

THE FLORIDA SURVEYOR

September 2022
Volume XXX, Issue 8



IN THIS ISSUE

FSMS Pioneer Dr. David Gibson
Tribute to Loren E. Mercer
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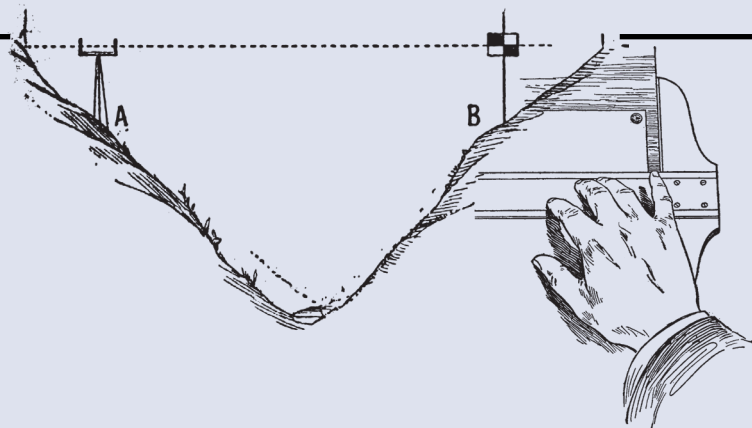
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THE FLORIDA SURVEYOR is the official publication of the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society, also known as FSMS. It is published monthly for the purpose of communicating with the professional surveying community and related professions who are members of FSMS. Our award winning publication informs members eleven months out of the year about national, state, and district events and accomplishments, as well as articles relevant to the surveying profession. In addition, continuing educational courses are also available.

PRESIDENT'S Message

At the risk of plagiarizing my March President's message, I unfortunately once again must. Florida is a big state. Maybe not so much for land area, but for the population, there is no doubt. Still, as big as our population numbers are, the surveying population is tight-knit. Along those lines, I want to reflect on the recent passing of past FSMS President and Life Member Loren Mercer, and in so doing, give another brief glimpse into some of our past histories.

I first was elected to the FSMS Board in 1992, and Loren had been on the Board for a few years before me and he was President-Elect the year I first joined the Board. Loren was someone who never had a cross word with anyone, and he always had an upbeat attitude. He did his role as President without issue, of course. However, when Loren was Immediate Past President, his successor to the presidency, after a few months in office, abdicated his position. He left his work, his family – virtually everything. Apparently, he was under a lot of pressure that the other Board members did not know about. He just left town without telling anyone where he was going. After a couple of weeks, it was discovered that he was in Colorado. Without missing a beat, Loren went out to Colorado and picked him up, then returned him to his family in Florida. **THIS** is the type of man that was my friend Loren Mercer. I had the honor of attending Loren's funeral, and his pastor, who was also a friend of Loren's (everyone Loren met became a friend), put it succinctly that more folks should be like Loren. I couldn't agree more.

Onto more current news, I would like you to join me in welcoming our newest staff member Samantha Hobbs, as our new Education Director. Prior to joining FSMS, Samantha was with the Florida Engineering Society and with the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects prior to that. Being an FES member, I have seen Samantha's name many times, but have never met her. I look forward to this at our November FSMS Board meeting. She can be reached at education@fsms.org and she goes by "Sam."



President
Lou Campanile, Jr.
(954) 980-8888
lou@campanile.net

Loren E. Mercer

Florida Professional Land Surveyor # 1324

June 10th, 1934, to August 9th, 2022

It is with a heavy, heavy heart that we say “so long partner” to a true friend, colleague, mentor, lifetime member and past president, of the Florida Society of Professional Land Surveyors.

Mr. Loren E. Mercer passed away on August 9, 2022, at the age of 88, surrounded by his beloved family.

Those that knew Loren Mercer know that he was a passionate believer in Jesus Christ, a very strong and proud family man, and a surveyor to his very core.

Loren was very proud of his chosen profession and was very encouraging to all that followed his path.

Loren earned his professional license on September 9, 1958, and was the youngest, at age 24, to have received this honor. PLS # 1324. He was proud of this accomplishment. Many of us can compare our license number to his and realize that this was quite some time before us.

Loren joined the “Florida Society of Professional Land Surveyors,” now the “Florida Surveying & Mapping Society,” as a full member in 1965 and served as President from 1993 to 1994. He was awarded “Chapter President of the Year” in 1990, “Surveyor of the Year” in 1994, and was honored as “Lifetime Member” by the Society, in 2004. He regularly encouraged young surveyors to join the society, participate, and serve on some level at their local chapter.

Through his surveying journey, Loren made many friends, mentored many young surveyors, and provided necessary guidance to many young men and



women who were dealing with life's struggles. He was a bright light and had a God given ability to help others shine. Loren had surveying stories and tales to keep you entertained for hours and seemed to know everyone in the state of Florida.

Although surveying was his profession, Loren also enjoyed farming. He owned and operated a strawberry farm at one time and often, at the end of a workday, he would say "I need to go home and dig in the dirt," referring to planting and repotting. This was his relaxation. Also, a fisherman, Loren loved catching Bass. He often spoke of his many trips to "The Holy Lands" in Okeechobee, with his brother Raymond and told some horrifying tales of the alligators there.



Loren was born and raised in Turkey Creek, Florida, and graduated from Turkey Creek High School in 1951. He and Christine Brooks eloped and were married in Waycross, Georgia on July 4, 1952. Together they raised three sons, Eddie, Teddy, and Ricky. Of course, each of them married and the family grew. Loren is survived by his 3 sons, 7 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, with a great-great grandchild on the way. As proud of his surveying career as he was, his pride in his family and his faith were even greater.

Mr. Loren E. Mercer, PLS 1324 will be missed dearly by all who were blessed to have known him.

"So long, partner."

Prepared by David T. York

Special thanks to: Ricky Mercer and Lou Campanile, Jr.

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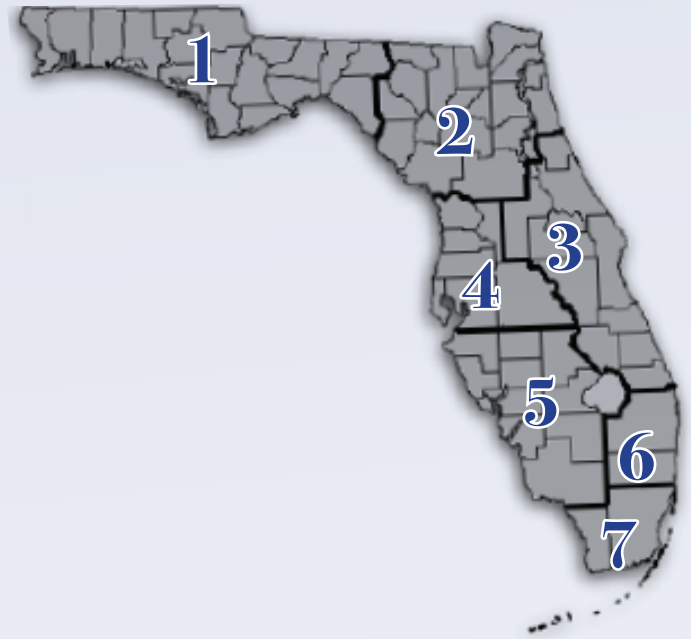
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FSMS Pioneers

A series that honors the legends of surveying in the state of Florida



Dr. David Wylie Gibson
(1944 - 2016)

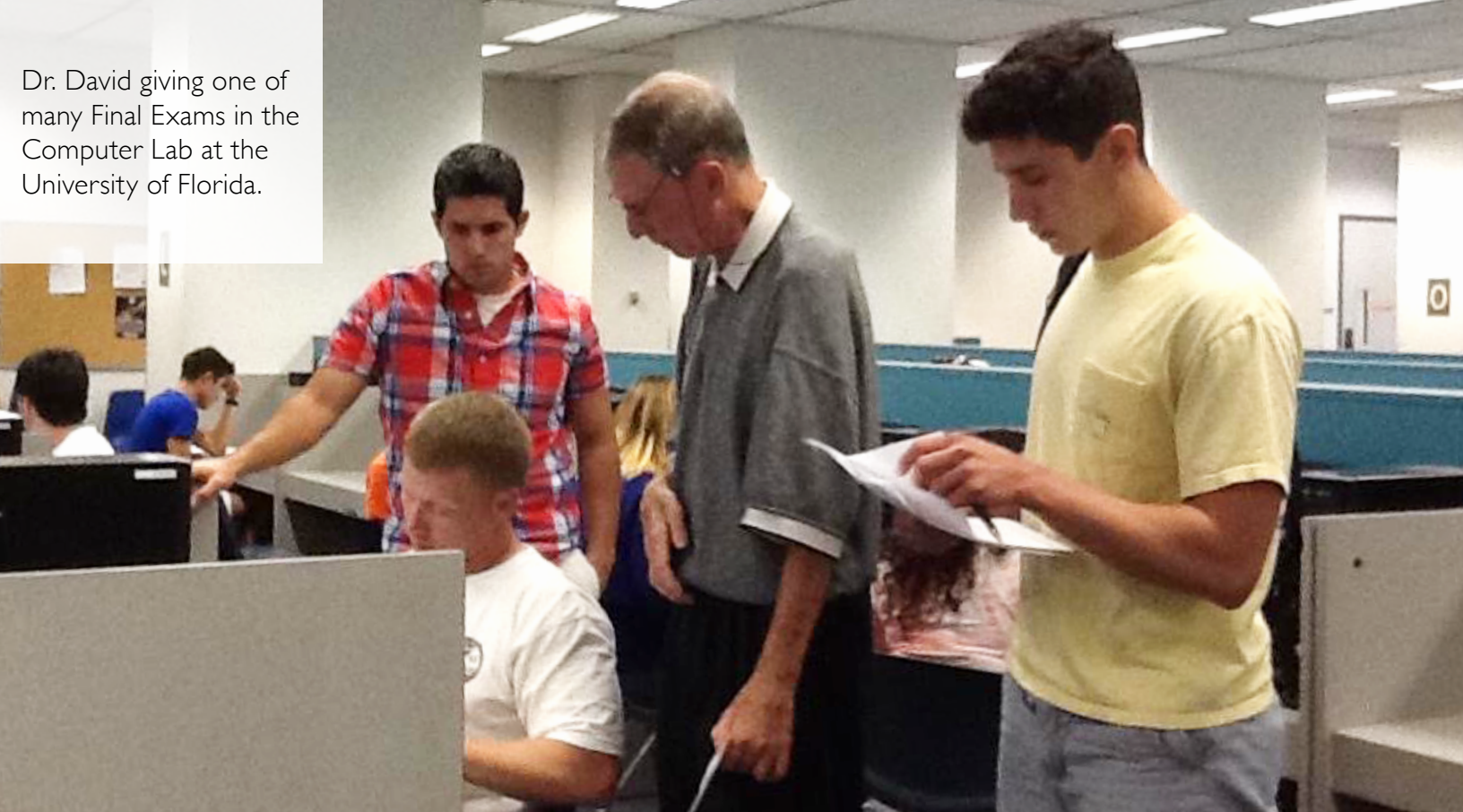
Early Family Life

Dr. David Wylie Gibson was born to H. Donald and Josephine Wallace Gibson in Youngstown, Ohio. He grew up in New Bedford, Pennsylvania with his older brother Robert and younger brother Bruce. It was during this time he and his brothers discovered their interests in baseball and music. Music played a huge role throughout Dr. Gibson's life. His mother Josephine played the piano, while the beginnings of rock 'n' roll inspired him and his brothers to learn guitar. Growing up, David along with his brothers could often be found exploring the dams and creeks in the deep forests behind their home. Attending the local Presbyterian church was a central pillar in the Gibson family and a tradition David continued throughout his life.

