

Incoming President's Message 1982

—Allan C. Bock

THANK YOU DR. ZARZYCKI, Officers and Members of the American Society of Photogrammetry, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Before I proceed further I would like to introduce my wife Joanne, who is my partner in all things, and who encouraged me to aspire to this office. Joanne—will you stand up and meet our members whom we will serve during this next year. Without Joanne's help during the ensuing year, I would only be about 50% as effective. She is my secretary and my confidant and most of all she points me in the right direction—on time. She also critiques my performance which I hope will result in improvement as the year passes. I think this is also a good time to give a vote of thanks for all of the wives, and ladies who devote great amounts of time to the Society and ask nothing in return. Many of you know Joanne and those who don't will have an opportunity to meet her personally during the ensuing year.



President Bock

I am honored to have the privilege of joining the ranks of a long line of illustrious and learned gentlemen. I am speaking of the 47 presidents who preceded me in this office. I knew many of those who have departed from this earth and almost all who are still among us and I can testify that, without exception, they are the most dedicated group I have ever encountered. I am proud that you saw fit to choose me to carry the banner for this next year. I will do my best to continue the tradition of integrity and service so well established by our 47 past presidents.

I was just starting school at the Army Air Corps Technical School, when our first President, Claude Birdseye took office. General Goddard, then a colonel, was my commanding officer and, took me on my first photo flight in a Fairchild 71 Aircraft, at Chanute Field, Illinois. I joined ASP upon graduation from the Air Corps Technical School in 1937, about three years after the society was formed. I have attended every Annual meeting since 1945 and every Fall meeting with one or two exceptions. I am not trying to win brownie points, but I am trying to make an important point. The main reason I have so religiously attended these conventions, is because I found long ago, that they do a superb job of re-charging my batteries. After six months tied to a desk in Minneapolis, or on a project in the field, a guy can get awfully stale and not realize it. A few days at an ASP-ACSM meeting can really start the juices flowing and fire up the imagination as most of you know. After my first day at my first convention, I was so excited about all of the ideas and new equipment and techniques I encountered, I couldn't get to sleep until the wee hours of the morning. The company which I managed and owned for 40 years, Mark Hurd Aerial Surveys, made it a firm policy to send a large contingent of employees to these meetings simply because we found them to be much more enthusiastic about their jobs and their company, after their return.

To me, this is the most important function of our Society. It boils down, of course, to encouraging the inception and growth of ideas, the fostering of imagination, the exchange of information and most of all the environment in which to nurture all of these. I intend to carry on this tradition and to expand it, both within and beyond our borders to the fullest extent possible.

I am particularly anxious to bring about closer cooperation with our neighbors to the south. All the way from Mexico to Argentina and Chile. I have spent a considerable amount of time in these countries and I feel that we have much to offer them and they have much to offer us. Our Panama region has approximately 500 members and a vast store of experience in Latin America. Mr. Jack Staples, the President of the Panama Region has graciously offered to devote his time supporting me and our society in such an effort.

I recently attended a seminar for Chief elected officers, often referred to by the registrants as a "charm school." One point made at that seminar was that associations are guilty of a lot of zig-zagging. This occurs because each President, who usually serves only one year, has his own pet projects which he wants the society to pursue while he is in office. The result is a new direction each year, and consequently very little forward progress. My first thought was, "Ah, I will set a new precedent and not zig-zag." So I went back to the incoming messages of our three previous presidents and I found that our Society is not guilty of zig-zagging—at least not in recent times. President Moffitt, in his acceptance

speech said, and I quote, "New programs invariably take time to bear fruit, but I believe we have made a good beginning on these new programs during the past couple of years and I intend to follow their progress quite doggedly." President McHail said, "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."

President Zarzycki said, "In this respect I intend to continue the strengthening of ties with our sister societies nationally and internationally by encouraging joint symposia, working groups and meetings." Unquote. This isn't to say that my predecessors failed to foster new ideas or new programs, it is to say, that they have been wise and careful in the choice of those programs so as to enhance the usefulness of the Society to its members and the general public without changing the direction we are going. I intend to follow this precedent.

Students of history will tell you that great inventions or social advances occur when several events come together at a period in time to trigger them. For instance, oil was discovered and refined into gasoline and the gasoline engine was invented and thus spawned the automobile. No power on earth could have stopped the invention of the automobile at that time—also no power on earth could have invented the automobile before the coming together of these events. The same is true of the electronics industry and all of the wonders it has wrought, i.e. magnetic tape and the vacuum tube resulting in the computer, as well as many other such developments. Similarly, I believe the time has come for a consolidation of the American Society of Photogrammetry and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. I believe both societies have arrived at a stage in their growth where consolidation would enhance their opportunities for future development.

Just as important, the only two executives capable of bringing about such a consolidation are available and working on the plan at this time. The expertise, knowledge, and experience that Mr. Radlinski is putting into this effort will never be available to us again. We must strike while the iron is hot. I am enthusiastic about it and I intend to devote considerable time and effort to its adoption.

When I think of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, in the broad sense, as the science of gathering, measuring, disseminating, displaying, storing, and retrieving information about our environment, my imagination and enthusiasm are boundless. We stand about where the airplane was at the end of World War I. We have a tremendous future ahead of us. I sincerely hope we don't fumble the ball.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the awards donors, whose generous recognition of outstanding achievement has contributed much to the growth of the Society and to congratulate the winners of those awards. I would also like to thank the sustaining members for their continuing support and last, but not least, the exhibitors, who contribute so much to enhancing the interest in the convention as well as its financial success.

In closing, I would like to offer each of you my earnest cooperation and I solicit your support and help in the year ahead.

Thank you.

