recommend to the Board of Direction that a special division be established to cover this exploding new technology.

Mapmaking is changing, and electronics is becoming more and more a part of photogrammetric instrumentation. I venture to say that within ten years virtually all photogrammetrically produced maps will be drawn by computer. In addition to computerized base maps, demographic ties to geographic data are now a practical reality.

Most people are in the dark and groping on this subject; the equipment is expensive and continually changing; and the software in most cases is inadequate to perform all functions of photogrammetry, engineering, and demographic to geographic ties. ASP must take the lead—and now. We must sort out and organize this new technology as both the users and purchasing agents are confused.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

I also recommend that a National Speakers Bureau be set up to provide regions, universities, trade and civic organizations with visiting lecturers on subjects dealing with our technology. I remember how thwarted I felt years ago as a Regional President when it came to setting up monthly programs that would attract the membership and entice new members. Our new Speakers Bureau will alleviate that problem. Speakers will be provided, from one for an evening to a sufficient number to conduct a regional seminar or workshop of from one to three days. I am writing a letter immediately to the Regions and appropriate colleges and universities explaining how this is to be accomplished.

PHOTOGRAMMETRIC STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS COMMITTEE

National professional standards and specifications for photogrammetry are badly needed. Again, ASP must take the lead. It is the most frustrating thing in our industry to receive an RFP from a city, county, state, foreign or U.S. government agency, originating from a purchasing authority, which contains virtually no specifications. This is confusing both to the Contracting Officer and the Professional Photogrammetrist. Every time a prospective contractor asks a question about the specifications a change order to the specifications must be sent. I have seen as many as seven change orders on one basic photogrammetric project and the time extended for months because the contracting agency had no knowledge of our technology. Some purchasing agents become so confused and frustrated they even cancel needed and important projects.

I believe the ASP can help tremendously in this area and Dick Evans, Chairman of our Professional Activities Committee, has suggested that we set up a special committee to establish these much needed specifications standards. I wish to take this a step further and have ASP publish specifications and guidelines for the acquisition of aerial photography, photogrammetry, needed ground control, and contract procedures. A nominal fee will be charged for the publication to make this project self-sustaining.

I can think of no one in the nation more qualified to spearhead this committee than Bill Pryor. Bill, who never runs from a challenge, has agreed to accept the chairmanship of this committee. He is well aware of the monstrous task he is undertaking.

ARCHIVES

A number of us have been concerned for some time with the documentation and preservation of early artifacts and the complete history of photogrammetry. I am establishing a special committee to see that this is accomplished.

History and photographs from firms that have been in business for over thirty years would be appreciated. Old photogrammetric and surveying instruments are needed. Tape recordings and motion pictures will be taken, any material showing and describing the early days would be helpful, and the entire membership is asked to participate.

The committee will evaluate the possibility of setting up a museum and will contact the Smithsonian Institute to see if they can help. Two past presidents, both legends in our industry, have agreed to co-chair this committee. They are Dr. Talbert Abrams and Sid Parks.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Through the years ASP has had excellent conference proceedings published that, in most cases, were only read by a few attendees. While sitting in the ASP booth with Hugh Loving, John Wickham, and Larry Jacobs at our various conferences for the last two years, I noted that many attendees asked for information on specific subjects. Most often the information they sought, although published by the Society, appeared in various proceedings or in one of the journals. I am, therefore, setting up a taskforce committee to evaluate the work currently published by the ASP to see if it is possible and practical to publish brief, fifty pages or so, monographs on specific subjects. This might mean updating by authors and submission of new material. These documents must be general in nature, non-technical and used to inform the non-photogrammetrists how they can use photogrammetry, aerial photography, remote sensing, computer cartography, and related subjects to get their project completed in the most expeditious and favorable manner.

This will be a huge task and the work of sorting out this material and updating it must be accomplished by a committee at little or no expense to the Society. There should be a nominal charge for each publication to make this ongoing project self-sustaining. If any member feels qualified, and has the time to help, please let me know.

CERTIFICATION

The Professional Activities Committee is sending a letter to all licensing boards for professional engineers in the United States advising them of our voluntary certification program and offering our Society's help. We must take this a step further and ask each region to appoint a chairman to follow up in every state by contacting each Board of Registration reiterating ASP's desire to assist. All of the states have different laws relating to photogrammetry. In some, no registration is required to practice photogrammetry; in others, one must be registered as a Professional Engineer, and even though he may know nothing about the subject, by law he is the only one who can practice photogrammetry. This is not right, and we must help our profession by getting involved.

I have endeavored to outline what I think ASP should do now and in the future. I certainly do not have all the answers and only through hard work by all of us can the things I have outlined be set into motion and eventually accomplished. If photogrammetry has been as good to you as it has to me, get involved. Our Society does not have the necessary capital to hire additional personnel to do all things outlined so we must do the work ourselves. The future of ASP is on your shoulders. Please help by donating your time and effort to get things done. If you have any comments or questions, please, by all means, drop me a note.



Regional Directors meet with President Cartwright and 1st Vice President Crandall during the Annual Convention.