Education

Dr. Gibson graduated from New Wilmington high school in 1962. Not long after, he enrolled in the University of Cincinnati where he earned a Bachelor

Dr. David giving one of many Final Exams in the Computer Lab at the University of Florida.



of Science in Civil Engineering. While pursuing his bachelor's degree, Dr. Gibson joined the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity and served as president of the Cincinnati chapter from 1964-1965. Dr. Gibson spent his spring breaks in Miami, Florida where he fell in love with the surrounding area. It was during one of these holiday breaks that he decided to pursue his Master of Science in Civil Engineering at the University of Miami.

Betty Fitch

After graduating with his Master of Science in Civil Engineering, Dr. Gibson began to teach surveying at Palm Beach Junior College. During his first semester, he lived in a cabin cruiser boat at the Lake Worth dock. He enjoyed teaching during the day and the freedom of nights on the water. Dr. Gibson eventually bought a house in Stuart, Florida while teaching at PBJC, and

got acquainted with another professor there that caught his eye. David met and began dating Betty Fitch during his tenure with PBJC and he finally proposed to her in Easter of 1973 at Bok Tower in Lake Wales, Florida. Five weeks later they were married on May 27, 1973, in her hometown of Findlay, Ohio.

Mrs. Gibson recalls in their early days at PBJC that FSMS Pioneers Bill Keith, Ed Brownell, Gene Stoner and others were working together to help establish a college degree for surveying. They encouraged Dr. Gibson to get the program started and supported him in everything he needed along the way.

Starting a Family

In 1974 the couple moved to Gainesville where Dr. Gibson began teaching Surveying and Mapping at the University

of Florida in the Civil Engineering Department (eventually moved to the Forestry department in IFAS).

When asked about Dr. David's interest in surveying and how it began, Mrs. Betty points to David's time in elementary school. She said, "there was a little magazine called *Weekly Reader* that was handed out in school. It would have a description of a career each time. One time it wrote about surveyors. He thought it sounded fascinating, and it was always in his mind."

David and Betty had their first child Amy while living in Gainesville in 1978. They shortly began desiring to live in the country, so they moved into an old 1880s cracker-style house out in Evinston, Florida. Soon after they arrived in Evinston they

had their second child Evin in 1980, and their third, William in 1983. They now have four grandchildren, Landon, Allyson, Wyatt, and Luke.

Love of God and Music

Dr. Gibson and his family became heavily involved with the Evinston United Methodist Church as well as the McIntosh United Methodist Church. It was at the McIntosh UMC that Dr. David quickly became a leader in their youth group where he was fondly referred to as "Captain Dave." In addition to that, David served as the Evinston UMC Sunday School Superintendent for thirty years. His well-known love of music was expressed through both churches as well as the communities where he played multiple instruments and sang in the choirs. His never-ending passion for learning new



Dr. David grades exam papers in the Computer Lab at the University of Florida.



Dr. David enjoying the French countryside in 2012 while writing his research paper for ESGT.

things first led him to teach himself the piano and guitar, but later in life, he taught himself to play the trumpet, keyboard, banjo, violin, and accordion. Each of these instruments was part of the many celebrations in Dr. David and his family's life and were enjoyed throughout the communities who heard him play. Not only was Dr. David a very talented musician, but he also loved to sing and was a member of many church choirs, a community choir, and The Shape Note Singers in Micanopy.

Professional Achievements

During Dr. David's time at the University of Florida, he was integral to the establishment of the Geomatics program as well as providing significant contributions nationally to the field. He continued as a faculty member at UF for forty years where he retired in 2008 as an Emeritus Associate Professor

in Geomatics. Because of his love and passion, Dr. David kept teaching students at the University of Florida until 2014. As part of being an ambassador for surveying, he helped to establish surveying programs at many universities, even becoming a bona fide "Kentucky Colonel" for his accomplishments in the Blue Grass state.

It was in Le Mans, France in 2012 as a visiting research scholar that Dr. David was able to fulfill a lifelong dream of his by showcasing his research at Ecole Superieure des Geometres et Topographes (ESGT). Mrs. Betty said that his research paper was a comparison of surveying in France and the United States. She remembers Dr. David having some difficulty typing out his paper overseas because some of the keyboard letters were not the same from the American version he was used to back home.

From 1997 to 2012, Dr. David was a consultant to the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES), as a subject matter expert that reviewed exams and identified exam weaknesses for resolution. In 2014 he received a unique President's Award from the NCEES "in appreciation for outstanding service to NCEES and the surveying profession."

Dr. David Gibson co-authored a major surveying textbook in 1981 with Carl F. Meyer called *Route Surveying and Design*. In 1987, Dr. Gibson wrote Chapter 24 in *The Surveyor's Handbook* titled "Route Surveys," and in 1995 he again wrote a chapter called "Route Surveys" for the 25th chapter of *The Surveying Handbook*. In addition, Dr. Gibson authored sixteen peer-reviewed articles and twenty-three other articles consisting of research reports, conferences, and proceedings, while also being an active member of multiple professional societies. As a culmination of his contributions to surveying education, accreditation, and examination, he was named one of the "25 Most Influential People in the U.S. Surveying Profession" by the *Professional Surveyor Magazine* in 2006.

In addition to his career achievements, Dr. David decided to return to school in 1999-2000 to obtain his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering at the University of Alabama. He finished and received his degree in 2002 after writing his dissertation on "Management and Valuation of Digital Geographic Data Through Atomic

Measurements of Data Usage."

FSMS would like to thank Dr. David for all of his sacrifice, dedication, and servitude to the profession. We are honored to include him as a Pioneer of the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society.

Professional Bio

David W. Gibson

Emeritus Associate Professor, Geomatics
304 Reed Lab, P.O. Box 110565
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

David Gibson is the founding Program Director of the Geomatics Program at the University of Florida. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati (1967), a Master of Science degree from the University of Miami (1970), and a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama (2002). He holds academic interest and has instructed courses in a broad sector of the geomatics field including geographic information systems, mapping, boundary law, cadastral systems, route design, and photogrammetry.

Research interests include the economic evaluation of information systems, land boundary definition and resolution, riparian rights, and methods of building base layers for geographic information systems. In Florida he has been active in GIS, holding a gubernatorial appointment as founding chair of the state's base mapping advisory committee (BMAC) and a charter appointment to the state's

Geographic Information Board (GIB).

Professional activities include more than twenty five years with ABET, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, where he has served at the commission level and on the ABET board for several appointments. He recently held a gubernatorial appointment to the Florida Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers (BPSM) for two terms, serving as board chair two years. For nearly 25 years he has been active in the surveying examination program of the NCEES, currently serving as surveying examination consultant. He has also served in numerous professional associations including the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society, the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, and the Urban and Regional Information System Association. He is the author of a nationally distributed textbook, *Route Surveying and Design, 5th Edition* by Meyer and Gibson, and has instructed numerous continuing education seminars for surveyors and mappers.

CURRICULUM VITAE

DAVID WYLIE GIBSON, Ph.D.
304 Reed Laboratory
P. O. Box 110565
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
DOB: October 5, 1944

TITLE and ACADEMIC RANK

- Emeritus Associate Professor, University of Florida, 2007 to 2014.
- Adjunct professor in the Geomatics program, 2008 to 2014.
- Founding Geomatics (Surveying and Mapping) Program Director, University of Florida, 1974.
- Associate Professor, Geomatics (Surveying) program, School of Forest Resource Conservation (SFRC) 2004 to Dec. 2007, and in the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Florida, 1974 to 2004.

SERVICE ON THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY:
Continuous from September, 1974 to 2014.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (Civil Engineering) University of Alabama, 2002
MSCE (Civil Engineering) University of Miami, 1970
BSCE (Civil Engineering) University of Cincinnati, 1967

SPECIAL CAREER RECOGNITION

2006, named by the *Professional Surveyor Magazine* as one of the "25 Most Influential People in the U.S. Surveying

Profession.” In their 25th year of publication in the U.S., the magazine ran a special survey of the profession taking input as to which persons living or deceased have given the most positive impact on the U.S. surveying profession. Dr. Gibson was cited for contributions in surveying education, accreditation, and examination.

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Visiting Professor (6 months May 2012 to Nov 2012), ESGT Ecole Superieure Geometres and Topographes, Conservatoire National des Arts and Metiers, 1 Boulevard Pythagore, 72000 Le Mans, France.

Consultant to the NCEES National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors, subject matter expert, review exams, identify exam weaknesses for resolution, 1997 to 2012.

Professional consultant to states and universities for the establishment and development of academic programs in surveying and mapping (Alabama, Nevada, Louisiana, Kentucky, Oklahoma).

GIS consultant to various governmental units charged with developing guidance plans for GIS implementation.

Survey and Mapping Consultant to various surveyors and attorneys in Florida as expert on surveying related problems since 1978, court qualified as expert.

