

Report of the President

—Vern W. Cartwright

MY YEAR AS THE 44th President of the American Society of Photogrammetry was an experience both educational and rewarding. Educational in that I took the time and had the opportunity to delve into new technological advances in our sciences. It was rewarding because I was afforded the opportunity to visit many of our regions, talk with our members, and receive their ideas on what our Society should be doing.

I found out through my travels that we are entering what many have said could approach or rival the industrial revolution, and we are seeing it in photogrammetry now. Changes are taking place, not only in the services we provide our clients, but in the manner in which we display our information.

I have in mind, of course, that the next decade, without question, will produce the most dramatic changes in our field that we will see in a lifetime. This will be brought about by a new generation of computers and satellites which almost certainly will revolutionize our industry.

Whether one calls it computer cartography, land data management systems, digital data bases, data banks or digital mapping, a modern-day photogrammetrist, operating with the tools of today (interactive graphics and digital plotters) and trained personnel, must now look toward adapting to the even greater developments that lie ahead in the next decade.

I would like to give you a brief account of my stewardship during the past twelve months. No President can complete all he sets out to do in one year, but some things get done and foundations laid for future programs.



President Cartwright

NON-PROFIT INSTITUTE

A year ago, I recommended that a non-profit institute be established to train technicians in all phases of map-making. Not having a technical training school in the United States teaching these subjects has bothered many of us for years. It is really hard to imagine, with all the great things we do in the United States, that we should not have our own training school as they do in Canada, Europe, and the U.S. subsidized technical training school in Panama.

It is very interesting to note that a survey made of the federal agencies determined that at least half of those polled would hire institute trained technicians. At an annual meeting of the Legislative Council of Photogrammetry, a count of hands of people in business showed that 90% of them desperately needed trained stereocompilers, draftsmen, laboratory technicians and flying personnel.

Possibly, I was ahead of my time in recommending the establishment of a non-profit institute administered by the American Society of Photogrammetry. A poll of Society and Region officers and Committee Chairmen indicated that ASP could perhaps develop closer relationships with the academic community and encourage the establishment of technician-level programs at vocational technical institutes. If nothing else, I have alerted the intellectual community to the need for trained technicians.

DIGITAL MAPPING AND DATA HANDLING

I recommended that a committee be established to determine the feasibility of forming a special division on digital mapping and data handling. I do not believe our current divisions are structured to address the new technological advances introduced with the advent of interactive graphic systems. It is only proper that our Society cover all facets of this growing technology. At present, a person desiring knowledge of this subject must seek information from a number of professional organizations, none of which encompass computerized map-making in its entirety.

The Board of Direction created a special committee to evaluate all divisions. The final report will be presented to the Board at this meeting and I am confident the committee will look at this subject as being of great importance.

SPEAKERS' BUREAU

A very active Speakers' Bureau is now in existence and, for the first time, it is possible for any region, university, service club or professional society to obtain speakers by simply calling Headquarters. Lecturers are available to address any subject matter in our science, and if a speaker is needed for an evening, or a number of speakers for a 2 or 3-day seminar, it can easily be arranged and, in most cases, at no cost. Sky Chamard has been very diligent in pursuing this matter and my hat is off to him.

PHOTOGRAMMETRIC STANDARDS & SPECIFICATIONS COMMITTEE

Considerable input by our various divisions and/or committees is necessary to accomplish this task. Consequently, it will take years to obtain a handbook on this subject matter. I am sure the job will get done, but competent people are needed to help on this Committee.

ARCHIVES

This new Committee has been very active together with Heinz Gruner of the History and Records Committee and they are endeavoring to put together the complete history of photogrammetry and our Society. It eventually will include photogrammetric artifacts and oral and visual messages from old-timers. A set of story boards are on display in the Registration Area showing old photos from companies that have been in business fifty years or more. This committee is headed by Joe Danko who is assisted by two of our great Past Presidents, Ted Abrams and Sid Park.

CERTIFICATION

Over the years, the Presidents of our Society have formed many Committees and accomplished great things. The greatest, in my opinion, is the well established Voluntary Certification Program. Members are urged to obtain certification, and there is no question that it helps personnel in both government and private industry. In many states, to practice photogrammetry one must be registered as a Civil Engineer or Land Surveyor, with the licensee not required to have any knowledge whatsoever of photogrammetry. This certainly is not right! Changes will take place, I am certain, but there will have to be an educational task force to teach the licensing boards and government agencies the complexities and importance of our science, and how licensing of photogrammetrists will protect the public interests. As minorities in the engineering fraternity we have a lot of work to do. I am happy to report that at least one state is considering licensing photogrammetrists.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

The land surveyor in the future will be confronted with very severe, abrupt and dramatic changes in his field of endeavor. This will be brought about primarily by the 24 NAVSTAR Global Positioning Satellites (GPS) that are being put into orbit at 20,185 kilometers above our planet now.

Charles Andregg, in his Keynote Address at our Fall Technical Meeting in Little Rock, alerted us to this new concept and some of the things that are being done through a government funded project of over a quarter billion dollars. I picked up the ball and delved into the situation, attended DOD hearings on the subject and wrote letters trying to find out what this new technology would do for the surveyor and the photogrammetrist. This is what I found. There is no question that within the next decade a small black box placed on a point will allow the surveyor to determine its precise location. One only need ponder this for a moment to see how the photogrammetrist will use this tool. With a small backpack and stereo photographs, a photogrammetric project will be easily controlled through photo-identification or, if premarks have been placed, the coordinates of each target determined almost instantly and automatically. This information will then be fed directly into a data bank and the control information plotted to accuracies of 0.001 inch.

When I took on the job as your President, I worried about the time that it would take me away from my business. To me, the business world is fun, and the "score card" of how I am doing has always been net profit. When I looked at my "score card" at the end of the year, I found that I had done fairly well, which leads me to believe that I am not as important to my company as I thought! Seriously, being your President has been very exciting, and I feel that it is the highest compliment that can be bestowed on any photogrammetrist! I hope that you will find my contributions to the Society worthy of the great honor I have enjoyed as your President.