

Professionalism in the American Society of Photogrammetry

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SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING of the American Society of Photogrammetry, persons engaged in aerial photography and photogrammetric measurements have been concerned with their position in the scientific community. The first photogrammetric mapping firms were an outgrowth of flying organizations that developed a capability to obtain aerial photographs. Later, with the development of stereo photogrammetric instruments and techniques, surveyors and engineers, mostly civil engineers, became a part of this rapidly growing scientific endeavor. Following World War II the field was enlarged still further by the addition of a wide variety of engineers and scientists who foresaw a means of extracting vast amounts of data from aerial photographs and other airborne sensors.

A substantial step in the establishment of professional pride and professional recognition occurred with the work in the Tennessee Valley and by the joint mapping efforts of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Maps and Surveys Division of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). In order to cope with the directives of the Congress which authorized the TVA on 18 May 1933, a vast surveying and mapping program using aerial photographs was implemented. Detailed instructions and standards were published to cover various phases of Surveying and Mapping operations. Engineers and scientists were recruited to fill positions in field and office mapping assignments. USGS personnel assigned to stereo photogrammetric mapping were started as professional engineers, P-1 Civil Service grade.

In the 1930's private surveying and mapping organizations made special efforts to recruit and train professionally oriented men and women to perform surveying and photogrammetric jobs. The relatively small cadre of professional people grew and expanded during the wartime years of World War II. All branches of military service found increasing needs for reliable data and precise maps that were prepared from aerial photography in order to meet deadline dates and critical requirements.

During these years, meetings of the American Society of Photogrammetry included talks on Professionalism, and the Board of Directors was concerned with professional standards of work and conduct.

In 1953 the in-coming President of the Society announced as one of his objectives, "that we should

double our efforts toward professional recognition of our work." A Professional Status Committee was established, and that committee contacted a number of State Registration Boards regarding the matter of licensing of persons engaged in photogrammetric work. The response from the various Boards indicated: one, an overall lack of knowledge and interest in photogrammetry; two, the need for photogrammetrists to obtain registration as qualified engineers; and three, that the photogrammetrists should develop their professional image.

In 1956 the Surveying and Mapping Division of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) authorized its chairman to implement a "Task Committee on the Status of Surveying and Mapping." The Committee, chaired by Brother B. Austin Barry representing academia, George D. Whitmore representing government employment, and A. O. Quinn from private practice, conducted detailed studies and investigations over a period of three years. The studies culminated in a Final Report which concluded that Surveying and Mapping was indeed a professional activity and that it was a part of the Civil Engineering profession. A detailed "Classification Chart for Surveying and Mapping" was prepared along with basic definitions for Land or Property Surveying, Engineering Surveys (for design and construction), Geodetic Surveying, and Cartographic Surveying. Photogrammetric procedures were recognized by the Committee as an integral part of Surveying and Mapping activities.

The Report was the basis for an ASCE policy that was adopted in February of 1959. The ASCE Policy, which was accompanied by diligent administrative follow-up, provided the basis for an increased awareness of the professional and engineering aspects of Surveying, Mapping, and Photogrammetry.

The ASCE policy was adopted by ASP and acclaimed by firms in private practice as an aid in establishing a professional image for Surveying, Mapping, and Photogrammetry. Contracts for mapping projects were awarded on the basis of professional negotiation, and the profession responded with a renewed professional attitude and responsibility.

Later, the U.S. Department of Justice challenged the ASCE code of ethics which prevented members from submitting competitive bids for professional engineering (surveying and mapping included)

work. After great deliberation, the ASCE agreed to remove the no bidding restriction from its code. The National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), which had a similar restriction in its Code of Ethics, elected to challenge the Department of Justice and took the matter to Court. After a series of trials by the U.S. District Court and the Court of Appeals, the suit was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. On 25 April 1978, the Supreme Court ruled in a complicated decision against NSPE and declared that the Society could not prohibit its members from submitting competitive bids for engineering services. It did not state that competitive bids were required. Unfortunately, this decision has been misinterpreted by many agencies as requiring competitive bids, with the result that the professional gains made since 1959 were seriously damaged.

Since the 1978 decision, professional societies have insisted that their members maintain professional standards of work and conduct and have pointed out the value of professional negotiation for professional work. ASP has followed this policy.

The ASP Professional Engineers Committee worked closely with ASCE officials in monitoring the ASCE policy and in the preparation of a detailed "Professional Aspects of Photogrammetry Classification Chart." Further contacts were made with State Registration Boards to familiarize them with the professional and engineering portions of photogrammetry and to urge their consideration of registration for photogrammetric engineers.

Additional study and work by the Committee, then called the Professional Activities Committee, led to the development of a program for the certification of photogrammetrists by the Society. The plan was approved by the ASP Board of Direction on 13 March 1975. "In simplest terms, certification is official recognition by one's colleagues and peers that he or she has truly demonstrated professional integrity and competence. As such, the ASP Voluntary Certification program complements, but is not a substitute for, registration which is a legal act on the part of the several States. . . ."

The ASP Certification Program provides for the submission of a detailed application; a review of the applications by an Evaluation Committee; a declaration of compliances with the ASP Code of Ethics; and the establishment of a Professional Conduct Committee to investigate allegations and complaints involving practicing photogrammetrists.

The Certification Program has been well received, and to date 360 persons have been accepted and approved as Certified Photogrammetrists by the Society.

