

THE

# OREGON SURVEYOR

A publication of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon



Vol. 37, No. 4, 2014





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## THE OREGON SURVEYOR

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# Outreach

■ Greg Crites, PLS

I need to preface my comments with a disclaimer, one that is specific to this issue and not the general one at the end of each of my editorials. In Lee Spurgeon's article in this issue titled "Common Sense Rules..." the editor he's referring to isn't me, but some nefarious character based upon his vivid imagination. I've got to admit that Lee has a wonderfully twisted sense of humor and I smile every time I read one of his missives, but I can't help feeling that his folksy style may be misconstrued by someone reading the magazine who has little or no knowledge of who surveyors are or what they do!

Now, so that I don't seem like I'm tossing brickbats at Lee, his "From the PLSO Chair" column was most germane to the subject of this editorial. I remember quite clearly at the conference last January the confusion over where the Auction funds were being allocated, and I'm glad the Board stuck to our original agenda and made sure that some funds were dedicated to outreach because we surely aren't

doing enough of it! Our strategic plan has clearly defined outreach as one of our strategic directions.

In case you haven't noticed yet, Aimee McAuliffe raises some interesting points about outreach in her characterization of our "Field of Dreams" (see page 5). I'm sure some of you have thought about outreach in much the same way as Lee and Aimee, and I'm glad they're bringing this subject to the forefront.

In my last editorial, I mentioned I've been attending IRWA meetings in the Portland Metro area since late last year (Beaver State chapter) to keep an eye on developments in the right-of-way arena that are allied with the work I'm presently involved in, and that too has directed my attention to our limited outreach. As I mentioned, I have heard several IRWA members state that no one knows what surveyors do yet their services are inextricably tied to characterizing, defining and resolving the location of right-of-ways (think about railroad abandonment and I ask you, who are better qualified to retrace those old right-of-ways long after the tracks are gone). In preparation for my recently completed presentation at one of their symposiums entitled "Clearing Title," I was reminded about how many occasions I have to review Title Reports. This, too, is an area

where surveyors could be filling a huge void via outreach. After all, how many surveyors do you know who actually prepare title reports, rhetorically speaking? How many surveyors rely on the information contained therein? How many times have you, the surveyor and possibly end user, identified mistakes in a title report? Do you even know the level of training the person preparing the title report has received? Did you use that opportunity to provide some possibly much needed instruction to a title officer regarding their work?

As a surveyor, tell me you've NEVER dealt with a realtor or a conveyance of real property through an attorney. Were you satisfied with the competency of all parties involved in the transaction? Considering that a home mortgage is probably the single most valuable transaction that average folks will ever be attached to, do you think there might be room for improvement in this arena? How many times have you witnessed a conveyance history where a critically important encumbrance to the property was inadvertently omitted from the transaction? At what cost? I could go on and on (and maybe you think I already have).

*Continues on page 9 ►*

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**On the Cover**, Photo by Patrick Gaylord

## Jefferson Park, Oregon

Summer is upon us and it's a great time to set down the tools of our trade and get out and experience what Oregon has to offer. A six mile trek from the Whitewater Trailhead into the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness will bring you to Jefferson Park on the north side of Mt. Jefferson. Here the Pacific Crest Trail cuts through a large plateau covered in small ponds, wildflowers and grand views of the mountain. This is a great destination for a day hike or overnight backpacking trip. Camping is limited to designated areas, and they fill up fast at this popular backcountry location.



# Scholarship versus Outreach?

■ Lee Spurgeon, PLS; 2014 State Chair and Chief Knucklehead in Charge

Perhaps the most salient moment to come out of our Board of Director's meeting on April 12 was Tim Kent standing up and saying, "If we do not have better outreach, then there isn't going to be any point in having a scholarship fund!" As usual, Tim had a way of cutting through all of the superfluous side issues and attacking the subject in the most direct fashion possible. Of course, Tim was completely correct in his assessment. We need to stop looking at outreach and scholarship as two separate issues with two separate constituencies.

This year we have seen the closing of the Umpqua and Chemeketa Community College surveying programs. Looking at the new realities of colleges and universities—which Mason Marker pointed out so eloquently in his article in the previous issue of *the Oregon Surveyor*—I am not sure that those programs will ever be revived. Furthermore, I am not sure that it is the best use of our limited resources to try to revive those programs. Saving the very few surviving surveying programs in the Pacific Northwest may be the better option for us if we are to look at this problem in a completely detached, unemotional, and almost reptilian state of mind.

To save the few remaining surveying schools in the Pacific Northwest, we need to put butts in the seats of the half empty classrooms. The way we are going to do this is through outreach first, then through scholarships—we must first sell our profession to future students. If we cannot get people interested in our profession through outreach, then it may be possible that the only scholarships we will be offering are for attending

Fresno State University or Purdue University.

As it stands now, we have more than a quarter of a million dollars in our scholarship fund which is administered by OCF. This fund allows us to offer about ten scholarships per year for around \$1000 each. In recent years, we have struggled to get enough qualified people to even apply for scholarships and last year we turned over one scholarship back in to the OCF because we couldn't find someone to give it to. It is obvious that the scholarship programs need better outreach efforts to be as effective as we all would like. It could be argued that if we increased the dollar amounts of scholarships, we would get more applicants, and I see the merit of that argument. In order to double the dollar amounts of our scholarships, we would either need to halve the number of scholarships offered or put another quarter million dollars into our scholarship fund. Of the two options, I would rigorously support doubling our scholarship fund, and this should be a goal the Board of Directors considers.

