

# THE WORLD IN SPACE

## Introduction

From March 13 through 19, 1988, ASPRS and ACSM held their annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. The theme for this year's Annual Convention was "The World in Space." This was the 54th such gathering for ASPRS, ACSM's 48th, and it was the first time we had been to St. Louis since 1980.

The technical sessions and the exhibition were held in Cervantes Convention Center. Administrative meetings were held in the Sheraton Hotel across the street from the convention center. About 5,000 people showed up to attend sessions, meetings, and social events.

## Getting Started

Preparations for this kind of meeting start years in advance. It takes a lot of planning to get all of the various pieces to come together at the right place and time: publicity, technical and social programs, facilities, catering, and on and on. Then, as the last few months and weeks go by, the tension, anticipation, and frenzy builds at the local site and national headquarters. It is actually a relief once the convention starts, because we know there will be no more last minute glitches, bogus deadlines, or missed opportunities. We just have to make all our plans run smoothly, solve the problems that come up, and look forward to putting our feet up afterward.

Those of us from national headquarters went out to the meeting the Friday and Saturday before things officially got underway. On Saturday, the ASPRS staff set up our "office" in the hotel, our headquarters for the next week, and on Sunday we set up the ASPRS booth in the Convention Center. The exhibitors were also hard at work, busily transforming the cavernous hall in time for Tuesday morning's opening of the world's largest showcase of the mapping sciences.



Buffet table at the Presidents' Reception.

## Getting Down to Business

One of the prime functions of the annual meeting is to conduct the Society's business. The administrative functions started in earnest on Saturday morning when the ASPRS Executive Committee convened for its usual full-day session. Here, the groundwork was laid for the rest of the week, as well as plans for the next few months and years. The Convention itself was kicked off by a Keynote Address from National Geographic's Gilbert M. Grosvenor (see p. 1033-1034 for text).



John Graham and Albert Aurginer Woods cutting the ribbon at the opening of the Exhibitions.

Division and technical committees met throughout the week:

- Monday – Division Directors, Primary Data Acquisition Division, Engineering Applications Committee, Evaluation for Certification Committee
- Tuesday – Joint ASPRS/ACSM GIMS Committee, Professional Practice Division, Specifications and Standards Committee, Close-Range Photogrammetry Committee, Remote Sensing Applications Division
- Wednesday – Coordinate Measurements Systems Committee, Image Quality Committee, Photogrammetric Applications Division

The week's business meetings included the Awards Committee, Region Presidents and Officers, IGI Foundation, Membership Committee, Mid-South Region, Long Range Planning Committee, Inter-Society Liaison Committee, Education Committee, Sustaining Member's Council, and the Journal Policy Committee. On Wednesday morning, the formal Installation of Officers was held, and Thursday saw the ASPRS Board of Directors meeting. A full report of the Board's actions appears on page 1096.

## Technical Matters

Another big reason folks come to this meeting is the wide variety of technical sessions offered:

- Monday – Automated Cartography and Artificial Intelligence; Organization and Management of Cartographic Programs; Techniques for Image Processing I - Land Cover
- Tuesday – Industrial Forum on Commercial Space Imaging: Parts I & II; Nonconventional Applications of Photogrammetry; SPOT: New Industry Trends and Applications; Tactical Reconnaissance Technology; Hydrographic Science Applications: Remote Sensing;
- Wednesday – Close Range Photogrammetry in Industry - Tools: Parts I, II, & III; Terrain Mapping; Support for the Army of the Future; Forestry Applications: Remote Sensing; Geology and Soil Applications: Remote Sensing; Geographic Information Management Systems
- Thursday – Expert Systems; Techniques for Image Processing II - Vegetation; Systems and Efforts to Support Data Acquisition; Geographical Information Systems
- Friday – Computational Photogrammetry; Knowledge-Based Analysis; Remote Sensing Applications for Acid Deposition - Parts I & II; Selected Topics in Transportation Surveys
- Saturday – Remote Sensing Applications for Acid Deposition - Part III



Sustaining Members Breakfast.

The week's technical sessions generated 1456 pages of technical papers in a six-volume set of Proceedings: Vol. 1 – Surveying, Vol. 2 – Cartography, Vol. 3 – Photogrammetry, Vol. 4 – Image Processing/Remote Sensing, Vol. 5 – GIS, and Vol. 6 – General. All six volumes are available through the ASPRS Store in the back of this issue of *PE&RS*.

## A Sociable Group

This report would be incomplete without mention of the week's social activities. Over 600 people attended the Icebreaker Cocktail Party on Monday evening in the lovely Adams Mark Hotel. The theme for the evening lent a flavor of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, with balloons, popcorn, and jellybeans. E. Coyote Enterprises also celebrated the 10th anniversary of the *Photogrammetric Coyote* that evening with champagne and cake.

The Sheraton Hotel was the site for the Presidents' Cocktail Party, Banquet, and Dinner Dance. After cocktails from 6:30 to 7:30 in the foyer, more than 400 people sat down to dinner. Entertainment was provided by the Jazz Incredibles Trio, a comic magician, and the Bob Kuban Brass, one of St. Louis' top bands. Dancing went on until late that evening.



At the Presidents' Cocktail Party, Banquet and Dinner Dance.

Social events for the week also included a full slate of activities for spouses and guests. On Monday, there was a tour of the Missouri Botanical Garden and Forest Park, site of the 1904 World's Fair. Monday's second offering began with a presentation on the use of close-range photogrammetry in accident reconstruction, followed by a trip to the Anheuser-Busch brewery. Tuesday's two sessions focused on "St. Louis and Its German Heritage" and an arts & crafts session, followed by another tour of the brewery. A wide panoply of events were held the rest of the week: the Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, Historic Tour; cooking demonstrations; shopping trips; a cruise on the Mississippi; and museum tours and sightseeing. (I think I'd like to go as a "Guest" sometime.)

## Accolades

A big highlight of the annual meeting is the presentation of the many awards, which actually happens twice. The first time was on Tuesday evening, when a cocktail reception was held in honor of all the award winners. This is also the main opportunity to take photos of the recipients with their awards. Then, on the following morning, they were all "officially" presented with their awards. For all the pictures and facts, you should read pages 1035-1057 of this issue.

Honors should also go to this year's local Convention Committee members, who did such a great job. These people deserve a lot of credit for their hard work and dedication under difficult circumstances: **George Cline**, Director; **Jerry Becker**, Assistant Director; **Dave Alspaugh**, Exhibits; **Beverly Barsh**, Administration and Lodging; **Toni Dean**, Exhibits and Hotel Liaison; **Silvia Freeman**, Assistant, Administration and Lodging; **Jo Ann Hemple**, Special Activities; **William Hemple**, Protocol and Student Activities; **Terri Higgins**, Exhibits and Hotel Liaison; **Bobbi Lenczowski**, Programs – ASPRS; **Jerry Lenczowski**, Programs – ACSM; **Ron Olsen**, Registration; **Sam Richards**, Printing; **Laura Thompson**, Entertainment; **Willard Tucker**, Public Relations; and **Dale Willeford**, Deputy of Finance.

—Don Hemenway



The Chinese Delegation.