Since the early 1960's an increasing number of highly sophisticated and very precise stereo-plotting instruments and high speed computers have been available. Electronic distance measuring instruments, optical theodolites, and "total station" instruments have increased the scope and accuracy of

field surveys. Aerial cameras with high resolution and low distortion lenses have been incorporated into the photogrammetrists capabilities.

At the 1980 annual meeting of the Society in St. Louis, a strong recommendation by A. O. Quinn was made to establish a new Division of ASP to be called "The Professional Photogrammetrist in Private Practice." A petition was prepared and submitted to the Board. At the October 1980 semi-annual meeting, a proposal and plan was submitted and on 22 February 1981, the Professional Practice Division was authorized, and L. R. Evans was elected as its first Director. The following goals were set for the new Division:

- To establish and protect the professional aspects of the profession of photogrammetry;
- To put real meaning into the use and applications and following of the Code of Ethics;
- To establish and work with the Professional Standards Committee for the conduct of professional and technical work;
- To promote and prepare articles for general distribution to educate and advise clients regarding photogrammetry on a professional basis; and
- To be a means of fostering an exchange of technical ideas.

The Society has a representative on the Joint Government Affairs Committee and in 1983 the Board voted to become associated with the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) Political Action Committee (PAC). Through these important committees, the Society takes an active part in legislation and professional activities in Surveying, Mapping, and Photogrammetry.

At a Board of Direction meeting in early 1944 an amendment to the Constitution of the Society proposing a change in the definition of members, as follows, was approved for submission to the Membership:

2. MEMBER. A member shall be a person who is qualified to direct and perform photogrammetric work, both in the field and in the office. He shall have had responsible charge of important photogrammetric work for at least five years and shall have been in active practice of engineering, photography, or aviation for at least twelve years and shall be not less than thirty-five years of age.
3. ASSOCIATE MEMBER. . . . shall be a person who is actively engaged in the practice of photogrammetry or who, by reason of education or profession, is interested in the application or development of Photogrammetry.

In the Vol. X, No. 2, Oct., Nov., Dec., 1944 issue of *Photogrammetric Engineering*, p. 227 noted that the proposal had been passed by over two-thirds of the votes cast and it is now part of the Constitution. In a short time it is expected that the Constitution and By-Laws Committee will devise a procedure for election of the higher ranking Members from the Associate Members applying.

At the 12th Annual Meeting, January 1946, Pres. O. M. Miller announced, ". . . Every word of the new By-Laws (*regarding graded membership*)* had received the closest scrutiny, . . . the final revision is now ready and will be published with the approval of the Board very shortly.

It is assumed that in sending Membership cards out for 1946 the Sec. Treas. John M. Haynie as-

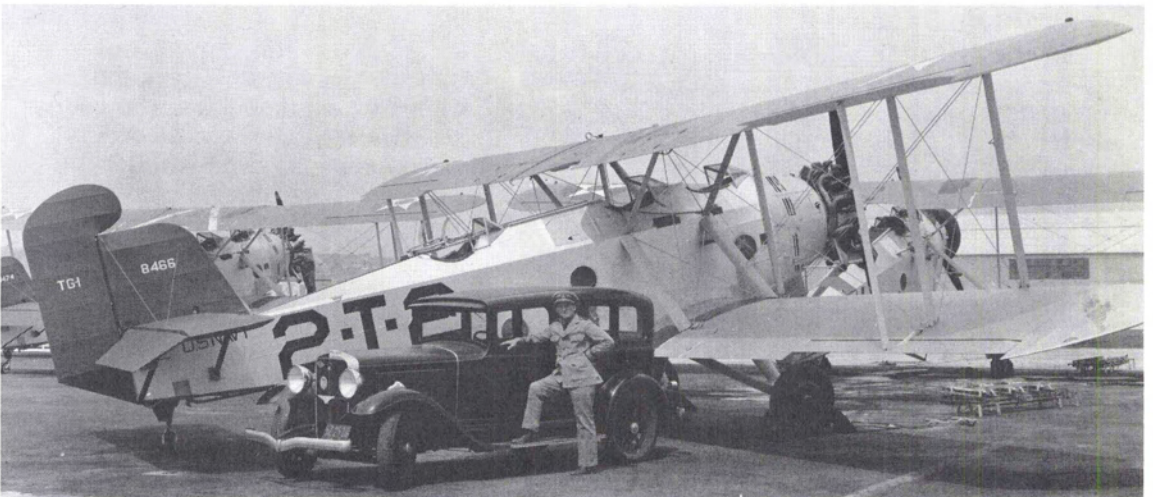
signed everyone to Associate Membership status as there is no record of application for full Membership. At the 13th Annual Meeting, January 1947 Business Session, under new business, Marshall S. Wright presented a petition requesting that the existing By-Laws be amended to, in effect, reestablish the situation which had been in effect before the change, acceptance of the petition was moved, seconded, and passed. So ended the first attempt of the society to establish a position as a Professional Society.

* Editorial comment.



Paul M. Pepper and his bride Nellie (Jacqmain) Pepper. Married June 9, 1934, in the Old Cathedral, Vincennes, IN. This snapshot was taken about that time while Paul was working toward his doctorate in Mathematics at the University of Cincinnati.

Olmstead Peet in a photograph taken August, 1934 at the Cornell University Civil Engineering Surveying Camp.



R. S. Quackenbush, Jr. as he was in 1934, a flight instructor and officer in charge of Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida.