

# The UCLS Newsletter



Volume 5 Issue 4

October 2018

## Where is it?



October is traditionally associated with the harvest and often one of the busiest times of the year. We are anxious to complete our summer tasks as we prepare for winter. We also enjoy the beautiful seasons that is unique to Utah.

Halloween Day is the last day in October. We celebrate with spooky stores of ghosts and haunted places.

The first UCLS member to correctly identify the loca-

tion of this building, which is rumored to be the most haunted place in Utah, will receive a free lunch at their next UCLS Chapter Meeting.

Answers may be emailed to Susan at [srmerrill@ucls.org](mailto:srmerrill@ucls.org). The earliest date and time of response will determine the winner.

**In this issue:** we invite you to consider attending the UCLS Fall Forum and participating in the Certified Surveyor Technician program. The CST program is a wonderful opportunity for technicians to improve their skills and be recognized for their accomplishments.

UCLS recently lost two long-standing members. With deepest condolences, we announce the passing of Dean Hill and Jim Baird.

The Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC) provides grant money to replace or preserve monuments in the public land survey system. See the announcement and consider submitting an application for this program.

A local student is the recipient of the Walter M. Cunningham Scholarship foundation. Find out the name of the student, how much he received, and his plans for the future.

We provide you with suggestions to improve our description writing, a discussion on the benefits of a land survey, and land surveying headaches from the perspective of a mortgage company. Additionally, we review the ancient art of surveying and introduce you to the LeCorbusier measuring tape.

We invite you to share charismatic photos of yourself and/or a coworker, panoramic images of Utah's scenic wonders, or pictures of survey related tools and equipment. Additionally, we need interesting and unique descriptions or survey related stories to share with our membership. Remember, if you do not participate you have no right to complain. Please let us know your thoughts, recommendations, suggestions, or complaints.

The UCLS Newsletter  
is published monthly by the  
Utah Council of Land Surveyors  
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**"Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble."  
-William Shakespeare**

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## Dangers of Texting While Driving

*Dangerous behind-the-wheel practices lead to fatalities*

Every day, more than 1,160 people are injured in crashes involving a distracted driver, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In addition, the NHTSA claims that driver inattention is the leading contributor in most crashes or near-miss accidents in the United States.

### Inattention on the Road

Of all crashes, over 90 percent involve driver inattention within a three-second window of the incident. The moral of the story: When motorists change radio stations, try to read maps use their phones, they are putting themselves and others at risk.

### How Texting is Different

The most prevalent danger on roadways is texting while driving. Texting requires a motorist's full attention, which inhibits his or her ability to pay attention to the road. This concern is by no means limited to everyday drivers; inattention due to texting has caused many occupational drivers to be involved in deadly roadway crashes. Here are some tips to avoid distractions on the road:

- Never use a cellphone in bad weather, work zones or heavy traffic. This includes the use of a hands-free device to make a call.
- Pull over in a safe area if you absolutely need to use your phone.

- Make all necessary calls before you start to drive. Also, consider setting up an automatic replies for when people call or text you while you're driving.

### It's Against the Law

Most states have laws outlawing the use of cellphones and texting while driving. To avoid a ticket and a potentially dangerous accident, do not use your cellphone in any capacity while driving. Also, be sure to look up distracted driving rules that may be specific to your area or state.

Be safe and healthy on the job at **NSPS Member** with these helpful tips provided by **NSPS Insurance Program**.

**“The NHTSA claims that driver inattention is the leading cause in most crashes or near-miss accidents in the United States.”**

This flyer is for informational purposes only and is not intended as medical or legal advice.

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## A FEW THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WRITING PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS

By: Mark E. Chastain, P.L.S.

About once per month, I get a phone call or email from an attorney or surveyor. There has inevitably been a disagreement on how to properly word a “legal” description, and I am summoned to moderate and referee. This is totally avoidable, and only requires that surveyors read and apply board rules as professionally as they would read and apply the proper weight to (ironically enough) a property description.

The whole issue revolves around Board Rule 180-7-.02(2) which sets forth instructions for writing descriptions. This rule was amended in 2008 to add some content that was to be required, such as adjoining property owners’ names. That is the real issue at hand. Before going further, one must step back and understand what this rule actually applies to.

In times mostly of the distant past, and in some areas of the state, surveyors were once (and may still be) asked to prepare a description instead of, or in, conjunction with a survey. The description would be used *carte blanche* in subsequent transactions, court decisions, recorded conveyances, etcetera. This is a very rare practice in the current era. To my recollection, I’ve only prepared such a description twice, and neither time was within Georgia. All of us have tried to retrace descriptions which had the fingerprints of a surveyor on them, but just didn’t make sense. Maybe the description looked just like the raw product produced by our software, maybe it had bearings to the second and distance to the hundredth in places, and then “northerly to a certain stump” injected oddly. In 2008, the intention of the board was to bring up the quality of surveyor prepared descriptions. Ideally we would all agree, without a survey in hand, the description should be the next best thing and not part of the problem.

Many surveyors are diligent, professional, and meticulous in all aspects of their practice - including the preparation of descriptions. In the current era, we seldom prepare a *carte blanche* property description. If we do, then indeed Board Rule 180-7-.02(2) fully applies. One must note also that last line of that rule states: “All descriptions, being a form of report, shall bear the land surveyor’s name, address, seal, and signature.” So, please, don’t confuse this work product with the two most common uses of “legal description” in our current time.

The most common is when we send a description to an attorney or broker, usually in the form of a word processor document. This has become a very common practice in recent years due to the ability of our software to generate a document that contains all of the bearings, distances arcs, and radii from the survey file itself. This eliminates the possibility of a typo being made by a paralegal typing each character one at a time from the face of a plat. Depending on point codes, description tables, and software settings, there is always some “tweaking” to take place such as to better describe a corner, call out a right of way or land lot line, etcetera. Sometimes the surveyor does some, or all, of the tweaking, sometimes the law office does. It is very important to realize and understand at this point that attorneys have been preparing legal descriptions for generations and are fully authorized and (usually) competent to do so. In this role, we are not preparing a *carte blanche* description; just providing them with the raw data to finish theirs with. This is a similar professional exercise to sending an engineer a CAD file with some line work and contours from a limited topo for one of their projects.

The second most common instance of a surveyor preparing a description is when it is required to be placed on the face of the plat. This may be a special requirement of the clients, or part of an ALTA survey. In any event, the description becomes part of a plat. A description is not a requirement to be placed on a plat in Georgia, it is just additional information provided at the client’s request or other requirement. It becomes part of the plat, not a separate document, though. All of the required data for the description is on the survey, so all rules should be complied with.