Consultant to Florida's Department of Environmental Protection on riparian rights and water boundary problems, various occasions since 1985.

Program Developer and Program Director, UF Geomatics (Surveying and Mapping) Program, 1974 to 1999.

Program Developer and Instructor; Land Surveying Program, Palm Beach Junior College, Lake Worth, Florida, 1970 to 1974.

Instructor, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, Department of Civil Engineering, taught Structural Analysis, Surveying, and Engineering Sciences, 1968 to 1970.

Survey Party Chief, Hutcheon Engineers, West Palm Beach, performed survey field work, 1970 to 1974.

Survey Field Coordinator, Hutcheon Engineers, West Palm Beach, 1973 to 1974.

Various engineering/construction positions: Inspector, Ohio Department of Highways; Grade Foreman, the Ohio Contracting Company; Materials Tester, Pittsburgh Testing Laboratories, 1963 to 1970.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

Florida Licensed Professional Surveyor and Mapper #2836, 1974.

PRINCIPAL PUBLICATIONS

Ph.D. Dissertation

Gibson, D, 2002, “Management and Valuation of Digital Geographic Data Through Atomic Measurements of Data Usage”, submitted to the University of Alabama graduate school as partial requirement for completion of the Doctor of Philosophy degree, Tuscaloosa, AL, May, 2002.

BOOKS and BOOK CHAPTERS

Gibson, D. W., 2007, "Surveying Accreditation in ABET and the Development of the Related Accreditation Commission," ABET's 75th Commemorative History, John Prados, Editor.

Meyer and Gibson, "Route Surveying and Design 5th Edition," Harper Row, 1981. (now transferred to Prentiss-Hall, under revision for the 6th edition).

Gibson, D.W., 1995, "Chapter 25, ROUTE SURVEYS," The Surveying Handbook, 2nd Edition, ed. by Russell C. Brinker and Roy Minnick, Chapman & Hall, 1995.

Gibson, D.W., 1987, "Route Surveys," Chapter 24 in the Surveyor's Handbook, Van Nostrand Reinhold.

JOURNAL and SYMPOSIUM ARTICLES (Refereed)

Gibson, D. W., 2014, "A 'Typical' Boundary in France," paper published in the *American Surveyor Magazine*, Vol. 11 No. 5, May 2014.

Gibson, D. W., 2011, "Geomatics Education at the Crossroads," keynote address presented at the GTC2011, Geo-Technologies in the City, Jeddah, S.A., May, 2011.

Gibson, D. W., 2011, "The History and Status of Geomatics Education in the U. S.," published in the referred proceedings of GTC2011, Geo Technologies in the

City, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, May, 2011.

Gibson, D. W., 2010, "Licensure by Apprenticeship: Effects on the Surveying Profession," paper published in the *American Surveyor Magazine*, Vol. 7, No. 4., May, 2010.

Gibson, D. W., 2010, "The Four-Year Degree Standard for Surveying's Recognition as a Profession," paper published in the *Professional Surveyors Magazine*, January, 2010.

Gibson, D. W., 2009, "A Vision for the Surveying Profession – And How To Get There," a paper delivered at the South Carolina Society of Professional Land Surveyors technical conference, Columbia, SC, Feb, 2009.

Gibson, D. W., 2009, "The Past Present and Future of Surveying and Mapping Education in the United States," keynote paper delivered at the North American Association of Surveying and Mapping Teachers, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

Gibson, D. W., 2007, "Peer Review for Quality – Surveying Accreditation in ABET," published in the *Point of Beginning POB Magazine*, April, 2007.

Gibson, D. W., 2005, "Forty Years Later – The History and Development of Surveying Education in the U.S.," published by the *Professional Surveyor Magazine*, August, 2005.

Gibson, D. W., 2002, "Equitable Apportionment of Riparian Zones Between Adjoining Properties," submitted as a requested paper for publication by the Environmental Law Section of the Florida Bar Association,

- March, 2002.
- Gibson, D. W., Graettinger, A., 2001, "New Approaches for Measuring the Use and Value of Digital Geographic Information," proceedings of the CAMA Conference of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), Baltimore, MD, April, 2001.
- Gibson, D.W., 1999, "Conversion is Out, Measurement Is In — Are We Beginning the Surveying and Mapping Era of GIS?," *Surveying and Land Information Systems*, an official Journal of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, Vol. 59, No. 1, March, 1999, at p. 69.
- Gibson, D.W., 1997, "The University of Florida Geomatics Program," *Surveying and Land Information Systems*, an official Journal of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, Vol. 57, No. 4, December, 1997, at p. 223.
- Gibson, D.W., "U.S. Surveying and Mapping Education in 1993," refereed paper, *Surveying and Land Information*, Journal of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, Vol 53, No. 4, December 1993, Bethesda, MD.
- Gibson, D. W., "Organization of Surveying and Mapping Education in the U.S.," *Surveying and Land Information Systems Journal*, American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, Vol. 50, No. 2, June, 1990.
- Gibson, D. W., "A Summary of Surveying and Mapping, College of Engineering, University of Florida," *Surveying and Land Information Systems Journal*, American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, 1987.
- RESEARCH REPORTS, CONFERENCES, PROCEEDINGS, and OTHER ARTICLES**
- Gibson, D.W., 2012, "Comparison between the USA and France (and EU) of Traditional Geomatics Professional Involvement in the Broad New "Geospatial" Community," delivered to ESGT as the research report from the 6-month visiting professorship.
- Gibson, D.W., 2007, "The History of Surveying in Civil Engineering," a paper delivered to the 2007 Surveying and Mapping Teachers Conference, Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI, June 2007.
- Gibson, D.W., 2002, Surveying Education Needs Analysis -- Final Report #2, A Recommended Plan for Surveying Education in Kentucky, October 16, 2002, submitted to the Kentucky Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (KBLPELS), Frankfort, KY.
- Gibson, D.W., 2002, Report #1 An Analysis of the Current Surveying Education Status in Kentucky, submitted to the Kentucky Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (KBLPELS), Frankfort, KY.
- Gibson, D.W., 2001, Report #2 – An Analysis of Louisiana Colleges and Universities with Regard to Locating an In-State Geomatics (Surveying) Program, submitted to the Louisiana Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (LAPELS).
- Gibson, D.W., 2000, Report #1 – An

- Analysis of the Current Surveying Education Status in Louisiana with Short-term Recommendations, submitted to the Louisiana Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (LAPELS).
- Gibson, D.W., 1999, A Five-Year Plan for Development of a Surveying Degree Program at the University of Las Vegas at Las Vegas (UNLV), submitted to the Dean, College of Engineering, UNLV.
- Gibson, D.W., 1998, A Five-Year Geomatics Program Development Plan for Troy State University, submitted to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Troy, Alabama.
- Gibson, D.W., 1997, GIS Project and Work Plan for Building a Shared, Countywide GIS for Sarasota County, submitted as part of research contract work.
- Gibson, D.W., 1994, "GEOMATICS – Like Trying on a New Pair of Shoes," Bulletin of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, Bethesda, MD, June, 1994.
- Gibson, D.W., 1995, "Surveying and Mapping Academic Program Direction – Results of an ACSM Forum," Proceedings of the Third Think Tank on Surveying and Mapping, Vienna, Austria, published by the Technical University of Vienna, 1995.
- Gibson, D.W., 1994, "Educating for Two Worlds," Proceedings of the Second Think Tank on Surveying and Mapping held at Campobello, New Brunswick, Canada, published by the Atlantic Institute, Orono, ME.
- Gibson, D.W., "Base Mapping Needs for Small Community GIS," invited paper for a select compendium in GIS assembled by the Homer Hoyt Center for Land Economics, Florida State University, July, 1992.
- Gibson, D.W., "The 1992 POB Analysis of Surveying and Mapping Programs in the U. S. and Canada," *P.O.B. Magazine*, July August edition, 1992.
- Gibson, D.W., "A Work Plan for GIS Development in Charlotte County," research report, January, 1992.
- Gibson, D.W., "GIS in Surveying and Mapping – an Educational Dilemma," Bulletin of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, Number 131, April, 1991.
- Gibson, D.W., "1990 Management Plan for Restoration of Corners," a research report to Florida Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Surveying and Mapping, December, 1990.
- Gibson, D.W. (as Project Director), "Volume A, Ordinary High Water Line Primer," a research report to Florida Department of Natural Resources, 1989.
- Gibson, D.W. (as Project Director), "Volume B, Ordinary High Water Line Workbook," a research report to Florida Department of Natural Resources, 1989.
- Gibson, D.W., (Principal Investigator), "Development of Procedural Methodology to Enable Florida Land Surveyors to Determine the Ordinary High Water Line Boundary of Sovereign Lands – Phase (1) Area Research," 1987.
- Gibson, D.W., "Methodology for Division of Riparian Rights in Coastal Waters," a research report to Florida Department

of Natural Resources, 1986.
Friedley and Gibson, "1983 Management Plan for Restoration of Corners," to the Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Surveying and Mapping, Tallahassee, 1983.

Gibson, D.W., "A Blue Print for Competition," *The California Surveyor*, January, 1982.

SCIENTIFIC and PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES (Current or Former)

Florida Surveying and Mapping Society, FSMS

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, ACSM

American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, ASPRS

Florida Association of Cadastral Mappers, FACM

Urban and Regional Information System Association, URISA

FSMS, THE FLORIDA SURVEYING AND MAPPING SOCIETY, (formerly FSPLS)

Editor, Florida Society of Professional Land Surveyors' quarterly publication, *Backsights and Foresights*, 1973-1978.

Land Surveyor of the Year, the highest award given by the Florida Society of Professional Land Surveyors recognizing eminent service to the profession, 1977-1978.

Director of the FSPLS, serving the Northwest District of Florida, elected

by the district land surveyors to sit on the Board of Directors of the Florida Society of Professional Land Surveyors, 1978-1980.

Secretary of FSPLS 1980-1981.

President of the North Central Florida Chapter of the FSPLS, 1979-1980, 1985-1986.

Awarded Florida Society of Professional Land Surveyor's Professional Development of the Year Award, 1988.

Member, FSMS Goals and Objectives Committee, 1995-2000.

Member, FSMS Surveying and Mapping Council, 1990-2000.

ABET, THE ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR ENGINEERING and TECHNOLOGY

ACSM Alternate Director, ABET Board of Directors, 1980-1982.

ACSM Representative Director to the ABET Board of Directors, 1983-1990.

Member, the Related Accreditation Commission (RAC) 1987-1994.

Citation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, for "dedicated support and invaluable contributions to engineering education," July, 1992 for service on RAC/ABET.

ACSM Representative Director to the ABET Board of Directors, 1993-1999.

Accreditation Evaluator for approximately ten Surveying and Mapping program evaluations, 1985-2014.

Accreditation Team Chair for Surveying and Mapping program evaluations, 1985-2014.

ACSM Alternate to the Engineering

Accreditation Commission (EAC) and the Related Accreditation Commission (RAC), 1998-2000.

NCEES Representative Director to the ABET Board of Directors, October 2000-2014.

NCEES, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EXAMINEERS FOR ENGINEERING and SURVEYING

Subject matter expert, exam item consultant to the National Council of Engineering Examination (NCEES), 1978-2014.

Consultant to NCEES Examination for Professional Surveyors (EPS) committee to construct the national professional surveying exams, 1996-2014.

Member, NCEES Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures (EPP), 1997-2001.

Member, NCEES Committee on Educational Assessment and Qualifications (EAQ), 2002.

Member, NCEES Engineering Licensure Qualifications Task Force (ELQTF), 2001-2002.

Former Chair of the NCEES Fundamentals of Land Surveying national exam subcommittee (FLS) to structurally change the national surveying fundamentals exam to reflect a curriculum base, July, 1996.

Member of a Special Blue Ribbon Panel of the National Council of Examineers for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) to study and recommend structural changes to the national Fundamentals of Engineering Examination (FE),

August, 1996.

Member of the NCEES committee on assessing Professional Activities and Knowledges Surveying (PAKS), to guide national surveying exam content, 1996-1997.

Member of the NCEES Computer-Based Testing (CBT) Task Force of NCEES, 1997.

Exam consultant to NCEES charged with providing final review services for national surveying examinations, 1997-2014.

Member, NCEES Exam Policy and Procedures Committee (EPP), 1997-2014.

ACSM, THE AMERICAN CONGRESS ON SURVEYING and MAPPING

Award for Excellence in Professional Journalism by the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, February 1976.

ACSM Presidential Citations for Outstanding Service to the surveying and mapping profession 1985, 1986.

Chair, the Curriculum, Accreditation, and Registration (CAR) Committee of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, 1988-2000.

Appointed to a national study panel on "The Future of Surveying and Mapping Education in the U.S." of ACSM, 1991-1992.

Received the 1995 Earle J. Fennell award, ACSM's highest award for a Surveying and Mapping Educator, March, 1995.

Awarded Presidential Citation from the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping at its Spring meeting,

Baltimore, March, 1998, in recognition of outstanding service rendered to ACSM and to the Surveying and Mapping profession.

Awarded a Presidential Citation from the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping for continued outstanding service to the Surveying and Mapping Profession, April, 1996.

FSBPSM, FLORIDA STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS and MAPPERS

Member by Gubernatorial Appointment to the Florida Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers, August, 1994 to November 2000.

Citation by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DPBR) for outstanding service and dedication to the Board of Professional Land Surveyors as a member of the ad hoc committee on photogrammetry, 1994.

Reappointed by the Governor for a second four year term on the Florida Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers, October, 1996.

Elected Board Chair - two terms, FSBPSM, Florida Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers, 1996-1998.

Member, FSBPSM Probation Committee, 1994-2000.

Chair, FSBPSM Probation Committee, 1999-2000.

Member, FSBPSM Probable Cause Panel, 1998-2000.

Chair, FSBPSM GIS Committee, 1995-2000.

FLORIDA GIS APPOINTMENTS and RECOGNITION

Appointed to the Florida Public Land Survey Advisory Board by the Governor, pursuant to F.S. 177, Part III, to advise the Department of Natural Resources on survey matters, 1980-1981.

Awarded special citation by the Florida Association of Cadastral Mappers for "dedicated service in the cadastral certification program," April, 1991.

Appointed by the Governor as founding Chair, Florida's Base Mapping Advisory Committee, February, 1992, continuing as member to BMAC's dissolution, 1998.

Founding Member under Gubernatorial Appointment to the State of Florida Geographic Information Board (FLGIB), November, 1996-2000.

Organizer and chair of an annual mapping conference on campus, "The Florida Mapping Conference," attendance 250. held in 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1993.

Organizer and chair of the annual DOT Statewide Surveying and Mapping Conference, University of Florida Campus, Spring 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member of U.S. Delegation to Think Tank II, Campobello Retreat, New Brunswick, Canada, hosted by the University of Maine, Orono, to debate future directions for international Surveying and Mapping, October, 1992.

Member of U.S. Delegation to Think

Tank III, Vienna, Austria, hosted by the Technical University of Vienna, to debate future directions for international Surveying and Mapping, May, 1994.

Member of U.S. Delegation to Think Tank IV, Laval University, Quebec City, to debate future directions for international Surveying and Mapping, June, 1995.

CIVIC

Chair and member, School Advisory Council (SAC) of Prairie View Elementary School, Gainesville, 1992-1998.

OTHER HONORS, AWARDS, and APPOINTMENTS

Elected HONORARY MEMBER, the Alabama Society of Professional Land Surveyors, Montgomery, AL, 1990-2016.

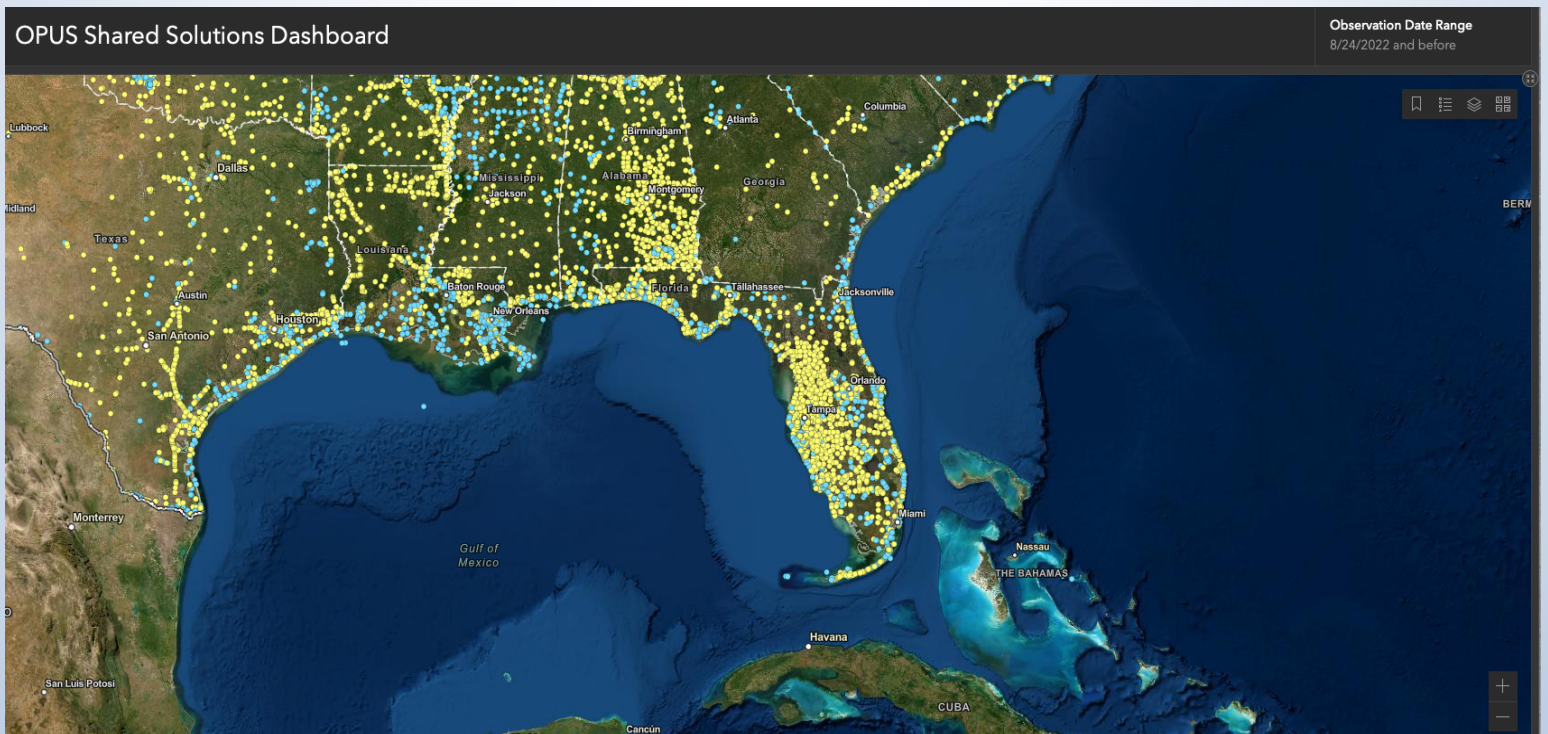
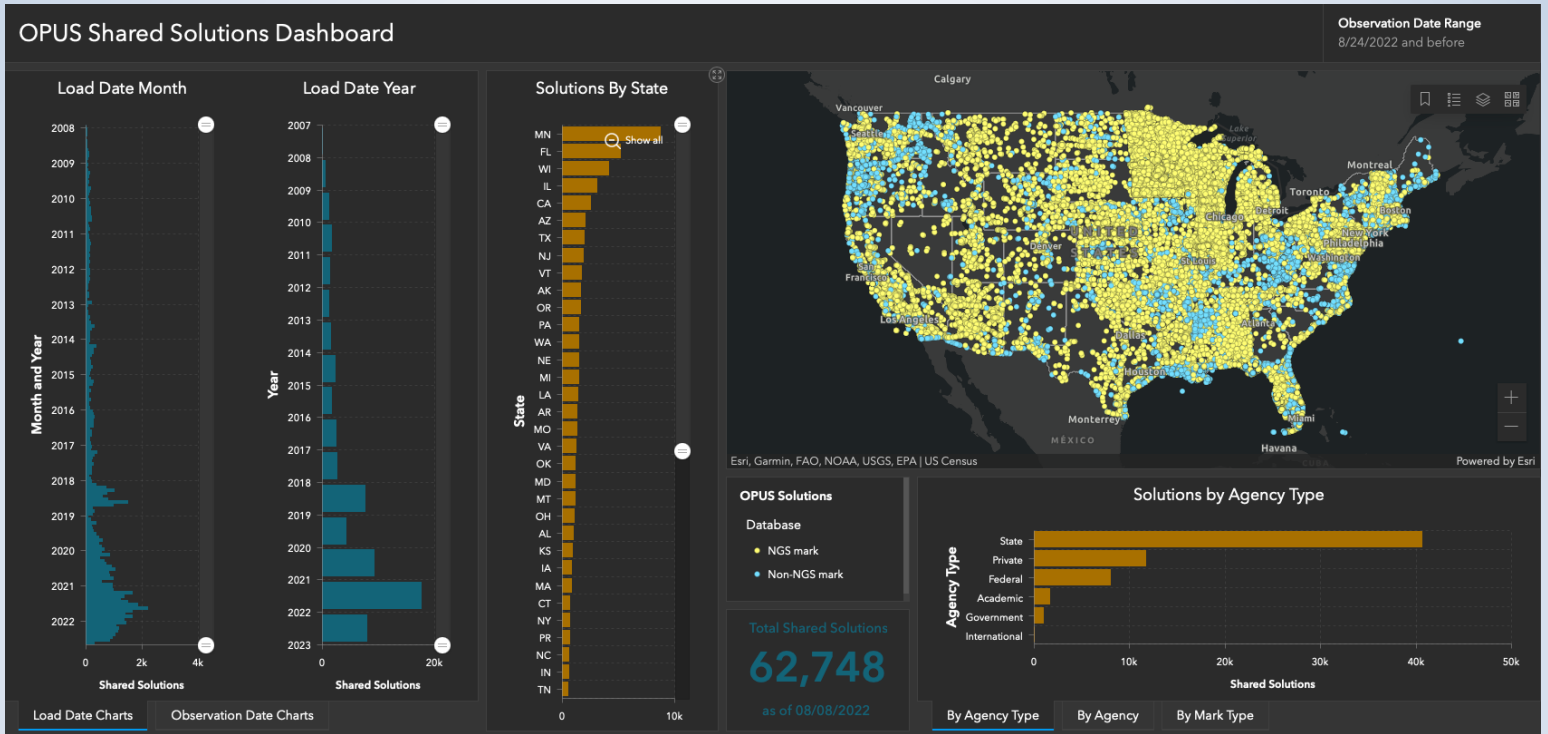
Editor Awards Consecutive ASPRS, the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Newsletter of the Year Awards, 1985, 1986, 1987.

Who's Who in Engineering, nominated by ABET, 1982-2014.

Chair of the North American Surveying and Mapping Teachers Conference, with duties of organizing and chairing the 14th international conference, Gainesville, summer 1994.



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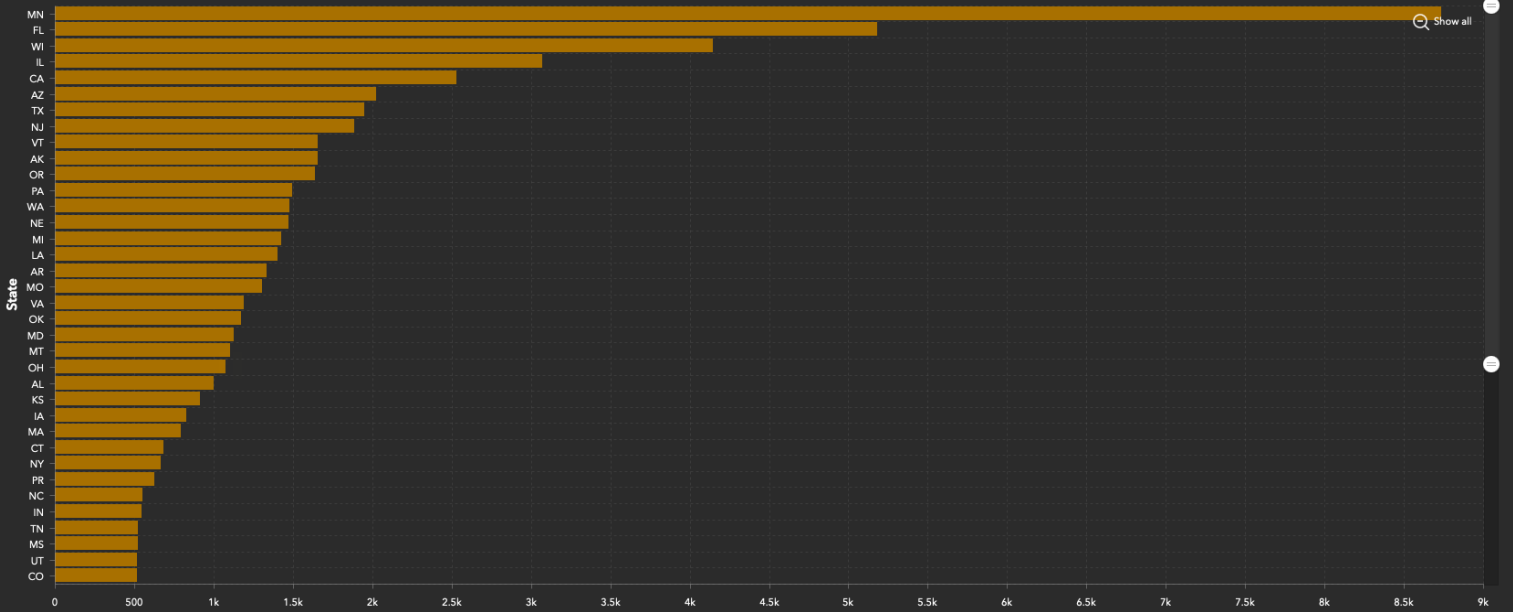


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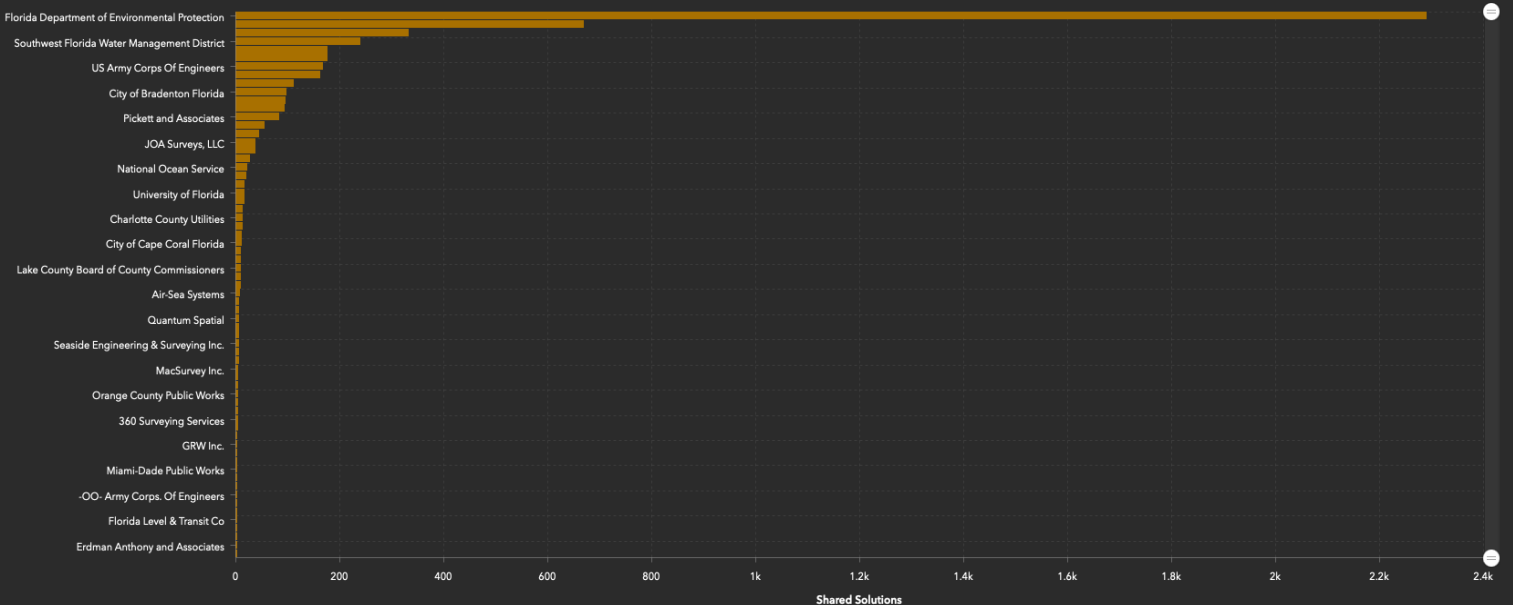
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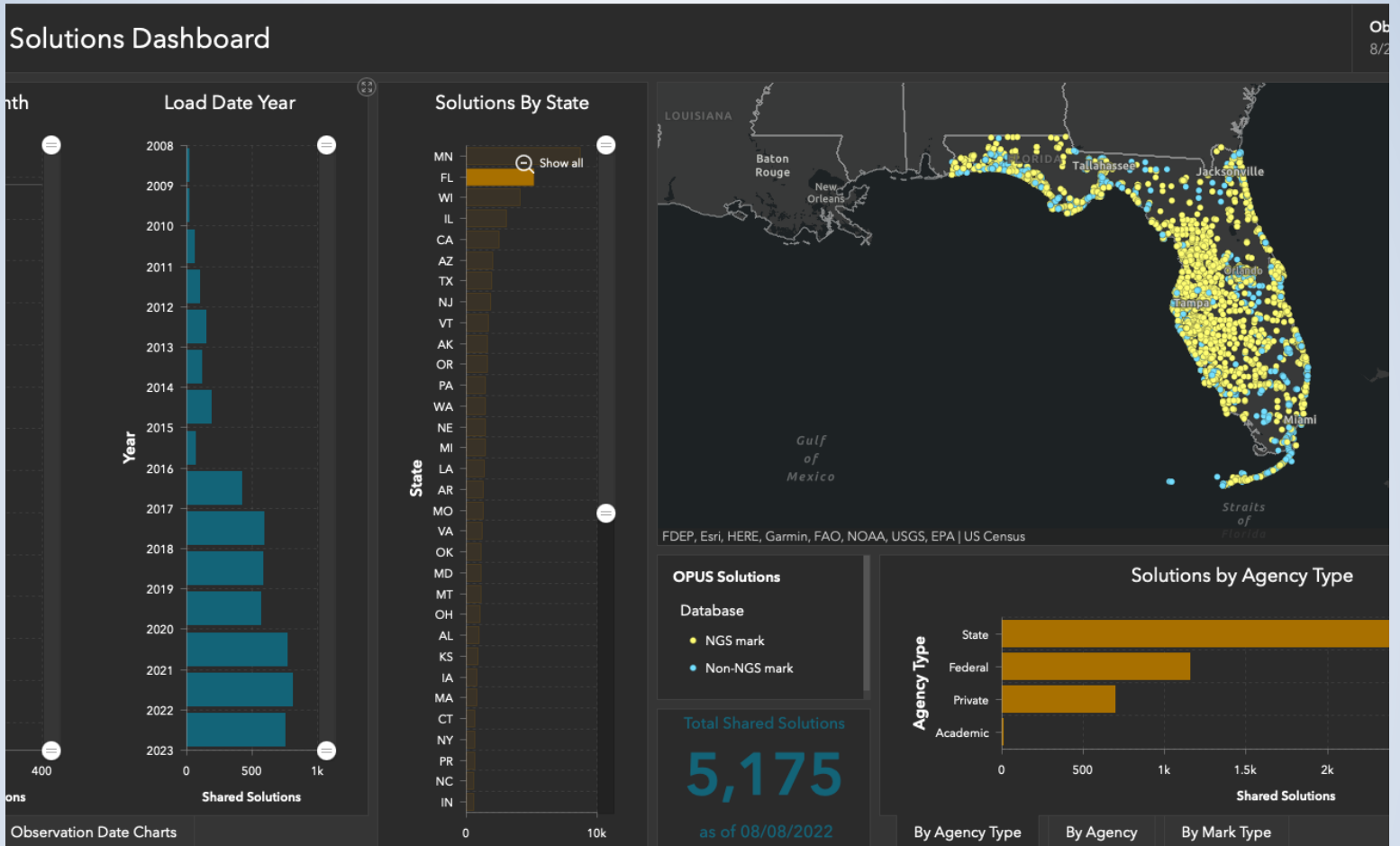
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To find out more about the history of Labor Day and which President signed the law making the first Monday of each September a federal holiday, [click here](#) to access the U.S. Department of Labor.

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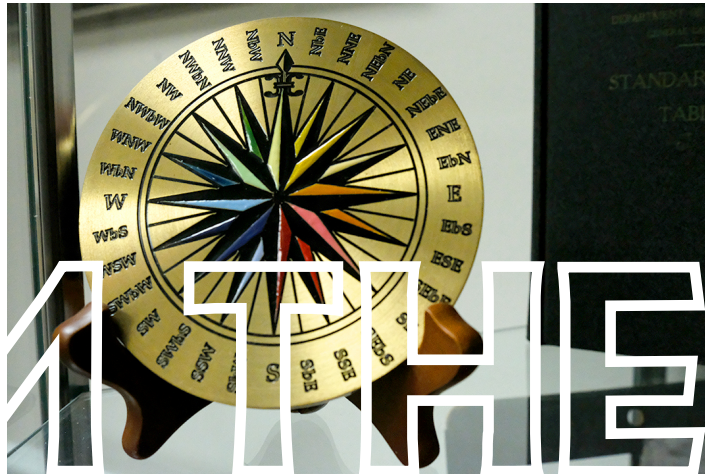


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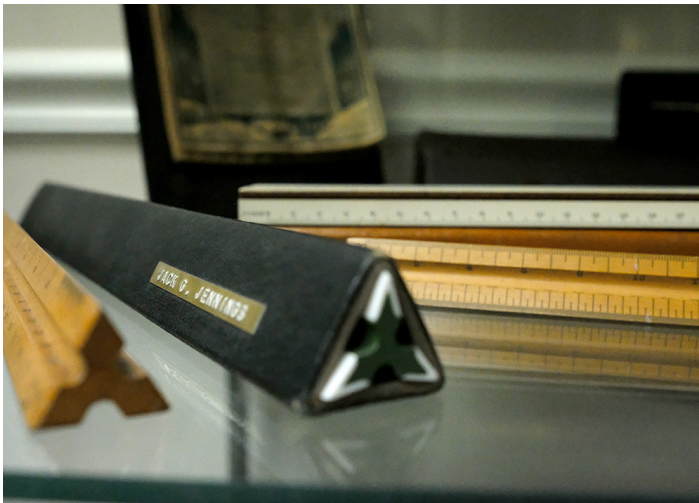


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How Can We Meet Our Professional Challenge?

By WINFIELD H. ELDRIDGE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CIVIL ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

THE art of surveying developed with the beginnings of civilization when man first recognized his need for quantitative location. The science of surveying began with the Egyptians in the building of the great pyramids and the delineation of land boundaries in the Nile delta region. Unlike some other long-established technological callings which are passing into obsolescence, ours is steadily increasing in importance. The reason for this is simple; there is now no more land than there was in ancient times, there is no more water today on the Earth than there was then, but our population continues to expand and the individual needs of each person in this population are far more complex than ever before.

Many years ago A. C. Mulford wrote, "The vocation of the Civil Engineer has always been invested with a dignity of its own. ... Yet the profession of the Surveyor deals with one of the oldest and most fundamental facts of human society—the possession and inheritance of land. Fire, flood and earthquake wipe out the greatest works of the engineer, but the land continueth forever."

Our country has been developed on the greatest subdivision plan of all times. Not only is this the most extensive use of

rectangular divisions ever employed, but the principle of "prior surveys" was born with the Ordinance of 1785. How chaotic things would have been if the great men such as Thomas Jefferson, Hugh Williamson, and others had not developed a well-thought out far-reaching scheme of orderly land division that has had so much influence on the landed resources in thirty of our fifty United States.

The 19th century (the formative years of our nation) saw many demands made upon surveying. During this period, surveying was regarded by many as the most important area of civil engineering. As the demand for surveyors far exceeded the supply of experienced, trained, or educated men, many semi-qualified persons found themselves with the serious responsibility of locating land boundaries. When the sections and quarter sections were patented, the need for surveyors to

*Presented to the 1964 Annual Convention of the Florida Society of Professional Land Surveyors, Jacksonville, October 22-24, 1964.
Professor Eldridge died March 22, 1966.
*Originally published in *Surveying and Mapping*, September 1967.

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locate centers of sections and sixteenth corners and to retrace government lines became quite urgent, and often the subordinate who had merely dragged the chain for the government surveyor was in demand mainly because he had seen where many of these corners had been set. In many instances, this situation fostered a rather incompetent surveyor which, understandably, created a poor image in the minds of the public. We must now work hard to correct this misconception.

Many famous men have been associated with surveying, such as Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Edward Tiffin, Abraham Lincoln, Herbert Hoover, William Fairless, and others. There is no question but that the practice of surveying generally has been regarded as a most honorable and respectable calling.

Among the surveyors who shaped the history of our country, two distinct types of individuals can be identified; those of scientific background, and those who were primarily frontiersmen and explorers. Certainly, the talents of both are desirable, though often the cleavage was too well defined. Mason, Dixon, Rittenhouse, and Jefferson were scientifically oriented, while Thomas Hutchins, George Washington, and Rufus Putnam had little respect for the mathematics, astronomy, and the fine instrumentation that are so essential to mensuration practice.

Education in our colleges reflected the

changing needs of the growing country. At the turn of the 20th century, much course work in the engineering schools was devoted to various aspects of surveying, and during this time several great textbooks emerged, such as Hodgman, Johnson, Johnson and Smith, Breed and Hosmer, Gillespie, and others. By the middle thirties, the emphasis was placed on construction, layout, and topographic mapping, with fewer courses and shorter and less detailed textbooks. The attention to property surveying in both the schools and in the textbooks began to dwindle to a point where often a chapter on the Public Land System was all that was deemed important enough to be included in the textbooks. In all fairness, it should be pointed out that the excellent book by Clark and the fine work by Skelton were produced during this time. In the surveying textbooks that have come out in the last two decades, even less mention is made of property surveying, and one of the most recent books devotes only eight pages to the entire topic.

SURVEYING TODAY

Who can really say how many surveyors there are in the United States? While the Bureau of Census compiles these statistics, they may not reflect a true picture because of differences in interpretation. The national Census includes about 33,000 persons who have listed their occupation as "surveyors." When we check the license roles of those states that require such for surveying, we find approximately 27,000

persons. Recently, Jimmy Hoffa was quoted by several of the St. Louis area newspapers regarding the organization of "150,000 surveyors in the nation" in the Teamsters Union.

The population of surveyors seems to be growing in larger proportion than the nation's population. The Illinois Registered Land Surveyors Association has grown from a membership of 89 in 1958 to just about 300 at present (1964).

There are 42 states where the practice of surveying comes under the control of surveying or engineering licensure. Kansas, Tennessee, and perhaps other states of the eight without license laws are working on new legislation.

There seems to be quite a division of responsibility within the family of surveyors. Those of professional grade are now assuming more responsibility, and more and more of the routine work is being performed by technicians and machines. This is particularly true in the area of property surveying, where increased value of real estate has required that serious decisions regarding the evidence used and what measurements are required be made by the surveyor who has the capacity for such judgment.

Never before has the location of real property been so important, nor has it ever before required the accuracy that it does today. The decisions made by the

property surveyor are far too serious to be based upon arbitrary rules and chance happenings; he must employ all the mature judgment and technical skill his experience and education can provide.

The surveyor's helper must be more versatile today. He may be operating electronic equipment one day and scribing a plat on a plastic manuscript the next. A central Illinois surveyor recently was looking for a rodman who had a commercial pilot's rating.

Instead of shouting, waving arms, and flashing mirrors, most field surveyors today communicate with each other over shortwave radios. The language used, however, hasn't changed much.

The nature of surveying work has changed as well. New needs have arisen that were unthought of before, and the old familiar surveys all have accuracy requirements that are much more stringent now. Directional and positional control for the University of Illinois Radio Telescope required procedures and techniques that had no precedent. The seven control monuments about the 600 by 400-foot reflector were located to a certainty of ± 0.005 foot in relation to each other, and the direction of the telescope axis in relation to the celestial meridian was determined with a certainty of $\pm 0.7''$ of arc.

Nuclear research and space exploration are requiring the ultimate in accurate surveys.

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The Linear Accelerator in California required a two-mile survey of fantastic accuracy to provide the horizontal and vertical alignment necessary.

Several recent graduates of the University of Illinois are now engaged in missile site location and satellite tracking surveying. It is interesting to note that thirty surveying organizations were needed to survey and align the antennae for the Telstar Project.

The Interstate Highway program has thrust surveying demands upon us unequalled by any other single project. How crippled this project would be if there were no electromagnetic distance-measuring devices and no photogrammetry.

Most mapping today is performed in whole or in part with photogrammetry. The mapping surveyor today is more accustomed to controlling aerial photographs than he is with plotting the map on a planetable sheet.

Property surveying has become even more associated with engineering and many, if not most, organizations who perform property surveys provide professional engineering services as well. In Illinois, about 80 percent of the active property surveyors are registered also as professional engineers.

Subdividing land is not simply the cutting up of the tract into parcels—the

adjoiners and the present and future community must be considered. The subdivision surveyor must be concerned with topography, drainage, sewerage, streets, utilities, and the many other features necessary for our increasing population to enjoy more benefits from the same amount of land. Such design work calls for engineering decisions as well as surveying.

In some parts of our nation, the black hand of the labor union has reached into the midst of surveying. In California, Washington, D.C., and parts of New York, Ohio, and Illinois, surveyors are carrying cards of such organizations as the Teamsters' International, the Operating Engineers, and the Plumbers' Union. Working conditions of these employees may have improved, with higher salaries and some added fringe benefits, but few union surveyors prefer this life over the pre-union conditions. Their rights to advance are now controlled by the union, they are restricted as to what instruments and equipment they can use, and unless one holds a draftsman card he may be laid off during bad weather.

It is doubtful if the surveying employees have much need for union representation. Most of them have chosen their field because of love of the outdoors and the challenge of the surveying work itself. The unions, however, recognize that the surveying area is a vital link necessary to tie up the construction industry. In

California, no union bulldozer operators will begin moving dirt if the stakes were driven by non-union surveyors.

If the unions take a firm hold of our profession, we may be required to practice featherbedding. They may insist that two qualified tapemen be on each field party even though a Tellurometer is used. The union may require that a rodman be left with a station target even though it is centered much more carefully than he could hold a range pole. The Geodimeter operator may be compelled to carry an electrician's card, the stake driver may be required to be a journeyman carpenter, and every time a sectional range pole is put together it may have to be done by a union steamfitter.

THE FUNCTION OF STATE ORGANIZATIONS

Many of the rights and privileges and most of the professional security we now enjoy were made possible by professional organizations. Many of the things that are needed to be done can be accomplished better by groups than by individuals. The service of these professional and technical organizations is not only to the members and other allied groups, but to the community as a whole.

The dissemination of knowledge is vital. Fostering necessary legislation is best handled by an organized group.

Improvement of technical standards will result from proper committee action. An organization can provide good public relations and information. Certainly of importance is the fellowship with others who have like interests.

Many persons are apt to criticize "joiners," but "doers" have brought about many of the better conditions that we all now enjoy. More than a hundred years ago, a group of Illinois surveyors met together to discuss the problems of locating the center of a section. Due to the confusion caused by erroneous instructions from the General Land Office, there was a need to have the procedure for locating the center of the section clarified. It was this group that in 1858 commissioned Abraham Lincoln to render a legal opinion of the proper procedure. This same organization became the Illinois Society of Engineers.

There is much to be said for identity. Anyone who does not think enough of his profession to support its national and state organizations has no right to exploit the fruits of these organizations. Most persons are reluctant to engage a doctor who is not a member of the American Medical Association.

It has been quite interesting to see so many new surveyors' organizations form in the last several years. The Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors of Nevada, the Mississippi Association of Land Surveyors, the Alabama Society of Professional Land

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Surveyors, and the Montana Association of Land Surveyors each have been formed in the last few years, and already all have made great strides in serving their membership and the community. A small group of Nebraska surveyors who were considering such an organization sent out notices to all the registered land surveyors in that state requesting that any who were interested in forming an organization meet in Grand Island on a certain date. Mr. Garber reported later that he had been hopeful for 13 to 15 to be at this meeting—70 persons showed up.

Although the Illinois Registered Land Surveyors Association has been chartered for 36 years, it was nearly dormant five years ago. The records showed 89 members, none with their dues paid. But today (1964), there are 295 members in good standing, and the effectiveness of the organization is quite impressive.

All this is a most encouraging picture. The surveyor is recognized today as a professional on as good a footing as the engineer. This is evidenced by Brother Barry's report to ASCE of a few years ago, and by the recent action taken by NCSBEE. Government contracts are now being let on a negotiation basis rather than by competitive price. Everywhere, the need for more and better education is being realized.

OUR OBLIGATIONS

The serious land surveyor has many challenging obligations to the community he serves. Some of these are:

1. **Quality of Measurements:** We are now in the age when position, direction, distance, area, and other quantities must be determined with great precision. Not only must the surveyor be armed with the best technology and instrumentation suitable to the problems he faces, but he should be able to evaluate the quality of these measurements and to exercise such controls that he can assure the required quality. In short, the surveyor must be more expert at measuring land than anyone else. Nothing will hasten the insurgence of other groups into surveying more than incompetence in measuring.

2. **Communication:** If he wishes to be regarded as a "professional," the surveyor must foster communication. The days of keeping secret the ties to section corners and making use of codes in town surveys must go. The man who is jealously guarding his work is either very insecure or mentally ill. It has been observed that the more successful land surveyors have been those whose files are open to anyone, including their business competitors.

3. **Public Relations:** Most of the blame for the public image of surveyors

is on us. Do we put our best appearance forward on the job, or does the field crew look like a bunch of refugees from a soup line? Does a call to the office get answered with “Yeah,” or does the voice on the other end sound courteous and instill confidence? Does the survey crew arrive at the site in a beat-up old sedan with range poles sticking out the rear window, or do they travel in a neat, attractive vehicle more suitable for the job? Is correspondence handled on discreet letterheads and are the letters written neatly without a large number of spelling and grammatical errors? Does the survey office present a pleasant, welcome appearance, or is it in a corner of the garage? A critical self-examination of these points will help improve the “public image,” strengthen public relations, and be one step further toward professionalism.

The surveyor must not only deal with his client but has occasion to confer with adjoining and other laymen who are not his clients. A test of a good professional surveyor is his ability to resolve boundary difficulties between owners, even if this means no survey. What a fine man it is who will advise his client that a survey is not necessary, or that the 'Smith' firm can perform the survey for perhaps less cost because of their concentrated activity in that part of town.

Contacts with attorneys, abstractors, realtors, developers, and other

professionals should be conducted with aplomb and refinement so that confidence will be created. All these points will go well to improve public relations.

4. Education: The need for learning never stops. The surveyor who says he has completed his education is in need of serious counsel. We have an obligation to continue to learn and to aid others who are learning. This very convention is an excellent way to provide learning for all those who are receptive to new ideas. I must confess that in the ten years that I have been conducting classes at the University of Illinois, I have learned more than I have taught. In fact, I have reached the point now where I am beginning to realize how much I really don't know. In several parts of the country, continuing education has appealed to surveyors, and in California, New Jersey, Indiana, and Illinois, surveyors are flocking to evening classes after a hard day at work to explore the mysteries of property law, description construction, plats, and so on. This is a most healthy sign for the advancement of our profession.

We must read, read, read. Regular reading of the surveying literature and textbooks will contribute quite a lot to the practicing surveyors education. Those of us who are older must take much of our time to help the younger men understand the basic principles of surveying. The apprentice system has all

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but disappeared, none-the-less we must help each other prepare to cope with the problems that society is thrusting on us each day.

OUR CHALLENGE

If a poll were conducted, it is certain that a large majority of property surveyors would want to be regarded as “professional.” What is not certain, however, is what portion of these men are willing to shoulder the responsibilities of a public trust nor how many merely want the privileges associated with professional identification. Our calling is so complex, so infinitely various, and so difficult for the laymen to understand that they are required to place their trust in the integrity and fidelity of the surveyor. As property surveying practice involves neither a product nor a craft but must deliver service, the concern of any organization such as ACSM and of the Florida Society of Professional Land Surveyors must be “how can we best serve the community of which we are a part?” This is our challenge and it will increase with emphasis in the time to come.

Perhaps, therefore, we should concentrate on two points to make ourselves more useful to society:

- (1) Establish Confidence, and
- (2) Shoulder Our Responsibilities. A careful self-examination of these two points may not be a pleasant experience, but certainly it will be less painful than

if it were done by an outsider.

To Establish Confidence

A very excellent banquet speaker at the Indiana surveyors' conference looked out over the assembly and said, “My, you people sure clean up good.” This was amusing and drew a big laugh, but brought home the typical image people have of surveyors. It is understood that the field man must be out in all sorts of weather, walk through mud, dust, rocks, chicken yards, petunia beds, and briar patches. But does this mean he shouldn't shave regularly, wear appropriate but attractive clothing, and have last week's mud cleaned off his boots? Perhaps each of you should obtain candid photographs of your field men and study these pictures very carefully. In 1941 a group experienced this shock after seeing a batch of field pictures and decided to do something about it. With the help of the mail order catalog and some imagination, we were soon transformed into the best dressed field party in Indiana.

How does the field man look when he spends a day or more in the office on the drawing board or at computations? Does he look and smell as if he had no home? We are accustomed to this appearance, but a prospective client might be shocked by the sight of shaggy boots, ragged jeans, and dirty hands coming out of faded shirt sleeves.

Little items such as letterheads, office

quarters, survey vehicles, instruments and other tools-of-the-trade, each can have a significant effect upon the appearance of the surveyor in the eyes of the public. Talks with a number of my non-surveying friends regarding their image of the property surveyor reveal the following points as the most appropriate to effecting a proper confidence in surveyors:

1. Be Well Dressed.
2. Use a discrete letterhead.
3. Have a neat, attractive office.
4. Operate appropriate vehicles for surveying.
5. Have employees use good language.
6. Deliver neat, complete, and faithful drawings.
7. Use surveying equipment that is presentable, well-kept, and appears to be adequate for the job at hand.
8. Be respectful of others' property.
9. Be active in civic and social affairs.
10. Keep appointments on time, answer letters promptly, and provide for telephone answering.

We are constantly being judged by our fellow citizens, and although they may be incapable of evaluating our technical ability, we must present a favorable image if we are to win and hold their confidence.

Reputation is earned after carefully building goodwill and providing faithful service. It is fortunate that competitive price bidding is beginning to disappear

from surveying services. Negotiation, however, places a serious responsibility on the surveyor, and his clients will seek his services on the basis of reputation and faith. Reputation of performing a thorough survey takes considerable time to establish and can be upset by as little as one "short cut."

Reputation can be gained by lasting corner monuments, peaceful settlements between contiguous owners, and friendly treatment to all. A few years ago a lady who was attempting to sell her home was confused about the driveway easement. The real estate broker insisted that she have a survey made. The surveyor she contacted understood the problem and told her a survey was not required. He pointed out the easement condition in her abstract and showed her three of her four corners. Her problem was solved even though the surveyor refused to send her a bill. Surely, she will hold the surveying profession in high esteem the rest of her days.

Identification and image are not the same thing although their effect is quite similar. Surveyors today have an excellent opportunity to be identified with one or more well recognized professional and technical societies. The client is inclined to have more faith in the surveyor who, he learns, belongs to "ABC" and "XYZ." There is sound reasoning in this. First of all, most, if not all professional organizations subscribe

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to a canon of ethics, and although these are not enforceable, they tend to at least guide the members along a righteous path. The client will respect the state or national organization for the stand it takes in legislative matters, the amount of public information it provides, and the ways it attempts to disseminate new technology to its membership.

Each time I visit a strange city, I look through the yellow pages of the telephone directory to see how the surveyors hold themselves out. In Seattle a very discreet notice appears under "Surveyors, Land." It is headed with the seal of the Land Surveyors Association of Washington and followed with the statement, "This symbol is your assurance of qualified, reliable, licensed land surveying service." Below this statement is simply a listing of names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the members.

Sometimes we hear a person called a "joiner" with bad connotation, but can this be as bad as indifference? The Florida Society of Professional Land Surveyors is to be applauded for the way it supports the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. It will be through ACSM that our calling will emerge a profession. It is heartening to see surveyors active in NSPE, ASCE, ASP, CIS, AR WA, ARGA, and so on. These are not a bunch of joiners; these are dedicated men who believe

in their field, wish to improve their effectiveness, want to serve the public better, and desire to improve the general professional climate.

Responsibilities

A registered land surveyor is vested with a public trust and with such must shoulder many responsibilities. Some of these are obvious, but many are subtle.

1. *To the Client.*

In most cases, a contractual agreement is desirable between the surveyor and his client. However, many good requirements of a property location cannot be easily specified in a contract document. The surveyor is obligated to effect a good understanding with the client of just what he can do and what is most appropriate to the job at hand. When an agreement has been reached, the surveyor must conduct a survey that will best serve his client's interests even if some of the details have been omitted from the written agreement. He should keep the client advised on monument conditions, completion dates, costs, evidence of encroachments and other title difficulties. If the actual cost of the survey falls below the estimate, this saving should be passed on to the client—if it becomes apparent that the costs will run well above the estimate, the client should be informed at the earliest possible moment and given the privilege of alternatives.

Certainly the client should benefit from all the information revealed by the survey he has paid for. He should be allowed to see all monument evidence discovered as well as what was set. He should be furnished a comprehensive report of the survey that adequately describes the problem, the procedure followed, and the conclusions reached. The surveyor must make an effort to determine what quality of mensuration is in the best interest of his client and provide this quality in terms meaningful to the client. Stating that the survey was third-order is nonsense; certifying that the traverse closed one part in five thousand contributes only confusion; but assurance that points are located within so many tenths of a foot according to a certain title reference is quite understandable and valuable to the property owner.

2. *To the Adjoiner.*

Nearly every parcel that is surveyed causes the survey of one or more lines of adjoining parcels. This situation often places the surveyor in the position of favoring a party whose interests are contrary to those of his client. No compromise can be justified, however, and the surveyor is duty-bound to respect the interests of these adjoiners regardless of what conflicts or disputes exist between the contiguous owners.

In some states the surveyor is given the right to trespass. In Illinois, the law reads "A Land Surveyor, registered under the

provisions of this Act, together with his survey party, who in the course of making a survey finds it necessary to go upon the land of a party or parties other than the one for whom he is making the survey shall not be liable as a trespasser and shall be liable only for any actual damage done to said land or property." Although this new law has not been tested in the courts as yet, no surveyor should take it as an opportunity to violate the sacred rights of property owners. It has been established that mere invasion of privacy constitutes damage.

When faced with a survey to settle a dispute, the surveyor should attempt to bring the parties together and serve them as clients-in-common so that the adjoiner will be best served. Any attempt to hide information from adjoiners, such as burying corner stakes, setting misleading offset markers, etc., is unprofessional and should be avoided.

3. *To other Surveyors.*

In Peoria, Illinois, most of the surveying is performed by four firms. When one of these organizations locates a lot, lays out a subdivision, or performs a resurvey, three extra copies of the plats are automatically sent to the other three firms for their files. Cooperation such as this benefits not only all the surveying firms but the public as well. Surveyors who are not ashamed of their work, or who have nothing to hide, delight in granting access to their files to

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their competition. Certainly there can be differences of opinion and variations of approach, but the surveyor who criticizes another's work to a client is only lowering his own esteem in the eyes of the public.

4. *To the Public.*

Our most serious responsibility is to the public. We must abide by moral, ethical, and legal principles in dealing not only with our clients but with the community as well. We must be ready to serve on committees both for civic and social activities. We possess talents that are particularly useful to the Boy Scouts, Planning Commissions, Park Boards, etc. Competitive price bidding is not in the best interest of the public. Boycotts in any form are not in the public interest. It will take much soul-searching, but each surveyor must face up to each of his responsibilities.

Today's picture of the surveyor has changed. Instead of the boots, breeches and broad-brimmed hat, we see him now pushing buttons on some electronic instruments. Instead of packing up a mountain trail he arrives at the survey station by helicopter. Instead of closing the latitudes and departures by logarithms, he may now take adjusted positional data from the computer.

One thing that has not changed is the quality of the surveyor himself. There is still needed an energetic, curious,

ingenious fool who would rather work outside in miserable weather for twelve hours a day than spend eight hours behind a desk in an air conditioned office. I am sure that there is more man in the present-day surveyor than there is in any of the other typical engineers.

None of us can accurately predict the future. We can only estimate the proportions of some of the events that are certain to come about. The need for property location surveys may be expected to continue to increase at a geometrical rate. We must see to it that these services are provided by qualified land surveyors with integrity and fidelity. We must become so well qualified in the performance of our duties that the inroads of outside groups will be blocked. We must keep open the lines of communication with each other, with other professionals, and with the public. We must begin to live the life that we think is so fitting for our neighbor.

Certainly a land surveyor can ignore all of these points and enjoy financial success, but there is something more important here than gross earnings; that of service to the community. As we are vested with a public trust, we must meet this professional challenge. We can meet this challenge by establishing confidence, creating a favorable image, and discharging our obligation completely. This is not an ultimatum; it is a choice. ■



Constitution Day

September 17, 1787.

The representatives of the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document that changed the world.

We encourage you to honor this day in our history by clicking the link below to learn more about this American Holiday.

Constitutionday.com



Russell A. Brach

(February 28, 1961 – July 26, 2022)

Obituary

RUSSELL A. BRACH, of St Cloud Florida passed away on July 26, 2022 at the age of 61 years young. Russ passed away at home surrounded by his loving family after a year and a half battle with cancer.

Russ was born in New Jersey February 28, 1961 where he lived with his Mom (Lois), Dad (Walter) and two brothers (Gary & Randy) in

Iselin before moving to Hillsborough, New Jersey and then of course to Florida where he called home until his death.

He is survived by his two children Ryan & Jessica Brach. He married Lisa, Ryan's mother then divorced. He then found love with Joanne, Jessica's mother. He was a great son, father, brother, uncle, boyfriend to Patricia and friend to many.

His cheerful energy and contagious laughter were something to behold, and his storytelling was always readily shared to all that needed their spirit lifted.

He began his career as an instrument man in surveying and fell in love with the profession so much he proceeded to further his education in order to achieve the professional degree of "Land Surveyor." He worked with a number of organizations in New Jersey before hearing the call of warmer weather in sunny Florida.

After moving down he joined the city of Kissimmee as an Engineering Technician for almost 10 years. He then became Vice President of Apex Engineering as the Director of Surveying where he worked for 23 years.

He really was one for the outdoors, if there was sand, water, mud, or whatever the condition was he loved to be out in it. He enjoyed family time, long drives, traveling, fishing, card games, and Allen Jackson music. For those of you that knew Russ he always greeted you with a big smile, and a warm look that made

you feel good. If you were one of the lucky ones he would make up a nick name for you instead of going by your given name which could always make you smile even more. His sense of humor was so good he would even make himself laugh more than any person so this too would cheer you up. He was also a very strong person raising two children, working, and then fighting cancer with the trips for chemotherapy sessions yet still carrying on with life cheerfully.

In life we loved you dearly. In death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone, for part of us went with you the day God called you home. You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide; and though we cannot see you, you are always at our side. Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same, but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.



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- **Land Tenure and Cadastral Systems, #7829, 6 CEC**
- **Map Projections and Plane Coordinate Systems, #7669, 6 CEC**
- **Practical Geometry for Surveyors, #7109, 6 CEC**
- **Public Land Survey System, #6979, 6 CEC**
- **Remote Sensing Applications to Surveying & Mapping, #6972, 6 CEC**

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3 CEC	\$58 Per Course	x _____ = \$ _____	
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3 CEC	\$68 Per Course	x _____ = \$ _____	
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3 CEC	\$78 Per Course	x _____ = \$ _____	
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3 CEC	\$88 Per Course	x _____ = \$ _____	
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3 CEC	\$60 Per Course	x _____ = \$ _____	
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