

Incoming President's Message 1980

—Rex R. McHail

THANK YOU MR. MOFFITT, Officers and Members of the American Society of Photogrammetry, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests, and most of all, friends. This is the highest pinnacle of my professional career, and I am honored and grateful for the privilege to serve as your next President.

First, I would like to introduce my family, who share with me the pleasure of my Office. My wife, Shirley, who took a brief leave of absence from her teaching career to bear witness to this momentous event. The other members of our family who could not attend today are Rex, Jr., Materials Manager with the Navy Department in Philadelphia; Alice, Operating Engineer; Kevin, Forester and Student at the University of Idaho; and Molly, High School Student.

Even at the risk of offending by omission, I would like to publicly take this time to sing the praises of and thank several people for having had more than a little influence on my presence here today. First, the two officers under whom I apprenticed as Vice President, Mr. Frank Moffitt and Mr.

Clif Crandall. Past President Crandall launched a flurry of activity within the Society that set the tone for many years to come. His programs and activities, not to mention his unerring wit, have been and will continue to be a constant challenge and reminder. Past President Moffitt, in his reign, set a mean pace; in fact, from Alaska to the Panama Canal, from the North Slope Eskimos to the Cuni Indians in the San Blas Islands; he left a wide swath wherever he traveled. His moccasins (or cowboy boots) are going to be hard to fill.

I'm aware of an especially unique privilege being afforded me today; that is, of becoming the fourth ASP President from the ranks of my employer, Bausch & Lomb. Our company has enjoyed this honor for four decades. Heinz Gruner preceded me, then Ken Reynolds and George Tschume before him. I'm proud to serve the heritage they left for all of us.

About two years ago Mr. Rupe Southard, of the ASP Nominating Committee, called me asking my consideration as a candidate for the Office of Second Vice President. My immediate reaction was that I would be pleased; however, because of the anticipated demands and the effect on my work at Bausch & Lomb, I would need the concurrence of my management. Rupe replied that he would call me back shortly. He then talked with Mr. Robert Sparling, our Corporate Vice President, and I was thus given the blessing of the Company. Since then, I have been encouraged to serve the Society full and completely.

I wish to publicly thank you, Mr. Sparling, and the many others in our Company for my personal support, then and now, and indeed for all the continued support of many past years to our Society. This unique American attitude of freely given time, talent, and resources by thousands of volunteers and companies, organizations, and public agencies has been the real core of success and growth of the ASP over the past 46 years.

What can I hope to do as your chief elected officer in the ensuing year you have given me? To be sensible, the first thing is to put as much effort as possible toward the continued success of the programs and activities that are already launched and underway, instituted by those before; for example, Clif's Practical Papers Program, and Frank's Photogrammetric Standards Program. Another activity that is very much alive is the Fourth Edition of the *Manual of Photogrammetry*. Thanks to massive efforts by many member volunteers past and present, and our excellent staff headed by Mr. William French, this Edition is approaching a reality.

I intend to support as many of the activities of the three ASP Divisions as the market will bear. Through these divisions, we are fortunate to have literally hundreds of quietly active members who are doing their share in the promotion of the profession through the auspices of our common Society. They unselfishly share their work with not only their peers in our Society but also with others in brother organizations such as the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. This is accomplished through joint meetings and symposia, much



President McHail

like, but on a smaller scale to the joint convention we are enjoying this week. Cooperation between our Societies is alive and well. When, on occasion, I am asked about the possibility of merger of our two Societies, I instantly respond that we are, in effect, already merged as evidenced by our many actions. Perhaps the future will show even more. The next time you receive a flyer in the mail announcing a meeting or symposium, take the time to notice the list of sponsoring or cooperating agencies. In this regard, our officers and staff have been most diligent in the promotion of purposes intended by our founders.

Let me take a minute to remind you more thoroughly of this article wisely laid down in 1934 in the incorporation of the Society by our Founders. They charged that the basic purpose of the Society shall be "... to advance knowledge in, and encourage the use of photogrammetry and its related science to provide a means for the dissemination of information on photogrammetry and its related sciences; to encourage the exchange of ideas; to stimulate student interest and development in photogrammetry and its related sciences; to improve standards; and to uphold ethical principles."

This brings me to the one special part of message to you today. I hope as your President to make a specific contribution during my tenure. I feel that the long term future growth and success of photogrammetry and remote sensing lies not necessarily with us who are here today, the young folks in the audience excepted, but with those who are to follow us. I think that we desperately need to share and pass on our knowledge and leadership to others who have just begun their careers and indeed have yet to discover the full wonders of our science. Our fine array of available publications and those that are planned for the future serve us well both technically and financially, but they must not stagnate. We have a vast wealth of potential in members from other scientific disciplines who do not recognize the science of photogrammetry and remote sensing as their primary technical field. These, as well as those in training in the primarily earth science related fields, need to have more of our attention directed to them.

Toward this end, I am implementing two actions. First is the appointment of an ad hoc committee called the *Student Affairs Committee* to be chaired by Dr. Stanley Morain. This committee will be charged with the development, organization, and implementation of programs to serve the Society's goal of promotion and dissemination of our science to student members. It will pattern, where practical, the parallel successes of other Societies who presently have similar successful programs. From this we hope to develop more active student chapters in every Region; more active interest and participation in our meetings, annual, Fall, and in-between symposia and workshops; more active participation in our student awards program; and, of course, more active participation in the role of eventual takeover of our profession when we taper off. I personally want growth, success, and above all, the widest possible dissemination of the science of photogrammetry throughout the world. It is of too much value to mankind to keep cloistered, and the best way I know to reap the most benefit quickly is to pass on our knowledge and information to bright, eager, anxious youths to carry forth in their world, the one we will leave behind. That is the first action.

The second is to ask each member of our Society to make a personal effort to share his expertise with someone who needs it. My personal experience shows that there are many, many people, scientists, engineers, and technicians who can and should be using some part of our science. I could cite examples but each of you, I'm certain, can match my experience. So take a colleague, whether he be a he or a she, a Geographer or Cartographer, Geomorphologist, Landscape Architect, Forester, Range Manager, Geologist, Soil Scientist, Plant Pathologist, Archeologist, Land-Use Planner, Civil Engineer, Hydrologist, Meteorologist, Hydrographer, or even an Ecologist or Environmentalist, whatever, communicate with and share your priceless gift of knowledge of photogrammetry. Experience has shown that such a sharing always benefits both parties.

I recently had a wonderful opportunity to represent my company, our Society, and our Country by visiting the People's Republic of China. I was asked to conduct a seminar for a number of scientists from a variety of disciplines on the subject of instrumentation and applications in photogrammetry and remote sensing. I received a delightful welcome throughout my visit in Beijing and had a tour through their research and development facilities. It gave me the opportunity to try to practice what I preach. I hope they benefited from my visit as much as I did.

And so, in conclusion, it is perhaps fitting to quote a Chinese saying that sums up my remarks. "If you plan for one year, sow rice. If you plan for a decade, plant trees. If you plan for a lifetime, train and educate men." Thank you.