The conflict is when a surveyor inserts adjoiner names into the description that is forwarded to the attorney for their use. Anyone who interprets descriptions (including surveyors) should understand that a call worded such as “thence along the property line of Jones North 89 degrees East 400.00 feet to an axle” creates a level of “bounded by” description hierarchy. The quick and easy interpretation is to use the dimensions to measure the axle and



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**A Few Things You Should Know About Writing Property Descriptions continued...**

keep moving. But, it creates a potential ambiguity or conflict in that “thence along the line of Jones” becomes a controlling call, arguably over the monuments, and certainly over the dimensions. If Jones’ description is different, does it control? It is now called for. What if the Jones property later has a new description recorded, and that new description overlaps your survey by 5 feet? Rather than argue what the outcome is or who prevails in court, let’s stop right there and recognize that such calls create a situation that is bad for a title insurer who is expected to insure every square inch of your survey and that their job is to avoid that court battle. If an adjoiner could have a valid claim to 5 feet of your surveyed property, it is not insurable. Converting a “metes and bounds” description to a “bounded by” description is going backwards. So, Please try to be understanding when an attorney objects to your adjoiner calls in a description, especially if such is on the face of your survey, and is therefore going to be incorporated.

Mark E. Chastain, P.L.S., is the Board Chairman and Cognizant Land Surveyor member of the Georgia Board Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. He is the owner and President of Chastain & Associates, P.c.. Contact: ([www.chastainassociates.com](http://www.chastainassociates.com)) Questions and comments can be sent to: [mec@chastainassociates.com](mailto:mec@chastainassociates.com).

**The Walter M. Cunningham Education Foundation Scholarship**

\$2,000 was awarded to Michael Stewart to continue his education



I was born and raised in the Southern Utah town of Kanab where I developed a love for the outdoors. I spend most of my free time hunting, fishing, camping, and exploring. I am a senior at UVU and will graduate in May with a Bachelors in Geomatics and a Minor in Business Management. Once graduated, I will continue to work towards obtaining my PLS. I have been working part time through school and will be about half-way done with my 4-years of experience by the time I graduate.

Through my high school years, I was good friends with a couple of guys who worked as civil engineers and surveyors. My career goals, at that time, were undecided, but I definitely had an interest in civil

engineering. A few years later I was really trying to decide what I wanted to do with my life, I had a serious conversation with one of my engineering friends and he told me that if he could go back and do things over again he wouldn't be a civil engineer he would be a surveyor. He then told me what a surveyor does and the more he explained the more I liked it. So, I then started doing my own research on the profession of surveying and decided without a doubt that land surveying was for me! As I have progressed through the program at UVU I have absolutely loved it and I know its exactly where I need to be! What I love most about the profession is that I get to be outside hunting down property and section corners, I get to work with some of the latest and greatest technology, and I love that every job is different and unique.

## Le Corbusier's Special Measuring Tape Is Making a Comeback

By: Elena Goukassian

In the summer of 1948, while visiting the 13th century ruins of the Chaalis Abbey, just north of Paris, the architect Charles - Edouard Jeanneret “was struck by the fine proportions of the door (that of the transept, as I remember).” Jeanneret, better known as Le Corbusier, proceeded to reach into his pocket and take out a specially designed red-and-blue measuring tape to see whether the proportions were as perfect as he imagined. They were!

Le Corbusier used the same tape to measure Ancient Egyptian ruins, as well as historic buildings in Istanbul, Izmir, Athens, Lima, and beyond. He claimed that they, too, conformed to his measuring tape's uniquely calculated proportions. But what was this magical measuring tape? And how and why did the architect design it in the first place?

Dubbed the “Modulor Rule,” Le Corbusier's invention was the result of years of frustration with the metric system. According to the architect, the metric system was devoid of all human context, and hence incompatible with architectural needs. But because it was already deeply ingrained in the vocabulary of architects and engineers worldwide, it would be impractical to get rid of the metric system entirely. Instead, Le Corbusier hoped to inject some much-needed humanity into it.

“The French Revolution did away with the foot-and-inch system, with all its slow and complicated processes,” the architect wrote in his 1948 text *The Modulor: A Harmonious Measure to the Human Scale Universally Applicable to Architecture and Mechanics*. (This was the first of two whole books he dedicated to his new approach.) “The savants of the [1875 Metre] Convention adopted a concrete measure so devoid of personality and passion that it became an abstraction, a symbol: the metre, forty-millioth part of the meridian of the earth.”

In as much as Le Corbusier hated the metric system, he wasn't fond of the Imperial system either, calling it “steadfast in its attachment to the human body, but atrociously difficult to handle.” In the increasingly globalized world of the 1940s, he felt the best way to deal with this problem would be to somehow fuse the two measurement systems into a single universal one.

For philosophical inspiration, Le Corbusier looked to music. “Music, like architecture, is *time and space*,” he wrote. “Music and architecture alike are a matter of measure.” Just as musical notation and the tempered scale served to standardize Western Classical music, so, too, would his Modulor system standardize architecture.

The Modulor system itself is a rather confusing combination of human proportions, the golden ratio, and the Fibonacci sequence. The math becomes fairly complicated, but the general concept is that a structure built for human habitation should start with the proportions of the humans themselves. Le Corbusier based his very first Modulor system on the measurements of what he perceived to be a typical “French heights” of 1.75 meters or 5 feet 8 inches tall, but ultimately, he decided that, because this was to be an international system, the “ideal man” should instead measure a bit taller, at 6 feet or 1.83 meters tall. (As he wrote in *The Modulor*: “Have you never noticed that in English detective novels, the good-looking men, such as the policeman, are always six feet tall?”)

Both the symbol and basis of the Modulor method of measurement is a muscular, six-foot-tall man with a wasp-like waist and an arm stretched above his head. Le Corbusier's Modulor Man was like an updated version of Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man. “A man-with-arm-up-raised provides, at the determining points of his occupation of space- foot, solar plexus, head, tips of fingers of the upraised arm- three intervals which give rise to a series of golden sections, called the Fibonacci series,” he wrote. “on the other hand, mathematics offers the simplest and also the most powerful variation of a value; the single unit, the double unit, and the three golden sections.”

These preliminary measurements - feet to waist, waist to top of the head, top of the head to tips of the fingers of the upraised arm - serve as the basis of measurement for the Modulor Rule. The ratios between these measurements are then used to determine the ideal proportions of buildings, furniture, and any and all other aspects of the human environment. The measuring tape itself breaks down these proportions, from the minuscule to the architectural, so that one could theoretically use the tape to measure the proportions of a variety of things, from a banister to a building.

Le Corbusier clearly believed his Modulor system was revolutionary, and he had a habit of carrying the special measuring tape around in a film canister in his pocket when traveling. In *The Modulor* - a book that is in essence a self-congratulatory saga of how he came up with his idea - Le Corbusier recounts talking to Albert Einstein about the Modulor system, quoting the great mathematician as having said, “It is a scale of proportions which makes the bad difficult and the good easy.”

Although Le Corbusier thought the Modulor would change the way architects work all around the world, he was probably the only architect that ever used it, most notably in his *Unité d'Habitation* in Marseille, France. Constructed between 1947 and 1952, the *Unité d'Habitation* was a utopian project, a largely self-sufficient building complete with shopping mall, hotel, restaurant, school, and a rooftop running track and pool, together with 337 apartments, all enclosed within the same structure. This utopian function paired nicely with the union Modulor method, which Le Corbusier used for numerous aspects of the design, from the plan and elevation of the building to the balconies, interior measurements of each apartment, and even the built-in furniture, including the woodwork. In tribute, a Modulor Man is carved into the concrete of the building itself.