With that background information, we need to look at the disbursement of funds from the Education and Outreach Auction. This year, the Board voted to put all non-earmarked proceeds into the scholarship fund because there was a feeling that the members of the PLSO believed that we held a Scholarship Auction as opposed to a Education and Outreach Auction. I believe the Conference Committee did an adequate job of giving constructive notice of the change that the Board had directed. Jered McGrath, our very capable chairman of the Conference Committee, gave announcements



during the luncheon prior to the auction, and again just beforehand that funds were going to be disbursed for Education and Outreach. Every piece of literature in the conference brochure, bulletin boards and electronic crawlers at the conference site advertised the auction as a Education and Outreach event. I really cannot imagine that any more constructive notice was possible.

With that being said, perhaps I am jousting with windmills on this issue. The Scholarship Auction may be such an ingrained part of the culture of the PLSO that no amount of notice of the change of disbursement of funds will ever be adequate. I can certainly respect that viewpoint and I feel that the Board and the leadership of the PLSO have an absolute obligation and duty to respect the culture and the traditions of the organization. It may be that we vote to disburse all the funds to scholarships only, and if that is the case, I am confident the Board and I will support that effort. Until we come to that point, however, I have an obligation to all of you, which is to do what I believe is in the best interests of the PLSO. That obligation is to support our outreach efforts to ensure that the number of scholarships do not wither for a lack of schools or a lack of candidates in which to give those scholarships.

I would appreciate hearing your ideas on this subject. You can send comments/hate mail to: [lee@townshipsurveys.com](mailto:lee@townshipsurveys.com) ♦





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# If we build it, will they come?

■ *Aimee McAuliffe, PLSO Executive Secretary*

**T**he more PLSO meetings I attend and conversations I have with members, the more I hear about outreach. It was the main point of conversation for the Spring Board of Director's meeting as well. It's clearly a concern for everyone.

However, what I am also finding is that outreach doesn't mean the same thing to everyone.

For some, it's faithfully putting money aside for scholarships. Others consider it sponsoring teacher training to incorporate surveying into classroom lesson plans or being more involved at the college level. Still, other members have indicated that outreach is about promoting the industry and PLSO to the public. In turn, the higher profile we have, the more people will think of us when considering a career, thus driving up the need for more school programming.

If we all see the need for outreach, but don't agree on what it is, how do we move forward? As the Executive Secretary serving the interests of her members, I am forced to ask the question, "Which one is right?"

Well, all of them of course. By definition, outreach is an organization's involvement within the community. PLSO does a lot of great things in support of the community it serves.

So, perhaps the question is—if we build it, will they come? After all, this was great advice for Kevin Costner and his "Field of Dreams." However, this mentality could prove to be disastrous for us. There are too many industries vying for relevancy and a talented workforce to simply have faith that people will find us and immediately understand what we're about. We have to tell people why surveying continues to be important. We have to tell people about our scholarships.

With that said, we also have to listen. As generations change, so do their needs and expectations. I mean, have you tried having a conversation with a 20-something lately and not had to go to "urban dictionary" after they've gone? It's hard to communicate if you're not speaking the same language. We need to listen to what drives our audience before deciding where we do or don't fit in.

The key to a successful outreach program is clear messaging, trusted messengers (that would be us) and a variety of ways for our audience to find and understand the information. When beginning, we should ask ourselves the following questions:

**Question #1: What goals are we trying to achieve and how are they related?**

When considering these goals, it is always important to make sure they support our overall mission. If it doesn't reflect who we are as an organization, then we should be focusing our attention elsewhere. It doesn't mean it's not important, it just means we can't be all things to all people.

**Question #2: What activities do we need to perform to succeed?**

A clear definition of the goal and target audience needs to be understood when answering this question. When developing new programs or assessing old ones, more questions will lead to clearer



answers. How does the target audience like to receive its information? What need do they have that we can fulfill? What organizations can we partner with to broaden our message?

**Question #3: What specific outcomes do we want to see as a result from each activity?**

Measuring success can be difficult. Many of PLSO's goals are long-term. When we talk outreach, we're talking about investment in the future. However, we can measure the steps we take along the way if it's getting us closer to where and who we want to be as an organization.

In the coming months, you will hear a lot about outreach. Now we can speak the same language. Outreach is about enhancing the relationship we have with the public, and to do that we need a multi-faceted approach. Just know, that each aspect of it is done to work in conjunction with a project that you already love and admire. We all have the same goal—to protect and serve the land surveying industry in Oregon through professional education and outreach, while holding paramount the interests of the public. ♦

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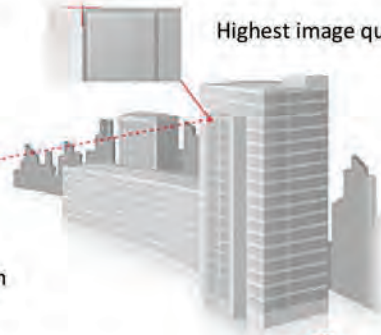
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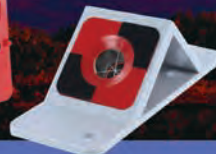
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# Six common sense rules for resolving boundary disputes



■ Lee Spurgeon, PLS

I know that most of you would just prefer that all boundary lines are pretty much settled affairs and that you could go your whole career without ever having to resolve a real Donnybrook boundary dispute involving lawyers, threats, and the brandishing of weapons. Some of us—the mental defectives, if you will—actually enjoy resolving these issues and bringing previously unseen peace into a neighborhood. It can also be a decent revenue source when the economy is in a downturn. I was considering taking out a television ad that said something like this:

“You know your neighbor, the one who just put up a fence? Yeah, the big jerk with the loud dog. How do you know he put it in the right place? How do you know he isn’t trying to steal your land? Contact a local surveyor before he permanently snags it.”

Although boundary disputes can be bothersome affairs, I always keep in mind the Plumber’s Credo, “Your...”

*(Editor’s Note: Lee, you can’t say those words in a magazine like this. Didn’t you get my e-mail?)*

*(The “other” editor’s note: That’s NOT THE EDITOR of this magazine, but a hypothetical Lee editor!)*

*(Author’s note to editor: You mean that e-mail with all the cuss words? I thought you were just bagging on my mother.)*

*(Editor’s Note: Do you actually read any of my e-mails?)*

*(Author’s Note: So that probably means I owe you an apology for the e-mail I sent you about your mother.)*

*(Editor’s Note: You think?)*

*(Author’s Note: Ooopsies!)*

Oh, where was I? Yes, the Plumber’s Credo; “...Your effluvium is our bread and butter.”

*(Editor’s Note: Ewwwwww!)*

So if you are going to deal with boundary disputes, you may as well learn these few simple rules:

## **RULE 1: Barbecues are cheaper than lawyers.**

Even a simple adverse possession lawsuit can run anywhere from \$20,000–\$25,000. Even if your client spends that much, there is absolutely no guarantee your client will prevail. Most land cases require a very high standard of proof. In adverse possession cases, your client will need to prove all elements of the law by clear and convincing evidence. The higher the burden of proof, then it generally follows the greater expense of the lawsuit.

A good barbecue with marinated tri-tip steaks can be thrown for around \$20 per person, which includes the requisite amount of beer required in order to believe your neighbor isn’t a repulsive slug. I know it sounds like a no-brainer in financial terms, but for some reason, land attorneys still manage to make a living. Perhaps the Weber Grill Company needs to get its message out there.

## **RULE 2: The first person to accuse their neighbor of being a jerk is generally the jerk.**

This rule is based on the psychological principle of reciprocity of attribution. We tend to attribute to other people those attributes which we see as a flaw in ourselves. Thieves will accuse other people of being thieves. Liars believe that someone else is a liar. And jerks will think other people are jerks. This principle was summed up perfectly by Raylan Givens on the show “Justified”:

“If at the end of the day, you look in the mirror and you have seen one jerk, then you *have* seen a jerk. On the other hand, while you look into that mirror and think you have seen a hundred jerks, then you are probably looking at the jerk.”

*(Author’s Note: Raylan didn’t use the word ‘jerk’, but having actually read the editor’s e-mail, I thought I would clean things up on my own.)*

Continues on page 8 ►

Even though you have a professional and fiduciary obligation to your client, as surveyors we also have an obligation to the truth, and often times we end up working for seriously bad actors. Knowing who the problem is can also be a key to unraveling the conflict.

**RULE 3: Surveyors do not wear Kevlar.**

Even though you feel you have an absolute right to go onto people's property to survey boundary lines as long as you follow the dictates of our state's Right-of-Entry law, high velocity, copper jacketed lead slugs tend to trump those rights. I figure that it requires a stack of PLSO provided door hangers three and a half inches thick to stop a typical handgun bullet. Considering how surveyors are always working in the rain (at least in Oregon), door hangers have rather dubious value as a personal protection garment. Talk to the neighbors first and assure them that you are there trying to discover the truth and that your survey may work out in their favor and if that doesn't work, call the sheriff, but no boundary line is worth anyone's life.

**RULE 4: Two things you never want to see are sausages being made or your government at work.**

There is nothing worse than working out some sort of boundary resolution over which two warring factions can abide to, only to then have a planning department reject the solution because of a Type 2 density overlay in a Type 3 Historical District. Arriving at any solution in some cases, involves a sea change in the way that neighbors view one another. Many neighbors need to work past more than a little paranoia in order to come to an accord, and having a planning glitch scuttle the agreement can degenerate into a lifetime of open hostility between neighbors. Before you ever propose any solutions, make sure you have already talked to planning and have ensured that a hostile boundary problem will cruise through planning without any problems.

**RULE 5: Some people just want to fight.**

Yes, this is correct. I was asked to bid on a survey to determine the Really Truly Absolutely Definitive Boundary between two geezers who have been fighting over the same fence line for over 20 years. There were perhaps a half dozen iron rods set within one or two tenths of each other. These two old men may have spent close to \$100,000 over one or two tenths of land that is

usually buried in blackberries. Their dispute may have been the only fun and exercise they ever got. If they want to fight, then I don't see why it falls upon sensible surveyors to be psychic vampires and ruin their best recreational activity.

**RULE 6: It is rarely about where the boundary line is located.**

Most boundary disputes I have worked on have been about dogs, junk, noise, unnecessary police complaints or some other offense which may not be readily apparent. The fight over the boundary location is merely the symptom of a bigger problem which may have been festering for years. Although fixing the boundary line in an authoritative manner is a worthwhile goal in and of itself, a surveyor may end up merely treating a symptom instead of the underlying cause.

I came across a boundary dispute in which I was asked to determine a property line between two neighbors which was a direct result of the neighbor's dogs. One neighbor had two large caliber dogs which barked incessantly. Our client responded by using his sand wedge to knock his own dog's effluvium over the fence on the boundary line while on more than one occasion sending one long and into his neighbor's swimming pool. Now if you were a surveyor who was merely treating symptoms, you would dutifully determine the boundary line and make an authoritative determination of the location of the fence. A better surveyor would suggest that bending one's knees a bit more, using a seven iron, and always using a full follow-through would get more loft and reduce the chances of an errant lie in the water hazard. The superior surveyor would suggest to his client that if he stopped launching effluvium over the fence, the neighbor might consider doing something about his barking dogs. The best surveyor would suggest to the aggrieved recipient of the effluvium that a can of white spray paint and some freshies from his own dogs put into his neighbor's backyard at night may create a very messy golfing experience and end the problem in a real hurry.

**RULE 7: Happy clients are paying clients.**

I think this speaks for itself. If you think your client doesn't have much of a case, consider getting a larger deposit.

I hope this will now make you all experts in solving boundary disputes, and yes, it is all that easy. ♦



# 2015 PLSO Education and Outreach Auction

Preparations are underway for the PLSO Education and Outreach Auction at the 2015 PLSO Annual Conference in Salem. The auction was renamed in 2013 to enable the PLSO Board to allocate funds to two very important causes: The PLSO Scholarship fund and PLSO Outreach programs and activities. This year, the Board voted to send \$7,743 to the scholarship fund (managed by the Oregon Community Foundation) and allocate \$334 to outreach from the auction and raffle held at the 2014 conference.

Though it seems early, we encourage PLSO members to begin looking for useful and perhaps unique items to donate to the auction. Auction items can be donated individually, as a group, or as a chapter. Some examples of unique donations are: a handmade craft item, artwork, or a unique recreation package. A short list of other possibilities include: gift baskets, tools, books, household items, and services. Be creative and find an item that will be appealing at either the live or oral auction. Your support can help expand the outreach efforts of PLSO and also add to the scholarship fund.

Remember to mark your calendar for January 21–23, 2015. Plan to attend the conference and also donate and participate in the auction. ♦



## EDITOR'S NOTE... continued from page 2

The bottom line is, if we don't do outreach, there won't be a profession called surveying before too long. You think you can abdicate your responsibilities to Google users? We've let scholarships go unawarded through the Oregon Community Foundation for lack of applicants. Every year it's getting harder to find those who are qualified. Is the solution to lower our standards and broaden the target audience? Absolutely not! We need to get out there and make ourselves visible to the public we have vowed to protect. Make them aware of what that protection means and educate them on how important it is to know that we're in their court, ready, willing and able to advocate for them in property disputes, property conveyances, partitioning, subdividing and so on. Let them personally witness our passion for this field.

Lee is correct that a barbecue may be a lot cheaper than an attorney. After all, how many times have you been called to survey a boundary line that is in dispute and your client is incredulous when you tell them you need to talk to their

neighbor? For that matter, how many times have you talked with that neighbor only to discover some kernel of wisdom regarding the issues surrounding the dispute that represent one of those "aha" moments? I have had numerous experiences where some person of advancing years comes out to see what I'm up to whilst standing behind the instrument. The conversation inevitably turns to historical knowledge, local lore and so on. You know the rest.

We could be doing a whole lot more with respect to outreach and I want to personally extend my gratitude to all the unsung members of PLSO who have been volunteering so hard in that arena, often with little or no thanks. Exam proctors, Trig-Star proctors, Scouting, Career Fairs and so on. Sadly, if we don't do more, the scholarship fund may turn into an albatross. I don't think we could serve that at a barbecue. ♦

*The views expressed herein are mine and mine alone and in no way should be construed as representing ANY opinions shared by our membership or a stance on political issues by this organization.*

# Trig-Star 2014

■ *Joe Ferguson, PLS*

First and foremost, I would like to thank those of you who proctored Trig-Star exams this year. Without your dedication to the students and PLSO, this program would not exist.

This year's State test was won by Jolyn Chance at Central High School (John Nemecek, proctor). Her score was 104 out of 110 points, completing the test in 59 minutes and 46 seconds, which goes to prove that getting the correct answers is more important than how long it takes.

CONGRATULATIONS JOLYN!

Almost as important as correct answers is a teacher that is relevant and can communicate with the young folks. Teacher Michael Jennings was a former surveyor with the BLM. He has been a great supporter of the Trig-Star program for the past 10 years or more. He also incorporates some survey basics—including use of instruments into his class work.

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU MICHAEL!

Runners up were:

Kayla Davis, Yamhill Carlton High School

Michael Osborn, Dallas High School

Melody Hansen, Sprague High School

Kenneth Price, West Salem High School

Chen Elsie Zhang, Valley Catholic High School

Michael Carson, Springfield High School

Harry Herzberg, Benson High School

Congratulations to all of you for participating in the state contest!

Again, thanks to John Nemecek, Chris Fischborn, Gary Johnston, Al Hertel, Jon Driscoll and Darren Cone for your continuing support of this program. ♦



Jolyn Chance, Central High School

## Let's do more Trig-Star!

Now for the rest of you (and me), let's try to get Trig-Star into more high schools, especially in Eastern Oregon. I think trying to go through local math teachers—who are totally swamped—may not be the way to go. We should approach the Principals at each school and ask if we can offer the Trig-Star test in late spring, while emphasizing the benefit of “practical” training in trigonometry through this mechanism. Then, as the time approaches, we supply the flyers announcing the test a month in advance. I think this would help in two ways: the math teacher does not have to try and cram us into an already hectic schedule and those of you who are “presentation challenged” would only need a five-minute lead in before giving the test. Simple!

I also suggest that we should really try to get into as many “Career Days” as possible. It is important that we put ourselves out there (you know, “outreach”).

So come on all of you big strong men (and women), PLSO needs your help. Go out and get those kids, the only good student is one in trig, so pick up your books and have some fun. There is \$500 to be won (with major apologies to Country Joe and the Fish). ♦



# NSPS sends recommendations to U.S. Senate on S. 2171

June 4, 2014

The Honorable Al Franken, Chairman Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology and the Law  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

See the full text of S. 2171 online at:  
<http://beta.congress.gov/113/bills/s2171/BILLS-113s2171is.pdf>

RE: S. 2171, the "Location Privacy Protection Act of 2014"

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) is the national voice of land surveying professionals throughout the United States. NSPS applauds your attempt and leadership in addressing consumer rights and privacy, as well as how modern technology, such as what professional surveyors offer, can benefit society at large, including consumers.

We respectfully request that this letter be entered into the record of today's hearing on S. 2171.

Introduced in March 2014, S. 2171 would amend the Electronic Communications Privacy Act to require that companies obtain individuals' permission before collecting location data from their smartphones, tablets, or in-car navigation devices, and before sharing such information with others. The bill would also ban the development, operation and sale of GPS stalking applications and would allow law enforcement to seize the proceeds of those sales to fund anti-stalking efforts.

NSPS believes S. 2171 contains a significant improvement over other and previously introduced legislation on this subject. We are pleased that unlike its predecessors, S. 2171 defines the term "geolocation information."

The surveying community is deeply concerned about legislation that would result in a serious threat to our legitimate professional and business interests, and the clients and public we serve. Legislative restrictions that would hamper the ability of surveying firms, agencies and organizations to collect, use, share, or apply surveying and geospatial data would impose a severe economic and procedural hardship on surveyors, with no benefit to individual privacy.

Many states define a number of geospatial or geolocation activities as the practice of professional surveying. Therefore, practitioners are licensed and regulated by the government via state licensing boards. Consumers are already protected.

For example, the State of Minnesota defines the licensed, professional practice of land surveying as "the application of the principles of mathematics, physical and applied sciences and law to measuring and locating lines, angles, elevations and natural or artificial features in the air, on the surface of the earth, underground and on the beds of bodies of water for the purpose of:

- (1) monumenting property boundaries;
- (2) planning, designing, and platting of land and subdivisions including the topography, alignment and grades of streets; and
- (3) preparing and perpetuating maps, record plats and property descriptions."

(Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 326.02(4))

Surveyors utilize a variety of electronic and computer devices to collect geographic information. From land use planning to routing roads, pipelines, and other infrastructure, surveyors collect a plethora of data, including addresses and location information, that protects property rights and serve the public at large. Legislation that requires prior notification or otherwise limits or prohibits such legitimate surveying activities is unnecessary and counter-productive.

Therefore, NSPS encourages you to include in S. 2171 an exemption for surveying and geospatial professional activities.

If you have any questions, or if we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
*Curtis W. Sumner, PLS,*  
Executive Director



# Cadastral tales

■ *Bob Taylor*

## #4 Dayville

Note: Cadastral Tales #1–3, were published in *The Oregon Surveyor*, Vol. 37, Issue 3, 2014.

AH, DAYVILLE. SO MANY STORIES AND SO LITTLE INK. This tale involves Rudio Canyon, mostly running South to North as the section lines fell along the east and west edges and the quarter corners which ran east and west fell near the bottom of the canyon.

The canyon was full of rim rocks from the top of the canyon down about 1.5 to 2.5 chains and then jogging out about a half chain. We normally used a 5-chain tape. This particular day we used a 10-chain tape. Early on that morning, Jake walked into the transit we had left set up the night before on a rim edge. The other five men on the crew each walked, brushed, crawled and found ourselves on a separate rim rock from each other. With the use of hand signals Jake would place each of us on the traverse line and we would clear it of trees and brush. About noon we were all set and the chain started from the bottom. Each crew member would throw a roll of flagging down to the person below who would then tie the leather chain strap to the flagging so it could be hauled up (two or three chains) to the next level, and so on to the top rim. We just made it. Mike was at the bottom and was well braced. Joe, standing at the top of the rim called for everyone to “clear” the chain. Each of us shook the chain and walked out as close as we dared to the edge of our own rim. We all held it high, and I, for one, was quite surprised at how taut the chain became. Joe pulled his best for about 30 seconds and “stuck” it. It was nearly 9.5 chains. Not bad in that canyon.

By October we were setting the corners in the canyon. There were two crews dropping in from the west rim of the canyon and brushing a trail to the corners. About noon, Jake sent me back to the top to pick up the vehicles. I was to hook the front tongue (tow bar) of the jeep to the carry-all and tow it the 12 miles or so to the bottom of the canyon at the north end. It was just starting to spit snow so I figured I’d better get going. The truck would not start. Sounded like a weak battery.

I knew it would not do much good to show up with just the jeep...and then it hit me. I had about six or seven chains of clear dirt road in front of me. I got the key in the truck and left the driver’s door open. I then got in the jeep which was hooked up and I started to push the truck with it. When I got going as fast as I thought I could run, I jumped out and ran like crazy to the truck and jumped in.

I turned on the key, put the truck in gear, and let out the clutch. Bang! It fired and I got off the canyon rim. It snowed all night. ♦

## #5 Birds of Lakeview

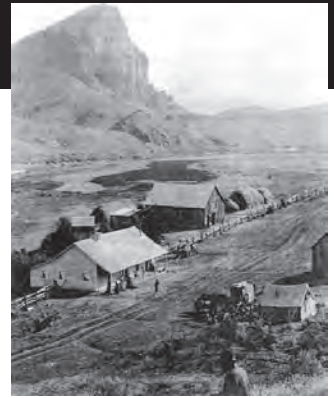
I ONLY SPENT ONE SEASON IN LAKEVIEW but it was very interesting. It must have been 1961 and four of us rented a house for a month. Two of the guys were hunters (they thought). One Saturday they took off toward our job site as they had seen some Snow Geese. The job site was near several large lakes which had dried up over the past 80 years since the original survey had been done. There was lots of new unsurveyed land and someone wanted to see the corners.

Anyway, about 3:00 pm the guys came in with long necked geese. That was until Al White saw them. Al had come over to talk about Monday’s work. The boys had managed to bag two beautiful white swans. Al explained to them (in his unique manner) that a \$1,000 fine for each bird and the loss of their rifles would just about cover what the sheriff would want. He then suggested they bury the swans and stop hunting until they knew what they were hunting.



The second Lakeview bird story goes like this: Each day we would drive about 40 miles to the job site. The roads were long and straight. We usually had two trucks, Jake driving one and John the other. We were spaced about 10 chains apart and traveling about 50 mph. This got some of us into a habit of “nodding off” during the ride. I was riding shotgun with Jake when all of a sudden John’s truck went sideways and tire smoke was everywhere. We of course stopped to see if everyone was okay. I ran up to the passenger side of the truck and saw all the windows on the side were *red!* As John’s crew slowly started to get out, I saw most of them were covered in feathers and red goo. They had hit a hen pheasant and it went through the windshield. It exploded and covered everyone but John, the driver.

John took his crew back to town. Jake’s crew went on to work. ♦



## #6 The windmill

IT WAS 1962 AND MY SECOND SEASON IN DAYVILLE. In Oregon and Washington, our season usually went from April to late November.

Dayville had several churches, a hotel, a gas station, and a tavern. Maybe there were 200 people in and around the valley. The local tavern was fairly liberal with us and if we minded ourselves no questions were asked. If you could play cards, you could drink beer. The locals always needed fresh money in the 25¢ pot for pinochle.

So, one night a man with one arm came in and was selling “white lightning” at \$2 a quart jar. Mike and I bought two quarts and as he sized us up he suggested we might drink it with some kind of mixer and preferably on a Friday night, as we might not remember Saturday and would probably need Sunday to get well. He was quite right.

The first year in Dayville I stayed at the hotel, but the second year we rented a house in the middle of town. Cots and sleeping bags. You can sleep on anything when you’re 19 years old.

So the next Friday night the bunch of us got into the quart jar. After maybe two or so hours we were really “loose.” Joe and I could still walk, so we went out in the backyard, whereupon we took a real good look at the old 50-foot high windmill. The blades had been chained to the frame so it wouldn’t turn. That didn’t seem right, a windmill that couldn’t turn. So you-know-who climbed to the top and took off the chain. There was a slight breeze but that old windmill was so rusted it would not turn. Well, about 3 o’clock in the morning a big wind came up and a gigantic SCREECH was heard all over town. Lights came on, people were yelling, and I went back to sleep.

The next morning, the owner dropped by and politely asked us to put the chain back on. I told Joe I couldn’t do it sober, so he climbed up and reattached the chain.

Come to think of it, that was the last windmill I climbed. ♦



Continues on page 14 ►

## #7 The bearing trees

I HAD NOT PLANNED TO WRITE VERY MUCH ABOUT SURVEYING in a technical manner but I can't let this tale go by. I'm quite sure this took place in Grants Pass. It should have been only a couple of weeks' work and done quickly. The catch was we were missing a key section corner. We had searched like the dickens for it but had no luck.

So Al White, the party chief, said we needed to begin a survey to proportion the missing corner position. We started the survey running out the three directions to find controlling monuments.

Al White hated to proportion a corner, "By G--, it should be there." He said that at almost every corner that we didn't (or couldn't) find. Al had a sign in the office trailer which read "Why can't you take the time to do something right, but you always find the time to do it again?"

The next day after we started the additional survey line, I got back to camp and was walking by Al's office, when I heard him shout, "You son of a b----" I knew he was by himself, as he would not say that to a crew member (well, maybe under extreme circumstances).

The next morning as everyone arrived to go to work, Al was waiting for me. "Taylor, you're with me." So I drove Al to the area near the missing corner. I walked him into the temporary corner location. He pulled out his compass (we all have one don't we?), got his bearings and began to look up. He stared for about two minutes and then he muttered, "you S.O.B." He then handed me a copy of the original field notes and under the date (Nov.), day, and year, he pointed to a note, small but readable: "8 ft. snow." Sure enough, about 10 feet up the tree was the healed over scar of a bearing tree. We pulled off the bearing and distance and as Al turned the remaining bearings and distances, I flagged all the remaining trees, each with scar about ten feet off the ground!

Good catch, Al. He was the best and I do miss him. ♦

## #8 The new surveyor

SINCE THE BLM WAS A GOVERNMENT AGENCY, the people hired for a position were not always the person you might have chosen, but you had to make do with what personnel they sent you.

This was the world that Al White lived in. Once in a while he got to choose a temp, like me, when he was in the field and needed someone in a hurry. He had an eye for the good, the bad, and the other. I learned early on that Al was not angry all the time; he was hard of hearing and was always yelling "WHAT?" He just sounded loud.

The other type of new guy (sorry, ladies, but that was the reality of the times) he got was a transfer from some other agency (but not the Cadastral Branch).

Please remember we had no electronic devices. No GPS, no electronic measuring instruments, etc. Our world was sun-shots, compasses and chains. We almost always set up a baseline at a new job and took a sun-shot to check the instrument and set the deviation on the compass. With someone like John or his brother Jake, they could get done in 10 minutes once the "gun" was set up and the back site taken. Three shots at the sun direct the three shots reversed. I just loved taking the notes for them using Al's stop watch.

The normal procedure for running a traverse line from a known corner was to set the original bearing on the compass and then stay on that line the next 40 chains. If you found the original corner, you tied it in and kept going to the next found corner. If you didn't find it, we set a "temp" corner and kept going. If we hit a large enough tree, we made a 90 degree off-set with long back sites and turned a 90 degree parallel line to the original traverse line. The reason for all this was after we had the corners found or set new ones, we then blazed along the true line between corners. Keeping the temporary line close made blazing easier.



This is where the new surveyor comes in. He runs the crew and it was very rare to question what method he would use to get the work done. So I was put on his crew, and the first day we got out about five chains and found a logging road. What joy for the new guy. He could save a lot of time running line down the road and near the next corner we walked in and did find the corner we needed. He was very pleased and said “good job, let’s go home.”



The next morning there was a lot of shouting coming from Al’s office.

After 10 minutes (Al never talked that long), the new surveyor came out and told us to get in the truck as we were going to run the line again. He did not know we had to blaze the true line. The first line we ran was over 1,000 feet away from the true line between corners.

Al’s problem came to an end shortly. Al had the new surveyor drive one of the trucks that hauled a trailer, and on a curve getting out of camp, the new guy took the side of the trailer off on a bridge guardrail. That was the last we heard of him! ♦

## #9 City guys

AS I’VE SAID, WHEN YOU WORK FOR PUBLIC AGENCIES you don’t always get to choose the worker you want. We often got people from back east sent out via some politically connected family friend, a student, and so forth.

On one occasion, we were starting a long East to West township line just north of Brookings up the Chetco River. We could drive to each end but the middle had a 3.5 mile section with no access. That meant a camp-on-line trip (I loved those). Everyone was told to bring a sleeping bag and food for three days. Not many things weighed over 25 pounds. Mike and I were the chainmen, so we would chain out for about two hours then fall back and move everything up. It was a good system and not hard at 20 years old with two years of climbing around the hills of the Oregon Coast Range.

We camped on line, always close to a clear creek. We didn’t know then that you were not supposed to drink creek water. It made good coffee. We had with us a new brush cutter, and this was the first time he had ever slept outside or camped in his life. He had a brand new sleeping bag and new backpack. We showed him how to scramble eggs in a used tin can with water and tinfoil and butter, things like that.

On our second night out, we set up just below a rim rock. The camp area was fairly flat. We had retired for the night, and about midnight he started yelling, “What is it?” over and over. This woke everyone up, and there at the rim rock was the biggest full moon this man had ever seen. He could not believe it was the moon; he was sure the moon was much smaller than what he was looking at. Jake came over and convinced him it was true, it really was the moon. It had been the most exciting thing he had ever seen!

Now on to the next city guy. Evidently he had friends in high places and wanted to work in the great outdoors. So Al White got a phone call from some guy named Irving telling him this young man would arrive on the next bus from Portland to Bookings. Al picked him up and brought him to the apartment some of us had, where we got him a cot.

He was assigned to Jake’s crew to work setting corners. This is about as easy as our job got. Walk in, set the corners and walk out. We did have to pack in some materials like two-inch galvanized iron pipes and a scribing tool and dies to mark the brass caps. Not that much, really.

So off we went. The new guy soon fell back and Jake would go back and help him along and encourage him. We got the first corner set, and the poor guy was coughing and panting and swore he was having a heart attack. So Jake told him to take his time and return to the truck. Jake and I went on the next half mile and set the last corner, then walked out just as he got to the truck. Again, with the heart attack, and a claim he needed a doctor. We took him to town and left him with Al.

I never saw him again, but strangely, in the Sunday *Oregonian* that came out a couple of weekends later there was a pair of new corked boots for sale, only worn once. ♦



# What is wrong with this picture?



You can survey that precisely?



Hmm. I don't think this layout is in the manual!



That's a SEWER manhole!





What happens when the cap gets knocked off?



Now, where did you say Section 20 was?



Are you kidding me? Four "super" surveyors?



# Lost Surveyor

■ Pat Gaylord, PLS

## Can you name this interpretive location on the Willamette Meridian?

### Solution

The Interactive Meridian Line Interpretive Exhibit is located on the Tualatin River Greenway Trail in Tualatin and provides a lesson about the Willamette Meridian and the Willamette Stone for all who pass. The exhibit is in a rather isolated location just west of Browns Ferry Park and is connected to the park by the Tualatin River Greenway Trail.

Brown's Ferry Park is a 28.33 acre natural area park located on the Tualatin River at 5855 SW Nyberg Lane in Tualatin. Brown's Ferry Park was named after Zenas J. Brown who laid a claim to the land in 1850 through the Donation Land Act. He also started the first ferry in the Tualatin vicinity. The park is a great place to take a quiet walk, enjoy a picnic, or view wildlife in the pond, creek, and Tualatin River. A native grass and wildflower prairie covers about a third of the park. ([www.tualatinoregon.gov/recreation/browns-ferry-park](http://www.tualatinoregon.gov/recreation/browns-ferry-park))

With regards to the exhibit, unfortunately it is not as interactive as it used to be. I first learned of this exhibit a few years ago when researching a location to place a Geocache around the time of the Willamette Stone sesquicentennial celebration and I haven't visited it for some time. My visit for this issue of the "Lost Surveyor" revealed that the hand crank which allowed kids to turn the globe and align the meridian has been broken off. Additionally, one of the two bolts which holds it upright has been removed and the other is very loose. It likely won't be long until it is laying on the ground as the result of a few more malicious individuals.

This would be a great restoration project for PLSO to fund and provide the labor to bring this exhibit (and others like it) back to a respectable condition in order to continue to educate members of the public about what we do as professionals and the rich history of surveying in this country and the State of Oregon. ♦



Interactive Meridian Line Interpretive Exhibit



### Tualatin River Greenway Trail

*Land manager:* City of Tualatin Parks

*Length:* 6.48 miles

The incomplete Tualatin River Greenway runs through several of Metro's Natural Areas Program target areas including Dairy and McKay Creeks Confluence, Lower Tualatin Headwaters and Rock Creek Headwaters and Greenway. Learn about the goals and objectives for habitat and water quality protection in the Tualatin River Greenway target area and learn more about the importance of the area to our region.





you are standing on the

## willamette meridian line

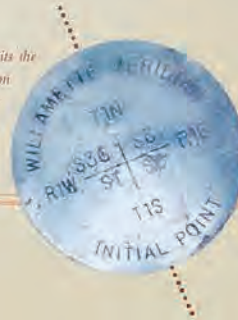
*The brown line on the globe represents the Willamette Meridian line. A meridian is an imaginary line stretching between the North and South poles.*

*North along this meridian line sits the Willamette Stone—the point from which all the lands in the Pacific Northwest were originally surveyed, and all townships platted.*

### on the line

As you stand on this meridian line, set your compass for due north (true north, not magnetic north) and follow its needle from this point past the Tualatin River, over the hills north of Tualatin, across a maze of highways, country roads, and suburban streets, and into a park in the West Hills of Portland. If you've followed your compass faithfully, your path will lead you to a small monument called the Willamette Stone.

Two surveying baselines cross paths at the Willamette Stone: an east-west line known as the Willamette Base Line, and a north-south line known as the Willamette Meridian, where you are standing. This line is also the Washington-Clackamas county line.



### living within the lines

United States emigrants, arriving in this region in the early 1800s, were granted up to 320 acres apiece to homestead. There was no formal survey and division of land; these settlers simply chose the lands that seemed best suited to cultivation.

As more and more arrived to stake their claims, a formal system of land delineation was introduced. Based on the Land Ordinance of 1785, this system established rectangular townships of 36 square miles each.

Townships were established based on the Willamette Meridian and the Willamette Base Line. Each township enclosed 36 "sections" of 640 acres each. One section was available to a family or married couple to homestead.

The Willamette Stone was placed on June 4, 1851. In the years following, government and private surveyors traveled throughout the region, pacing along the imaginary grid lines oriented around the Willamette Meridian. The surveyors took meticulous notes on significant landmarks, buildings, roads, vegetation, waterways and other features along the section lines. Their observations were later turned into the first official maps of the county.



### Willamette Meridian Line

Closeup of the plaque on the Interactive Meridian Line Interpretive Exhibit.



# Geomatics students take second at national competition

■ Ashley Van Essen

A team of students from the Oregon Tech Geomatics Department took second place in the annual National Society of Professional Land Surveyors Student (NSPS) Competition this April. The NSPS held its 14th Annual Student Competition in conjunction with the California Land Surveyors Association (CLSA)/Nevada Association of Land Surveyors (NALS) joint conference in San Diego, California on April 12–16, 2014. Participating in the competition were 12 schools with baccalaureate degree programs in surveying, surveying engineering technology, and/or surveying engineering.

## Results

- First Place: Southern Polytechnic State University
- Second Place: Oregon Institute of Technology—Klamath Falls, Oregon
- Third Place: Fresno State University
- Honorable Mention: Penn State, New Mexico State, Michigan Tech, Utah Valley University, and New Jersey Institute of Technology

The topic for the 2014 competition was ALTA/ACSM Land Title Surveys and consisted of a project, project binder (project documentation), map, and oral presentation. The purpose for this four-pronged approach is to provide students with an opportunity to hone their skills in organizing and presenting a project using the various mediums (documentation, map, and oral presentation) regularly utilized in surveying practice.

The Oregon Tech team was led by Josie Campbell, a senior from Portola, CA. Orlando Aquino and Steve Randall, seniors from Klamath Falls, OR; Tim Brown, junior from Vernonia, OR;



Orlando Aquino, Tyler Puzey, Josie Campbell, Arlo Kneeland-MacDonald, and Tim Brown. *Not pictured:* Steve Randall

Arlo Kneeland-MacDonald, junior from McMinnville, OR; Wesley Inman, junior from Red Bluff, CA; and Tyler Puzey, sophomore from Clatskanie, OR made up the rest of the team.

The Oregon Tech team prepared a survey of the AmeriTitle office in Medford for this competition. The team was responsible for the legal research, field surveying, mapping, documentation and final presentation. Once the first draft of the map was completed, the team sent their map out to 15 professionals around the country including professional surveyors and real estate professionals, including attorneys and paralegals that work with these surveys for their comments. These valuable comments were added to the final project that was submitted to NSPS. ♦

*For more information, please contact Mitch Duryea, Assistant Professor, Geomatics Department at 541-851-5762, or visit [www.oit.edu/academics/degrees/geomatics](http://www.oit.edu/academics/degrees/geomatics).*



Orlando Aquino, Josie Campbell, Arlo Kneeland-MacDonald, Tim Brown, Tyler Puzey, and Steve Randall



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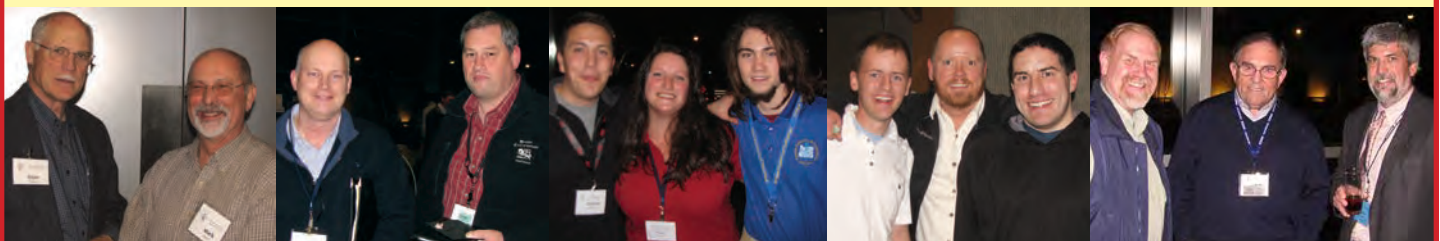
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include nearest town and state.
- Date stolen.
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