Ultimately, the Modulor method failed to take off outside of Le Corbusier's own designs, yet the architecture community continues to be fascinated by its history. In 2000, when [Princeton Architectural Press](#) and [Fondation Le Corbusier](#) created a facsimile edition of the Modulor Rule (complete with metal canister), it sold out almost immediately. A second batch of reproductions will be available in September 2018.



## Survey Monument Replacement and Restoration County Grant Program

### 2018 Updates

On September 5, the Monument Replacement and Restoration Committee (MRRC) met to finalize a request for proposals from Utah counties for grants to protect or rehabilitate the state's section corner monuments.

Section corners in the [Public Land Survey System \(PLSS\)](#) form the foundation for all descriptions of private property and public land boundaries in Utah. As property descriptions are all ultimately described using the exact location of the physical survey monuments as a starting point, it is important that the monuments are protected and, as a backup, their locations are collected and preserved.

In the 2017 General Session, the Utah State Legislature dedicated \$150,000 to the County PLSS Grant Program to be distributed by the MRRC (established in [Utah Code 63F-1-510](#)) "to assist counties in maintaining and protecting corners or monuments." That funding was divided and distributed to twelve counties, who were awarded contracts according to their proposed needs. (There were also PLSS efforts in FY2016; learn more about those efforts in this [map journal](#).) This past 2018 General Session, the Legislature dedicated the same amount for the PLSS Grant Program.

Accordingly, the MRRC is currently looking for proposals for using these 2018 General Session funds. Per Utah Code (63F-1-510 Subsection (3)(b)(i), (ii), and (iii)), and as referenced by the MRRC in notifying the counties of this opportunity:

*(b) A county wishing to receive a grant under the program described in Subsection (3)(a) shall submit to the committee an application that:*

*(i) identifies one or more monuments in the county that are in need of protection or rehabilitation;*

*(ii) establishes a plan that is consistent with federal law or rule to protect or rehabilitate each monument identified under Subsection (3)(b)(i); and*

*(iii) requests a specific amount of funding to complete the plan established under Subsection (3)(b)(ii).*

The committee also informed counties that "Grants will be awarded by the committee based on the evaluation criteria provided in the attached documents."

If you would like to submit an application for this program, email the grant application and [supporting documents](#) to Mike Heagin from AGRC at [MHeagin@utah.gov](mailto:MHeagin@utah.gov) or 801-537-9296, or Sean Fernandez from AGRC at [SFernandez@utah.gov](mailto:SFernandez@utah.gov) or 801-209-9359. Applications are due by **October 5, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. MT**

Editors Note, Chapter 1 reprinted from:  
Ancient Surveys

When an individual first felt the desire to possess land the need for the work of a cadastral survey became inevitable. This occurrence is lost in antiquity, as is the moment when man first found he could strike flint and make fire his servant, or the first time man perceived the principle of the wheel.

Before recorded history, cave men claimed their homes and hunting grounds by right of occupancy and a large club. Disputes over boundaries have always, along with God, politics, and taxes, awakened men's hidden passions. To the surveyor must go the credit for the lessening of disagreements over property lines.

Surveying itself has no "point of beginning". We know that a very ancient clay tablet exists. It is Assyrian in origin, and was found at Nuzi, near Kirkuk. It dates from the dynasty of Sargon of Akkad, well over 5,000 years ago, scratched into its surface is a map, showing a surveyed part of what is now called Iraq (northern Mesopotamia).

The Egyptians, under the Pharaohs, devised extremely precise methods of measurement. The Great Pyramid of Gizeh (Khufu) is the most famous example. Its base is oriented in the cardinal directions. The four sides (9,068.8 inches) have an average error of just six-tenths of an inch in length and twelve seconds in angle from a perfect square. It was constructed about 4700 B.C. No record exists today of the methods the Egyptians used, or of their equipment. We do know that they were concerned with the survey of land lines for the purposes of taxation. The land of the Nile Valley had to be surveyed over and over because of the yearly flooding of the Nile.

Three or four thousand years ago, the Babylonians took their surveying seriously. There are in existence today a few of the boundary stones set during that period. One of them has much carving upon it, most of which has been translated into English. It refers to the size of the land, five gur of corn land, measured by the great cubit. It gives the district, the province, and the location. The name of the surveyor is also given, along with the fact that it was an official survey and established the land as the property of Gula-Eresh. The translation also gives, at great length, the numerous curses to be called down upon the head of anyone so foolish as to move the stone.

A surveying instrument was found in the ruins of Pompeii. It was a groma, of the type used by the Romans in dividing the land to be distributed to veterans. The groma had four arms, set at 90 degrees to one another, with which the corners of rectangular plots were established. The Roman system of land subdivision was called *agro centuriato*, land divide into hundreds. Julius Caesar ruled Rome when *agro centuriato* was introduced. He died 44 years before the birth of Christ, but the subdivision pattern created by different land uses under this survey system is still visible from the air.

Long before the reign of Caesar, the first five books of the Old Testament were written. The Graf-Wellhausen theory says that these five books, the Pentateuch, at one time consisted of four major documents which were combined into a single literary until about 400 B.C. Many times within the Pentateuch, and in the rest of the Bible, reference is made to the survey of land.

Biblical units of measure were simple and none too exact. For the most part they consisted of approximates arrived at by the use of one's body. The cubit was the length of a man's arm from his elbow to his extended fingertip, about 18 inches. A span was the reach of a man's outstretched hand, from fingertip to fingertip, or about 9 inches. A palm was all four fingers, or about 3 inches. A finger was about three-fourths of an inch. Two spans equaled 1 cubit.

In Ezekiel 40:5 and 43:13 a long cubit is mentioned. It is compared to a cubit and a hand breadth. The Acts 27:28 mentions fathoms. This was the length of a man's outstretched arms, or about 6 feet.

The reed was an instrument used in measuring, and according to Ezekiel 40:5, it was 6 cubits long. The measurement of land was related in 1 Samuel 14:14, to the area a team of oxen could plow in 1 day. In Mesopotamia the meaning of "acres" as used in Isaiah 5:10, was about two-fifths of our present acre.

About 500 years before the birth of Christ, Pythagoras, the Greek, suggested that the earth might be spherical rather than flat. Eratosthenes of Cyrene, who lived from 276 B.C. until 196 B.C., thought he was right. Eratosthenes was an intellectual type who became the head of Alexandria Library. His intellectual curiosity paid off when he learned that, at the peak of the



summer solstice, the sun illuminated a deep vertical well in Syene. At noon, on the longest day of the year, he measured the Angle of the shadow cast by a vertical wall in Alexandria. It was equal to one-fiftieth of a circle. He thought that Alexandria and Syene were on a direct north-south line, and he knew the accepted distance between the two cities. His theory, based upon his observations, was that the distance between the cities was equal to one-fiftieth of the circumference of the earth.

He came very close. He used units of length called stadia and, because of compensating errors, came up with a distance of 24,662 miles. Since the earth is not a perfect sphere, and Syene and Alexandria are not exactly the distance apart that he used, and are not on a perfect north-south line, he was a little off. The real figures is 24,899 miles.

This was the first attempt to find the size of the earth by measuring the arc of a meridian. It was quite a feat in the advancement of surveying. The only thing wrong about it was that people couldn't believe the earth was that big. Geographers, until the close of the 15th century, did not accept the findings of Eratosthenes. They used the calculations of Poseidonius (130 B.C. - 51 B.C.) and came up with a circumference of 18,000 miles.

This useful figure helped the Church to convince people, during the middle ages, that Jerusalem was the center of the world. The maps of that period are narrow in concept, and are often called T and O maps due to their stylized depiction of what people wanted the world to look like.

When William the Conqueror invaded England in 1066, he changed the manorial land tenure system to the feudalism of France. Under this system, the lords of the manors paid a fixed sum to the king. About 20 years later, William ordered a survey of the lands of England. It was done, and is called the Domesday Book. It contained a description of the land, with the names of the owners, and the nature, extent and value of their holdings. It was made so that there might be a more accurate assessment of the sum to be paid to the king. The lords really did not fare too badly. They often met their payments by lending their serfs to the king as soldiers. This was considered a good way to raise an army during the wars, undertaken by European Christians between the 11th and 14th centuries, to free Jerusalem.

While the Crusades in Europe were trying to recover the Holy Land, the people led by the Incas, in South America, were producing beautiful things of silver and gold. Using methods unknown to us, they surveyed land and constructed cities, pyramids, bridges, and an extensive system of roads. They developed terraces on the hillsides for cultivation, and built tremendous irrigation works.

They had no iron or steel tools, yet there are Inca canals which can still be traced for miles. At Cajamarca, a canal which extended for over a mile was cut in solid rock. At one place they cut the canal in a zig zag pattern. Apparently this was one of their methods of controlling the flow of water. At Huandoval, two canals meet and cross, one above the other. There was once a third canal below the other two.

The ancient Inca fortress city of Macchu Pichu set near the top of a mountain, was built of huge blocks of stone. No cement was used in its construction, but the stones were so carefully fitted that some of the walls and stairs are still intact and plainly visible in aerial photographs.

The real beginning of European exploration took place in the 15th century during the time of Prince Henry, the Navigator (1394-1460). Through Prince Henry's farsighted effort, Portugal, at least 50 years before the rest of Europe, started exploring the seas.

One of the major factors in Portugal's expansion of travel to the unknown was the discovery of the Azores, and the growth of the Portugeses settlement there. A man named Christopher Columbus lived there with his wife's family where his father-in-law taught him to use navigational and surveying instruments. Undoubtedly, it was in the Azores that Columbus first dreamed of sailing farther than man had sailed before.

Perhaps it is just well that geographers had accepted the theory that the earth was 18,000 miles around. Maybe Columbus would have delayed his voyage if he had known how big it really is!

### **Has Your Contact Information Changed?**

If your mailing address, email address, phone number, or place of employment has recently changed, please notify Susan at [srmerill@ucls.org](mailto:srmerill@ucls.org)



## UTAH COUNCIL OF LAND SURVEYORS FALL FORUM 2018

# SURVEY TECHNICIAN TRAINING

NOVEMBER 9, 2018

8:00AM - 5:00 PM, RM CS711

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

REGISTRATION FOR FORUM AND EXAM ARE SEPARATE SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS.

### What will be taught?

#### CST Exam Preparation Review

(you do not need to be take the Exam to attend the fall forum)

#### Level I CST Review

A *basic* knowledge of field operations and types of surveys as well as familiarity with field equipment and procedures used in these functions. Additional skills required include computational ability, survey note taking, drafting/CAD, and map reading.  
*No experience or surveying education*

#### Level II CST Review

Level I knowledge plus a *more* knowledge of comprehensive field note taking, plan reading and preparation. Detailed working knowledge and application Field: standard field equipment Office: of related computer hardware and software.

*Field: 1.5 years of surveying experience  
Office: 1.5 years of surveying experience*

### Training for:

Office and Field Survey Technicians, Engineers, Grade Checkers, Crew Chiefs and Crew members, Excavators, Contractors, Students, etc.

### Registration Deadlines Oct 31

Fall Forum Registration on the UCLS website <http://www.ucls.org> Exam not Required, but late fee applies +\$10

CST Exam Registration separate <http://www.nsp.us.com> and navigate to Programs then Certified Survey Technician (CST)

### What will it cost:

UCLS Fall Forum on the 9<sup>th</sup> Fees include lunch and materials. Non-student \$35, Student \$15

NSPS Exam on the 10<sup>th</sup> Application Fees:  
Student/ Veterans Examinee: \$120.00  
All Other Examinees: \$180.00



#### Fall Forum Location:

800 W. University  
Parkway Orem, UT  
84058  
Computer Science Bldg, Rm CS711

Questions Contact Steve at  
[steve.surveys.utah@gmail.com](mailto:steve.surveys.utah@gmail.com)

## What is the CST Program?

CST is a comprehensive national certification program for survey technicians, and is sponsored by the National Society of Professional Surveyors. The program is recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor within its National Apprenticeship Program. The Certified Survey Technician Board administers the program, which is intended to gauge technical capabilities and general knowledge of workplace safety and procedures.

Four levels of certification are offered in two primary tracks – field and office. Certification is by examination, which must be monitored by an approved Proctor.



### The goals of the program are:

- Recognizing the important contribution that technicians provide to the surveying and mapping profession.
- Providing credentials to technicians.
- Providing a career ladder for technicians.
- Providing firms who support and utilize certified technicians a way to evaluate applicants and an opportunity to promote the fact that their technical staff is certified.
- Identifying those who have achieved specific technical competencies
- Providing use as an assessment tool.



**“Surveying companies are gaining a competitive advantage by making CST Certification ‘the new normal’ expectation for their surveying technicians.”**

**RICHARD BROOKS, CST COORDINATOR, NEW YORK**  
BROOKS AND BROOKS LAND SURVEYING

**Online training programs are available at: [learncst.com](http://learncst.com)**

*This site is simply one tool available to students to help them prepare for the NSPS CST examination. The material on this site and the questions for each quiz should not be considered a comprehensive treatment of the surveying subjects presented nor relied upon as a sole source of information in preparation for the exam. The quiz questions may or may not fully represent the type and content of the questions the student will actually see on the CST exam. Each student must assess their current level of competency and pursue further study beyond this site in order to successfully complete their CST exam.*



**NSPS**

National Society of Professional Surveyors  
5119 Pegasus Court, Suite Q  
Frederick, Maryland 21704  
ph 240.439.4615 | fax 240.439.4952

**[nsp.us.com](http://nsp.us.com)**

*Future-proof your surveying career*

**NSPS**

**CST**

**CERTIFIED SURVEY TECHNICIAN**



**Certify your skills and abilities through the NSPS Certified Survey Technician Program.**

**MORE INFO: [nsp.us.com](http://nsp.us.com)**



## The Value of Certification

Certification as a survey technician is official recognition by NSPS that a person has demonstrated that he or she is competent to perform surveying tasks at a specified technical level. Certification provides the individual with a sense of achievement, since it reflects advancement in the field of surveying. Certification also provides employers with a method of determining job assignments and advancement, since certification is an indication of one's ability to perform specific job tasks.

## Use as an Assessment Tool

The CST exam can be used as an excellent outcomes assessment tool for courses, programs, and schools. The CST program can be used to satisfy accreditation requirements. Private industry can also use the CST program as an assessment tool for promotions, human resources evaluations, and career advancement and recognition.





# CST Program Fact Sheet

**What:** The Certified Survey Technician program is a four-level certification program for surveying technicians throughout the United States.

**Why:**

- To provide recognition to the survey technicians in public and private practice.
- To provide objectives for improvement and advancement for field and office survey technicians.
- To give employers a way of judging the qualifications of potential employees.

How:	All Levels	Level I through III	Level IV
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Open-book exams.</li> <li>■ Certificate suitable for framing.</li> <li>■ Annual renewal of certification is \$40 (reinstatement fee: \$10).</li> <li>■ Available online and on paper. Both formats must be proctored.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Quarterly testing nationwide.</li> <li>■ Examinations from four to six hours in length.</li> <li>■ Multiple choice questions.</li> <li>■ If failed, no need to reapply within a one-year period; just pay examination fee for retesting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cycle I applications are due on or before December 15.</li> <li>■ Cycle III applications are due on or before June 15.</li> <li>■ Take-home exam format.</li> <li>■ Two months to complete.</li> <li>■ Essay/report form.</li> <li>■ Must hold active Level III certification.</li> </ul>

		Level I <small>entry level</small>	Level II <small>minimum 1.5 years total experience</small>	Level III <small>minimum 3.5 years total experience</small>	Level IV <small>minimum 5.5 years total experience</small>
<b>OFFICE TRACK</b>		Entry Level Position	Computer Operator	Chief Computer Operator	Survey Office Manager
<b>FIELD TRACK</b>		Entry Level Position	Instrument Person	Party Chief: Boundary or Construction	Survey Field Manager

Discounts for students, active military and veterans. We also offer group discounts for 10 or more at the same location. Contact NSPS for more information.

☎ 240.439.4615 | 💻 [nsp.us.com](http://nsp.us.com) | ✉ [cstinformation@nsp.us.com](mailto:cstinformation@nsp.us.com)



## FACT SHEET ON THE CERTIFIED SURVEY TECHNICIAN (CST) PROGRAM

### INTRODUCTION

The NSPS CST (Certified Survey Technician) program is a national certification program for survey technicians (based on experience and examination for field and office) at four levels (Level I; entry level, Level II; instrument/computer operator, Level III; party chief/chief computer operator, and Level IV; chief of parties/ office manager). The examinations are available in both paper and online formats. Information on exam administration is available for interested organizations and individuals under the “Proctor” tab on the CST website. The program is recognized by the US Department of Labor and is currently being used by the surveying profession in all fifty states.

### BENEFITS FOR AND USES BY FIRMS

- Sets a standard for your technical staff
- Can be used as a hiring requirement
- Can be used as qualification points for hiring decision making
- Can be incorporated in your QA/QC Program
- Can be used as a career ladder which creates a promotion tool within your firm or agency (career development)
- Can be used in conjunction with training
- Raises the bar and creates healthy competition
- Creates a better qualified staff more production - more valuable employees - you can pay your staff more - you can attract better staff - your job becomes easier.
- Can be used as a contract requirement for professional service providers/consultants
- Can be used as a contract requirement for construction contracts
- Can be used as a pre-qualification requirement in A/E procurement (Brook’s Act)
- Can be used as a contract requirement for professional survey services contracts
- Improves confidence in services procured

### BENEFITS FOR TECHNICIANS

- Recognition by Peers and Employers
- Personal Pride - Achieving Certification
- Pay - CST’s make about 10% more
- Career and Employment opportunities improve - “CST Preferred” and “CST Required”
- Prepares you for other professional Exams
- CST Program compliments training
- Skills will improve - making advancement possible
- Certification improves image of survey technicians within the agency



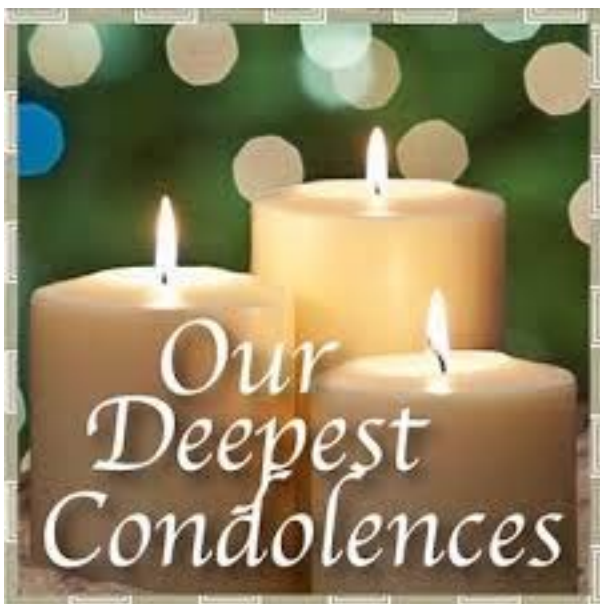
**James Richard Baird**  
1948-2018



James Richard Baird returned to our Heavenly Father on August 28, 2018, surrounded by his loving family. He was born April 8, 1948, in Provo UT to William N. and Joy A. Phillips Baird. He married Elma Matheson, in the St. George Temple, September

12, 1969, after he completed a 2-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the Florida Mission. Jim received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from BYU, retiring from UDOT in 2014. He served in the Church and was an avid Scouter. He is survived by Scott Richard (Tamra), Gregory James (Marsha), Robin (Brian Simmons) and Lisa (Matthew Zundel), his 20 grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 11:00 am in the Lehi Cedar Hollow 2nd Ward Chapel, 2178 N. 1200 E., Lehi, UT. Friends and family may call Monday evening from 6:00-8:00 pm at the same Chapel, and also at an additional viewing on Tuesday morning from 9:30-10:30 am prior to services. Interment will be in Lehi City Cemetery. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.warenski.com](http://www.warenski.com).



**J. Dean Hill**  
1923-2018



One of the few remaining B-17 pilots has taken another step in his progression and joined his eternal companion. James Dean Hill passed away on 25 July 2018 from causes incident to age. He was born 19 February 1923 in Ucon Idaho, the son of Robert

E. Hill and Fanny Marguerite Monsen Hill. He was the second of 6 children. Three of his siblings, Vaughn Hill, Paul Hill and Maralyn Lovell preceded him in death. He is survived by his brother, Donald Hill and his sister, Lorraine Hill and sister-in-law, Joyce Hill.

Dean married Virginia Mae Burtenshaw on 8 June 1945 in the Salt Lake Temple. Virginia passed away three years ago. They have five children; Carolyn Oldham (Jim), Sharyl Malouf (Ray), Von Hill (Wendy), Michelle Cox (Jared), and Janene Mann (Don). He leaves behind 29 Grandchildren and 78 great grandchildren.

Following his service in World War II, he joined the Air Force Reserve where he served for 28 years retiring at the rank of Major. He received a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Utah in 1949. He sang in the Mormon Tabernacle choir for 21 years. He served in the Utah House of Representatives for eight years and served twice on the Bountiful City Council. He and Virginia were set apart 9 times as missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They worked on projects throughout the United States and in Canada and Australia. Dean held licenses as a Professional Engineer and Professional Land Surveyor in several states. He served as a service missionary until he was 88. He served his God, Country, Family and his fellow travelers. Dean and Virginia lived lives of service. They made the world a better place.

Services will be held Saturday, 4 August 2018 at 11:00 AM in the Bountiful 53rd ward meeting house located at 1365 North 650 East, Bountiful, Utah. A viewing will be held at the church from 9:30 to 10:45 prior to the services. On Friday, 3 August a viewing will also be held at Russon Brothers Mortuary, 295 North Main in Bountiful, Utah from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

**Alleviating the pain of land survey headaches  
(Where should homeowners turn if there is a problem with their home's survey)**

**By: Llyce Glink and Samuel J. Tamkin**

**Q:** When we purchased land we had a new survey done. Three months later, during our construction process, our lender required that the footprint of the house be pinned on the survey.

Our original surveying company said they could not do it because the surveyor who did the original survey was no longer there, and they could not have someone new make adjustments to someone else's work.

So, we hired a new surveying company, and the second survey came back to us quite different from our original survey. The first company missed a fence that cuts off approximately 45 feet of our property! They also missed a culvert that ended up changing the placement of the house.

Our real estate agent contacted the title company for direction, and the title company contacted the surveying company, but it has been more than 30 days and no one has responded. What is our recourse? Do we need to hire a lawyer?

**A:** You certainly can hire a lawyer, but the question you will need to answer is how have you been damaged by the second survey? You should also think about what you want to get from hiring a lawyer.

Let's start with the survey. In some parts of the country, the seller is not required by custom to provide a survey to the buyer. In fact, in some places, the buyer never gets a survey at all.

But if you do obtain a survey when you buy a property, you should expect the survey would be done correctly. Unfortunately, over the years and in some parts of the country, real estate professionals have come across "drive-by-surveys" where the surveyor does a minimal amount of work for a survey. The key is to determine what certification the surveyor gave when he performed the survey.

Surveys come in different types and forms. When you want a top-notch survey, you ask the surveyor to give you an ALTA survey. This type of survey is guided by the standards developed by the American Land Title Association. There are also survey standards developed by the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping. In either instance, a surveyor performing to those standards must abide by strict guidelines when preparing a survey.

Residential properties typically do not reach a level where an ALTA or ACSM survey would be required, but state laws frequently have minimum guidelines before a surveyor can stamp his or her name on a survey.

Sometimes, to get around giving a buyer a true survey, a surveyor might call the document something else, and the standards for that survey may be well below the minimum guidelines for a true survey. In some situations, the survey may be called a mortgage survey, a spotted survey or something other than a true plat of survey, and the certification will have qualification to indicate the survey was performed at something less than a standard you might expect.

So we do not know what kind of survey you received, but the good news is you seem to have purchased (or received) title insurance on your property.

Frequently, title companies will not insure fence issues, so we do not know whether the title company will have any liability on the policy for the problem you have found. On the culvert front, you would think the surveyor should have noted this issue on the survey, but then again it will depend on the type of survey you received.

Given all these issues, you still need to answer the basic question: What are your damages? If you and your neighbor are able to resolve the fence issue without further issue, and the culvert did not cause monetary harm, you might not have damages to claim. But if either has become huge issues and you have thousands of dollars at stake, you might have to file a claim against the title company - and soon. Please consult with a real estate attorney who has experience in filing title insurance claims.

*Llyce Glink is the author of "100 Questions Every First-Time Home Buyer Should Ask" (4th Edition). She is also the CEO of Best Money Moves, an app that employers provide to employees to measure and dial down financial stress. Samuel J. Tamkin is a Chicago-based real estate attorney. Contact them through her website, [ThinkGlink.com](http://ThinkGlink.com)*



### July “Where Is It” Contest

Most of the membership of the Utah Council of Land Surveyors know the highest point in Utah is at the top of Kings Peak at an elevation of 13,534 feet above sea level. The peak is located in the Unita Mountains of north-central Duchesne County and named for USGS surveyor Clarence King. Furthermore, the membership would probably know the lowest point in Utah has an elevation of 2,178 feet above sea level and is located at Beaver Dam Wash in southwestern Washington County. However, does the membership know where the center of Utah is?

The first member to identify the center of Utah was John Hallack. However, he indicated the question was rather ambiguous.

- If you are asking for the Geographic Center of Utah it is N 39 23.200 W 111 41.100 - according to USGS
- If you are asking for a unique name, you are probably referring to the Urban Legend that the town of Levan is the center of Utah, and “Navel” spelled backwards. (It is navel backwards, but it is not the Geographic Center.) The Urban legend has been debunked many times, and there are multiple legends around.



### UCLS NEED'S A FEW GOOD MEN and WOMEN

Federal, State, and Local elections will take place in November. We each have an opportunity and responsibility to elect our leadership. Likewise, the UCLS will soon be sending out ballots to elect our leadership. Please consider running for an office or nominating a member that will lead us into the future. The opportunity to serve your peers as an officer or a committee member is a rewarding experience.

The following is a list of the UCLS standing committees. Please consider joining one of them

1. Legislative: Plan and pursue ideas for state legislation in the best interests of the public and the council.
2. Education: Plan, promote, and implement formal surveying education programs. Function with respect to the UCLS scholarship process as directed by the State Board.
3. Mailing & Newsletter: Prepare and mail newsletters and other announcements to the general membership.
4. Workshop & Convention: Plan, prepare, and promote workshops, seminars, and State conventions.
5. Standards & Ethics: Review and act on all complaints from surveyors and the general public involving surveying or surveyors' ethics. Prepare and maintain a standards of Practice Manual.
6. Testing: Monitor and improve applications and testing practices as they affect the licensing of Land Surveyors. Review complaints by surveying applicants in regard to the licensing process.
7. Public Relations: Plan and pursue methods for improving the public image of the surveyor and the practice of land surveying.
8. Historical: Protect, collect, acquire, and preserve the history and artifacts of UCLS and the land surveying profession.
9. Membership: Evaluate, implement, and promote the benefits of UCLS membership.
10. Construction Surveying: educate members, evaluate, implement and promote construction survey standards.

**Note: The UCLS Executive Board has made changes to the standing committees. Stay tuned for more information**





## 12 Halloween Traditions From Around the World

By: Rudie Obias

### 1. Samhain / Ireland and Scotland

Ireland is considered the birthplace of modern Halloween with its origins stemming from ancient Celtic and Pagan rituals and a festival called Samhain, or Samhuinn (end of the light of the year), that took place thousands of years ago. Today, both Ireland and Scotland celebrate Halloween with bonfires, games, and traditional foods like *barmbrack*, an Irish fruit-cake that contains coins, buttons, and rings for fortune telling. For example, rings mean marriage, while coins mean wealth in the upcoming year.

### 2. Dia De Los Muertos / Mexico

From November 1 to November 2, Mexico and parts of Latin America celebrate Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) to honor those who have passed away. It is believed that the Gates of Heaven open up at midnight on October 31 and the souls of children return to Earth to be reunited with their families for 24 hours. On November 2, the souls of adults come down from heaven to join in the festivities.

The holiday is celebrated with in-home altars full of fruit, peanuts, turkey, soda, hot chocolate, water, stacks of tortillas and a special holiday bread called *pan de muero* (bread of the dead, which are left as offerings for weary ghosts. For the souls of children, families leave out toys and candy, while adult souls receive cigarettes and shots of mezcal.

### 3. Day of Dracula / Romania

People from all around the world flock to celebrate Halloween at Vlad "The Impaler" Tepes's purported home at Bran Castle in Transylvania, Romania (although it was never actually his castle, and there's been a long-running debate over whether he ever even visited the site). There are a number of guides and inclusive travel packages in Romania that offer tours and parties at Count Dracula's castle for Halloween.

### 4. Kawasaki Halloween Parade / Japan

At the end of every October for the past 21 years, nearly 4000 costumed Halloween enthusiasts from all around the world have gathered in Kawasaki, just outside Tokyo, for the Kawasaki Halloween Parade, which is the biggest Parade of its kind in Japan. However, not everyone can simply join in the festivities. The Kawasaki Halloween Parade has strict guidelines and standards, so you have to apply for entry two months before the parade begins.

### 5. Pangangaluluwa / The Philippines

Pangangaluluwa is a tradition in the Philippines where children go door to door, often in costumes, where they sing and ask for prayers for those stuck in purgatory. While the rituals have increasingly been supplanted by trick-or-treating over the years, some towns are working tirelessly to revive Pangangaluluwa as a way of keeping the tradition alive, and as a local fundraiser.

### 6. The Hungry Ghost Festival / Hong Kong

On the 15th day of the seventh lunar month, which is around mid-August to mid-September, the people of Hong Kong celebrate the Hungry Ghost Festival. In several parts of East Asia, people believe that spirits get restless around this time of year and begin to roam the world. The festival is a way to "feed" these spirits both the food and money they need for the afterlife. It's part of a larger month-long celebration that also features burning paper and food offerings.

### 7. Pitru Paksha / India

For 16 days during the second Paksha of the Hindu Lunar month of Bhadrapada, many people in India celebrate Pitru Paksha. In the Hindu religion it is believed that when a person dies, Yama - the Hindu god of death - takes his or her soul to purgatory, where they'll find their last three generations of a family. During Pitru Paksha, the souls are briefly allowed to return to Earth and be with their families.

In order to ensure their family's place in the afterlife, one must perform the ritual of Shraddha, which includes a fire ritual. If Shraddha isn't performed, the soul will wander the Earth for eternity. During Pitru Paksha, families offer the dead food such as *kheer* (sweet rice and milk), *lapsi* (a sweet porridge), rice, lentils, spring beans, and pumpkins, which are cooked in silver or copper pots and served on banana leaves.

### 8. Dzien Zadusznzy / Poland

In early November, people across Poland travel to cemeteries to visit the graves of their family members (Dzien Zadusznzy is like the equivalent of All Souls' Day for Catholics in the country). The holiday is celebrated with candles, flowers, and an offering of prayers for departed relatives. On the second day, people attend a requiem mass for the souls of the dead.

## 12 Halloween Traditions From Around the World continued...

**9. Awuru Odo Festival / Nigeria**

The Awuru Odo Festival marks the return of dearly departed friends and family members back to the living. Lasting up to six months, the holiday is celebrated with feasts, music, and masks before the dead return to the spirit world. Although the Odo Festival is an important ritual, it happens once every two years, when it is believed the spirits will return to Earth.

**10. Pchum Ben / Cambodia**

From the end of September to the middle of October, Buddhist families gather together to celebrate Pchum Ben, a religious holiday to celebrate the dead. People give foods like sweet sticky rice and beans wrapped in banana leaves, and visit temples to offer up baskets of flowers as a way to pay respect to their deceased ancestors. It's also a time for people to celebrate the elderly.

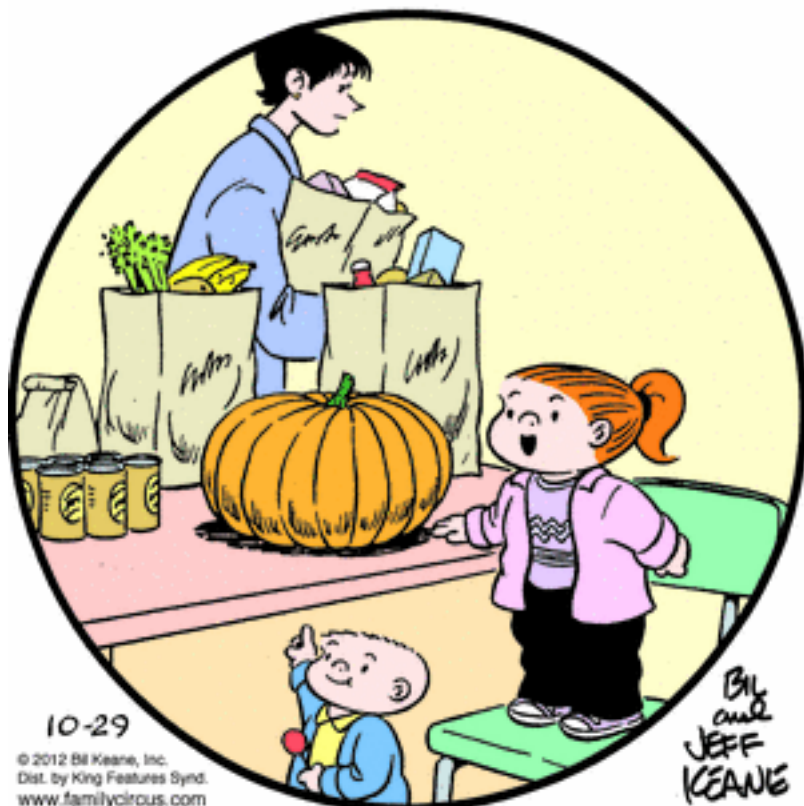
**11. Ognissanti / Italy**

All Saints' Day, November 1, is a national holiday in Italy. Better known as Ognissanti, the festivities usually begin a couple of days before, when people begin leaving fresh flowers - generally chrysanthemums - on graves of departed loved ones, as well as complete strangers, turning the country's cemeteries into a beautiful display of colors. Italians also pay tribute to the departed by putting a red candle in the window at sunset, and set a place at the table for those spirits they hope will pay a visit.

**12. All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day / Worldwide**

On November 1, many Catholics around the world celebrate All Saints' Day, followed by All Souls' Day on November 2. It's an annual time to honor the lives of the saints who died for their Catholic beliefs, as well as the souls of dead family members. In observance of the holiday, people go to mass and visit the graves of their loved ones.

While the event is celebrated worldwide, Germany has its own tradition: Many hide their kitchen knives, so that returning spirits won't be accidentally harmed (or use the same knives to harm the living).



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www.familycircus.com

**“Daddy, we have a pumpkin that needs you to find it a face.”**



## What is a Property Survey? Whitney Bennett Landmark Home Warranty

There's a lot of research you have to do when you're thinking of purchasing an investment as big as a home. This research is also called completing due diligence, which is a real estate term. Essentially it means that you know exactly what state the house you want to buy is in, and that you'll be prepared for whatever happens. (Of course, with some things out of your control, you can cover them with a home warranty or home insurance.) If you want to see a list of what your due diligence looks like when buying a home, we have published the Complete Guide to Due Diligence here. (<https://www.landmarkhw.com/resources/buying-selling-house>)

One of the things that you should complete (but sometimes don't have to, depending on your mortgage company) is a property survey. It may not seem like a big deal, but not having a property survey completed, and not following up with the surveyor can create some disastrous results. Don't believe us? Just wait. But first, let's look at what a property survey actually entails:

### What is a Property Survey?

You can have your property surveyed at any time, but you will most likely hire a surveyor when you're buying a home or constructing something. Most mortgage companies require a property survey to make sure the property is worth the amount of money they're providing in the loan. However, the property survey is not always legally required. Some mortgage companies will be satisfied with title insurance.

A property surveyor will research into the property before they even look at the land. They'll research the history of the deed and may include a title search. This title search makes sure there are no discrepancies when it comes to who owns the land. All property surveys begin with research into legal descriptions about the land they'll be surveying and its history. Then, the surveyor will actually go out to the property and sketch out the land, its boundaries, and different elements that make up your property. This is called the fieldwork. After surveying, they will provide a type of map detailing the property's legal boundaries. The survey will also include a written description of the property, the street address, the location of buildings and adjacent properties, and any improvements a homeowner can make to the land.

A property survey also includes things like right-of-ways and easements. These are elements that detail what to do with shared yards or driveways, or if your neighbor has a right of way to the street or alleyway between your homes.

### Your Due Diligence with a Property Survey

Sounds simple enough, right? Your property survey tells you about the property you're potentially going to purchase, and any stipulations that come with it. It's still important to complete your due diligence when it comes to a property survey. First, get multiple quotes from surveyor companies, and pick the one that works best for you. Then, make sure you go with the surveyor to attend the property survey. You will learn more about the land you might buy, and be the first to know about any potential problems. Finally, follow up with any questions once you've seen the property survey.

### Why a Property Survey is Important

It may not seem like a big deal for some, but completing your due diligence when it comes to the property survey can save you from making a very costly mistake, like building your home on someone else's land.

Bonnie and Kim Bowman did just that. A few years ago, daughter and mother Bowman purchased a plot of land in the small town of Stockton, Utah. They built a home, where they're now living. The only problem is, the home they built wasn't on the property they bought. Lamar Penovich owns the property where their home resides.

**KUTV's Get Gephardt investigated the situation.** Apparently, Bonnie and Kim were shown the incorrect lot by their real estate agent, and agreed to buy the vacant land. When the final deed was completed, the only thing that identified the land was a Tax ID number, which showed which plot of land was which on a plot map at the county recorder's office. The Tax ID corresponded to a plot of land that was down the street from the land they were shown and thought they were buying.

Then, the real trouble begins. The Bowman's hired a construction company, who applied for a building permit on Lamar's land. The permit was issued, and the Bowman's home was built. According to Gephardt, the city attorney says that it isn't the city's responsibility to make sure the person building the home owns the land.

Unfortunately for the Bowmans and Penovichs, there's no easy way to get out of this mess. It will most likely end up in a courtroom.

You may think this is a once in a lifetime occurrence, but unfortunately it has happened more than once. For example, a **Rhode Island developer Four Twenty attempted a sell a 1.8 million-dollar-home in 2011**. When the potential buyers hired their own property survey of the land, they found out that the home had been built on the land of a public park. The developers were ordered by the RI Supreme Court to remove the home to a piece of property the developers actually owned.

Luckily, the potential buyers hired a property surveyor and were able to point out the issue (and not purchase the problematic home!) Their due diligence saved them from buying a very costly mistake.

Another couple in Florida hired a construction company to build a \$680,000 dream home on some property they had purchased.

**Keystone Homes, the construction company** blamed the property survey being completed on the wrong lot; a lot which was owned by a North Carolina couple since 2003.

**Q: What did the therapist say to the surveyor?**

A: You've gotta set some boundaries!

"Land Surveyors do not retire they scale down and plan their final plot before they land in it!"

### My Last Day as a Land Surveyor

On this day in 1998, my life changed. While working as a land surveyor out in the Charleston Tea Farm (then overgrown for over 30 years and not surveyed since the 50s). I had chest waders and snake boots carrying a machete and a prism pole. After having already killed one water moccasin that morning with my bushaxe, I was asked to take center-line shots from the middle of a long canal once used as a track for carting tea from one section of the plantation to another. It was about 6 feet deep in some sections and 8-10 in others. While attempting to cross the canal I get a crackling on the radio. "Jaybird, watch your left, there is a gator coming towards you." I thought it was a joke, but then I looked over there and sat the largest gator I have ever seen -12-14 ft. I froze. Radio again. "Shit man, there is another one coming up behind you fast!" I stepped into the water to try to cross. It was over my head and I sank with water pouring into my waders. Crew chief luckily had a shotgun in the truck. He let out a shot towards the bank and stopped both gators from coming into the water after me. I reached out of the water with my prism pole and stabbed it into the bank on the other side. Low and behold there was a third gator already in the water making its way towards me. With his last shotgun shell, he shot the water right beside me and the gator stopped. I climbed out of the canal with my life. The next day, I quit surveying and enrolled in College of Charleston and took a job as a bellman at Planters Inn. The rest is history. This was my 2nd of 5 near death experiences over the years.

**Food for thought:** *If you think your job sucks, just think of what land surveyors encounter every single day to make measurements that society can rely on.*



### I have Questions...



- Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety-one?
- If 4 out of 5 people SUFFER from diarrhea...does that mean that one out of five enjoys it?
- Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?
- If people from Poland are called Poles then why aren't people from Holland called Holes?
- If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?
- Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a race car not called a racist?
- If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?
- If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?
- Do Lipton Tea employees take 'coffee breaks'?
- What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?
- Is it true that you never really learn to swear until you learn to drive?
- If a cow laughed, would milk come out of her nose?
- Why, why, why do we press harder on the remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?
- Why do banks charge a fee due to insufficient funds; when they already know you're broke?
- Why is it that when someone tells you that there are one billion stars in the universe you believe them, but if they tell you there is wet paint you have to touch it to check?
- Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?
- Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?