Spring 2009

UTAH Foresights

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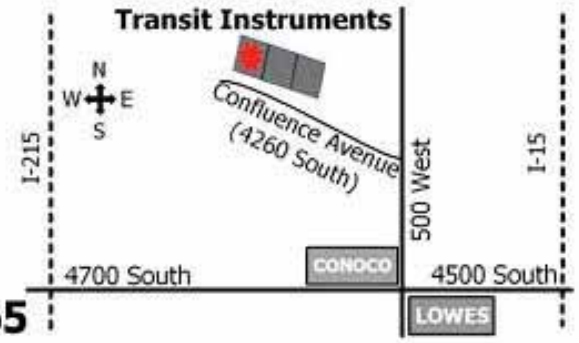

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inside

Past Chairman's Last Message

By Ken Hamblin

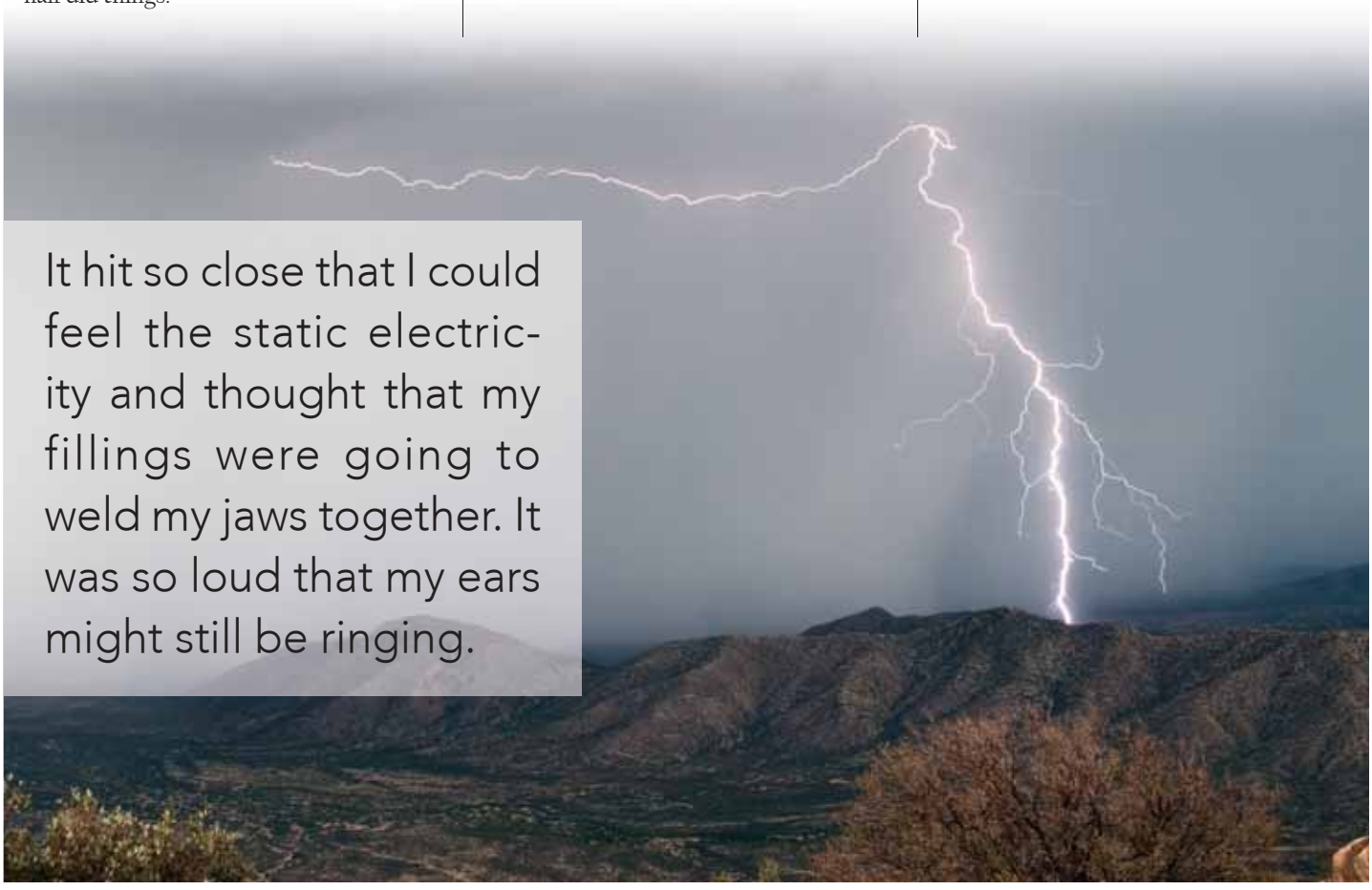
This will be the last message I will prepare as your State Chairman. By the time you read this I will have turned the reigns over to Fran. To me, this year has been very enjoyable and then at the end frustrating. We can't seem to get the important items settled in a timely manner, thus causing undue problems for the people who work on our behalf. Hopefully this will change. I felt the convention was a real eye opener. I don't know what I expected but it seemed that there was too much information being presented by a lot of very high quality speakers. We must give a big thank you to Ron Whitehead for getting this conference to Salt Lake City. I know that his stress level was high. I believe that this was a once in a lifetime experience for a lot of us. Planning is underway for the 2010 convention in St. George and at that point we will be back to normal. All things said and done, I thought the convention was a success in that there was a lot of good information exchanged and we got to see how the other half did things.

Now to my story...

This again happened in the Sarpy Creek area of Montana but one year later than the last Montana story. We had arrived in Montana in the spring to finish the control on the Sarpy Creek Rail Road. There was still snow on the ground and it was melting at a rate that seemed pretty slow. We started out setting control in anticipation of setting the aerial panels out at a later date. On this occasion, spring-time thunderstorms were very common. We were using all Kern Theodolites and tripods. The tripods were all aluminum with a centering leg that was used to center the tripods over the control point, which was all aluminum also.

I was running the instrument and a fellow named Garret was recording the angles. I was watching the thunderstorms as they were rolling in and Garret was sitting in the truck. I decided that they were getting too close for my comfort so I picked up the instrument and got into the truck to wait it out. The truck was only about 15 feet away and Garret was giving me a hard time about being a wimp and afraid of a little rain storm, when all of a sudden a bolt of lightning hit the ground. It hit so close that I could feel the static electricity and thought that my fillings were going to weld my jaws together. It was so loud that my ears might still be ringing. We were both quite shaken by the ordeal and got slowly out of the truck and started looking for the tripod. We got to the top of the hill where we had left it and found the tripod was now a small puddle of aluminum with most of it probably turned to vapor.

That bit of melted aluminum was proudly displayed in the office of an aerial mapping firm for years. I am a firm believer in trusting your instincts and trying to take the safe route. Thanks again for the memories.



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Chairman's Message

By Francis Eickbush

It has been said that there are three days in every person's life: yesterday, today and tomorrow. The fruits of yesterday are with us today. So also, will our today's accomplishments be reflected in our tomorrow's activities.

We live in a changing world in many respects. Recently, the economies of our nation have reflected the poor choices made by many banks and lenders in the real estate sector together with others in many segments of our society. Those choices were mostly made on getting the most return for those whose foresight was limited to the here and now.

It is vitally important that the choices we make today be weighed against the fruits which we will have with us in our tomorrows. Our activities today surely reflect the fruits of the choices made by many in our yesterdays. We truly are not islands unto ourselves but depend upon each other in all areas of our lives. This extends into the future and affects the lives of our future generations, either in a positive or negative way.

Although we live in tough times financially with the significant slowdown in demand for our services, we need to realize that the decisions we make will not only affect us but also others in our profession, now and into the future.

Recently, my firm provided surveying and design services for a new client. The client, unfamiliar with the extent of work and understanding which was required to provide the services, called another surveying/engineering firm to get a "bid" on providing the same services. Not knowing the full extent of the work and problems involved and only having the information provided by the client on the phone, the bid was stated about ½ of what the project actually cost. Needless to say, there were some feelings with all parties which were not a reflection of professional actions.

In another situation, a lot line adjustment was requested of a firm and then cancelled by the potential client. The client stated that he was able to find another person who would do the work for $150. We all understand that we cannot do this work for such a price. However, the results of those who will significantly underbid projects for the here and now returns will haunt the profession for quite a ways into the future. The quality of work will not be provided and the services will not be respected at the professional level.

As professional land surveyors, we need to remember that our actions today will be reflected in tomorrow's activities. I hope that each of us will strive to maintain professional perspectives today so that our tomorrows will be productive both individually and collectively as a profession.


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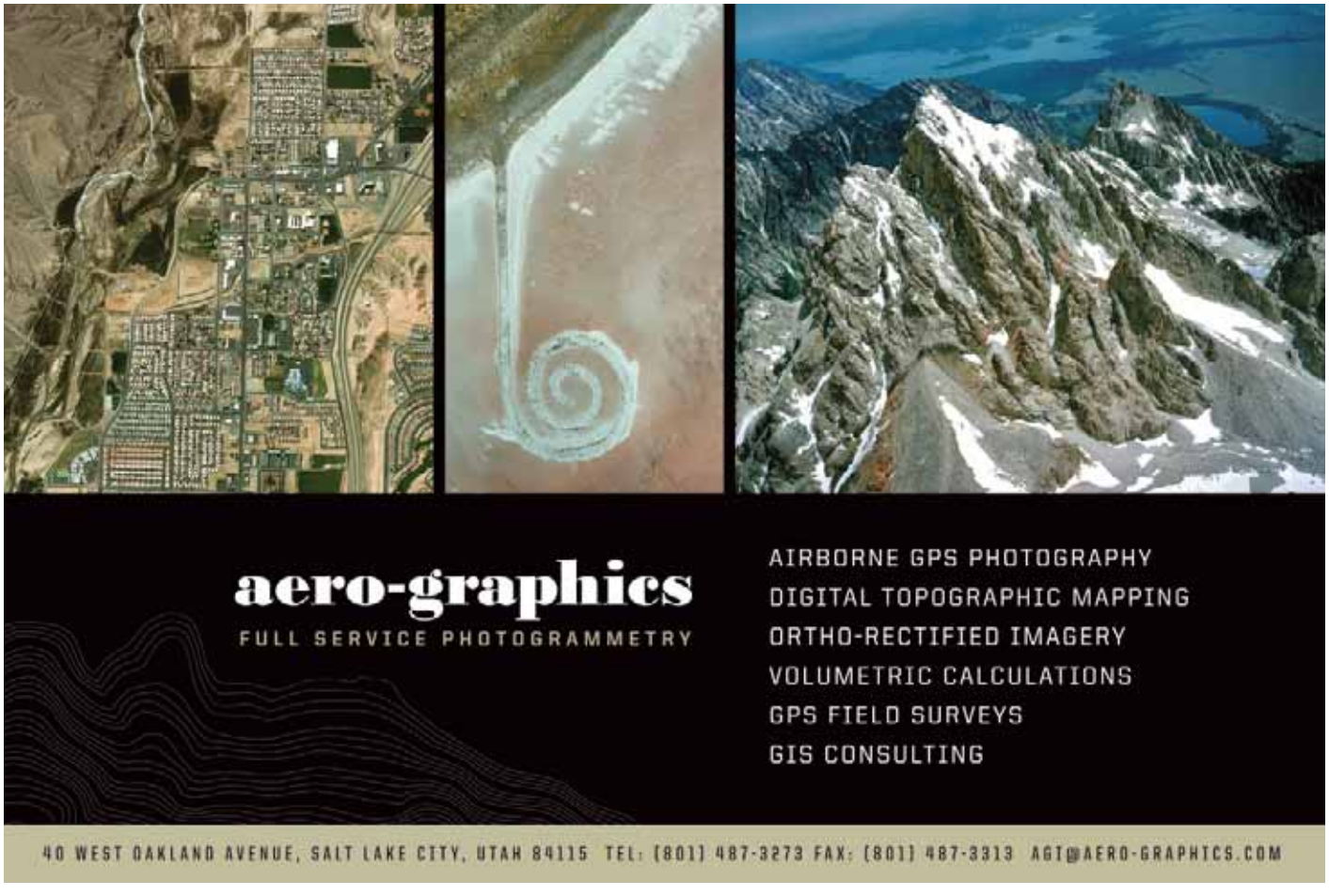
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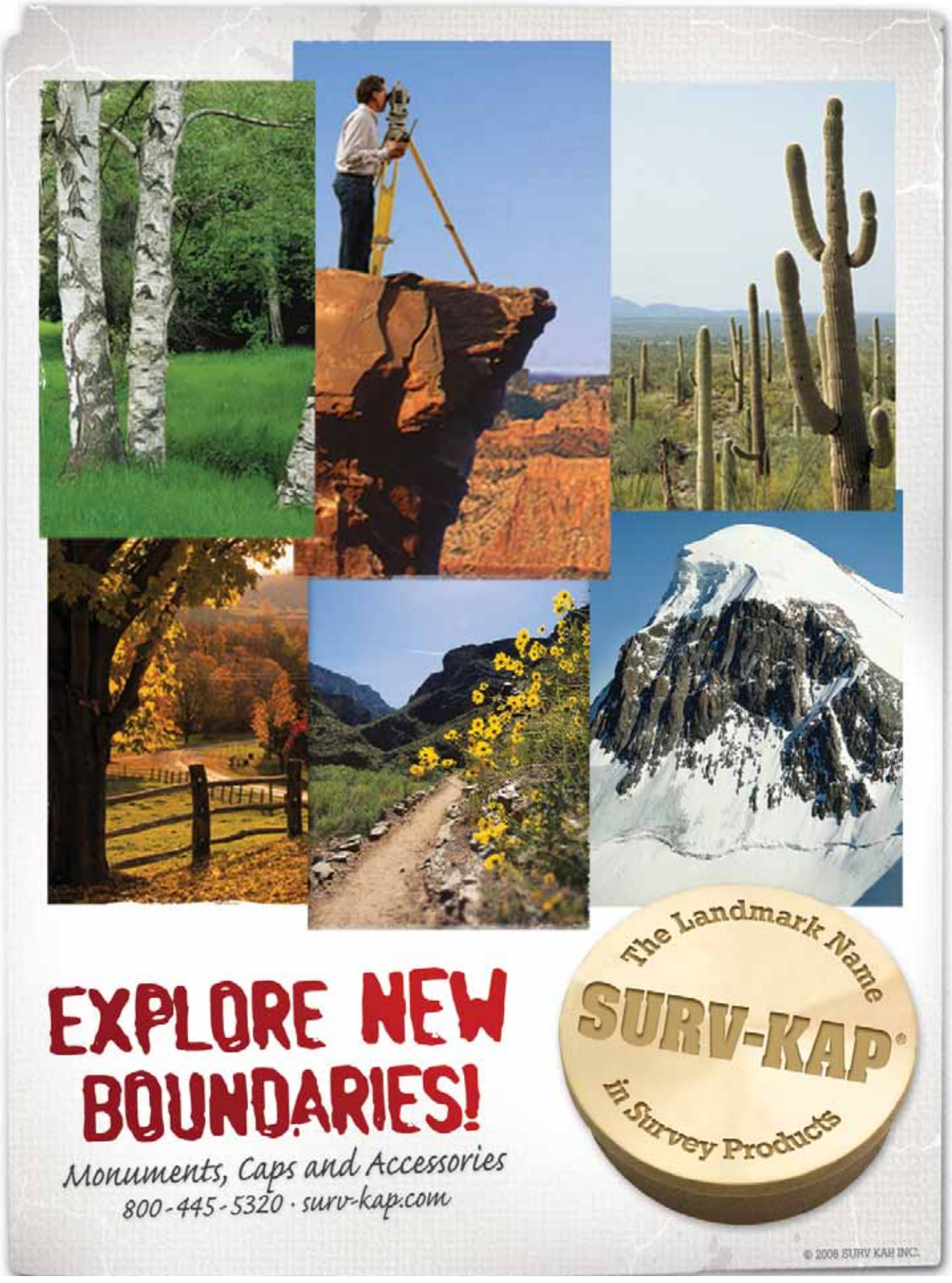
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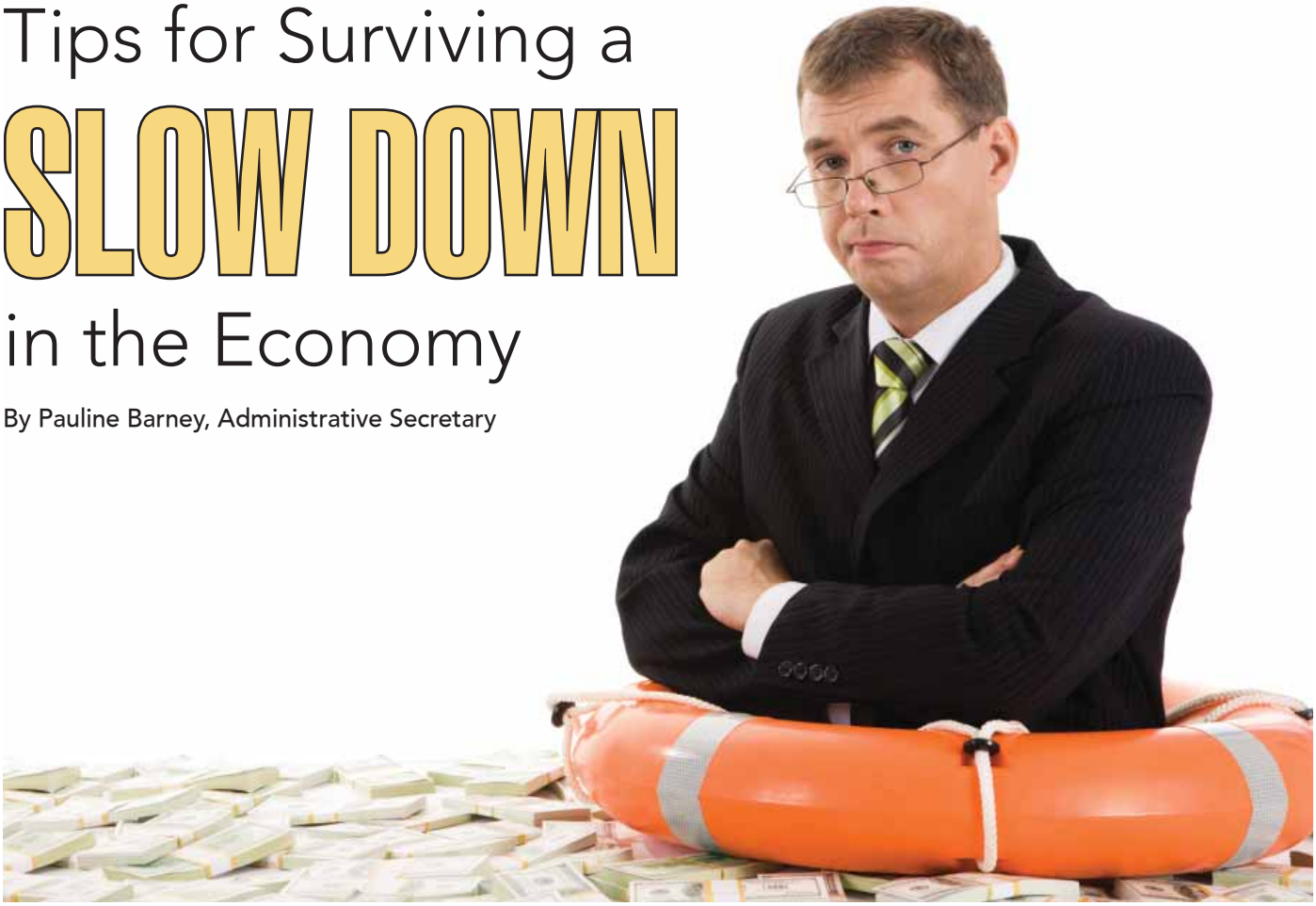
Tips for Surviving a SLOW DOWN in the Economy

By Pauline Barney, Administrative Secretary



A lot is being said about the economy and the effect it has on individuals. Surveying is a tough career during down times. Speaking from experience, you can survive. The latest headlines are saying that unemployment is at its highest point in 16 years. For many of us, that is scary, but having survived that downturn, I can truthfully say there will be brighter days ahead. With that in mind, here are a few tips we learned in surviving that downturn over 16 years ago.

Don't get discouraged! We survived a layoff that we considered four years long. During that time, we did odd jobs and worked seasonal work. The government hires seasonal surveying help. At times we felt pretty down and out but looking back we cherish those times as some of our happiest. We didn't have a lot of money but camping is as cheap as staying home, and hauling wood lessened the cost of heating our home. Our children still laugh at the skull and cross bones they had to pass by when they helped their dad put coal in an old boiler as one of his make do jobs.

Get more education! If you are laid off, this is an ideal time to get an education. Work isn't getting in the way and when you are done you will have improved your employability. For surveyors, think engineering. Dual licenses get paid pretty well and you already have some of the needed classes.

Live on less! I know that we all think we can't do without the cable television but remember if you are not watching television you can be studying. Do you really need to buy that cup of coffee every morning? It is definitely cheaper to bring it from home. Look for small ways to cut costs like taking the bus or walking. Turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. The list is endless. Make a game with your spouse to see who can save the most money by making small changes.

Give to charity! I know you are all thinking that you are the charity but we found that there were always people more down and out than we. It improved our attitude and we were less discouraged. Maybe you can't give money but what about some time? If you are not working, you will have some down time to help others.

Don't sell yourself short! If you do that survey for $500 when it is really worth $1,500 you just said you aren't worth much. Be proud of who you are and get paid what you are really worth.

Be professional! Don't talk about other's surveying and how poorly it is done. The public already has a misconception of surveyors and badmouthing doesn't help. Look for good things to say about others and it will boost the image of the profession and you will feel better about yourself.

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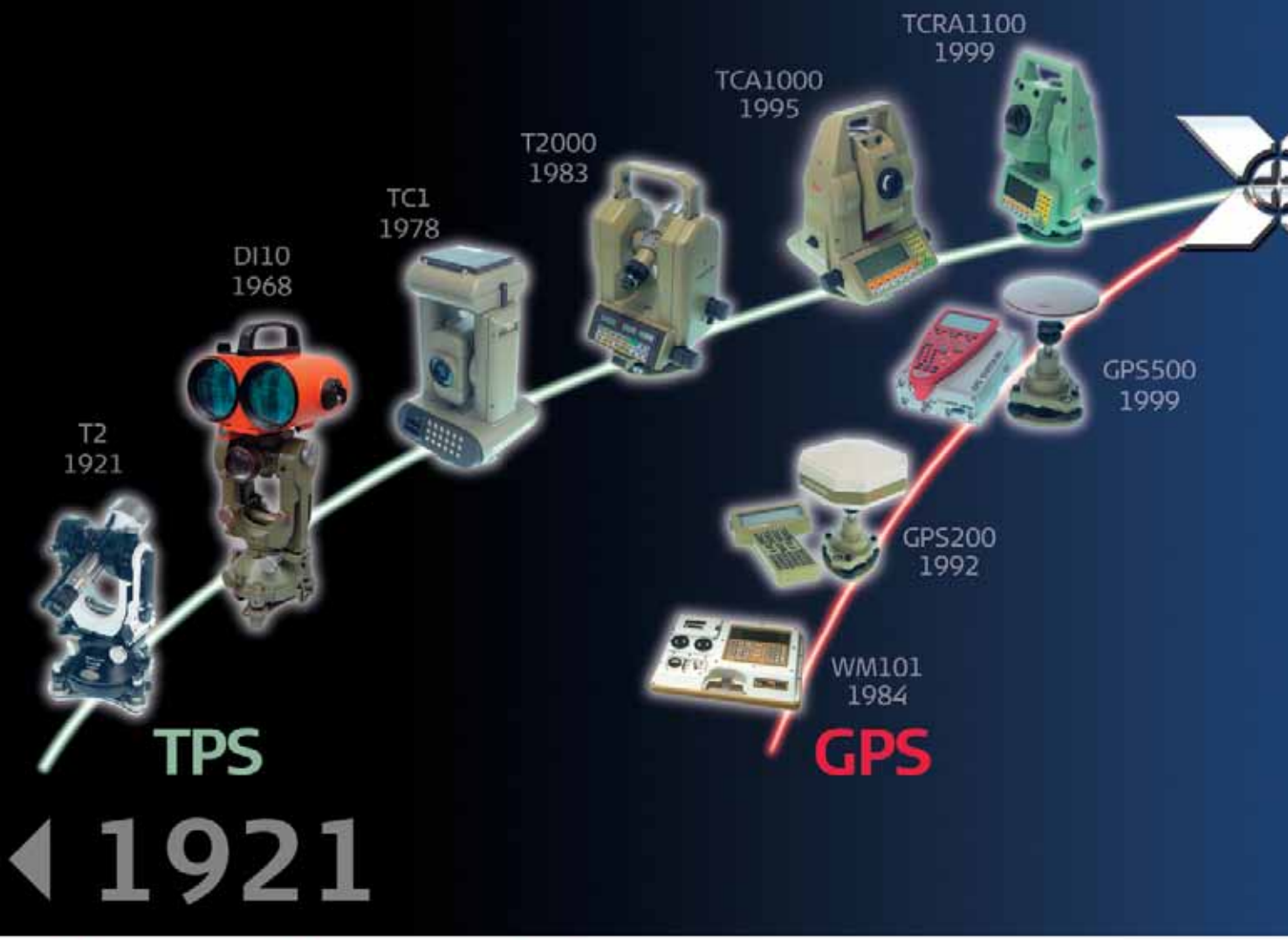
Isn't that Wild?



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"Who is This?"

A prize will be awarded to the person guessing who this surveyor is. If we have multiple correct guesses the winner will be selected in a random drawing.

(If you have a surveying picture send it in for the next issue)

Last issue: Who is This?

The surveyor in the Winter issue's "Who is This?" was Ken Hamblin. Todd Jacobson who works for St. George City was the winner with the correct guess.

We're green!

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Tailoring a Geomatics Curriculum to Prepare Students for Professional Licensing and Success in the Workplace

By Maher Wissa and Rajendra R. Bajracharya
Part two of a four part article.

Class Team Case Studies and Capstone Projects

The course syllabi for Public Land Surveying (GEMT 312) and Research and Evidence (GEMT 314) require students to work as part of a team in real world case studies. Each case study requires students to conduct field work and obtain historical property ownership documents, original plats, and field notes from the General Land Office (GLO), as well as relevant improvement maps for roads and highways, and perform extensive research. Examples of a case study and a capstone project performed by the students of a Public Land Surveying class is given below.

Case Description, Objectives and Schedule of Presentation Case Study

GEMT 312 – PUBLIC LAND SURVEYING-
Pocatello Class Team #1 Case Study

Case Description:
The case deals with investigation or perpetuation of the S/W corner of section 28, T 6 S, R 34 E, B.P.M. located in Pocatello, Idaho.

Objectives:
As a class team, you are required to perform the following tasks:

1) Obtain a USGS topo map identifying the two-subject case corner and relevant corners.
2) Obtain relevant PLS Section Corner Perpetuation documents from Bannock County.
3) Obtain GLO Notes from BLM, Bannock County, or City of Pocatello.
4) Obtain GLO Plats (Original Survey, Resurvey, and Retracement).
5) Obtain CP&F for the subject corner and relevant corners.
6) Perform Site investigation and determine the status of each corner.
7) Develop a strategy in locating relevant section corners, with the utilization of ISU GPS CORS and Rovers.
8) Perform field resurveying work and restore the location of the corner.
9) Take pictorial record of relevant corners

and the restoration of the subject case corners.
10) Develop the necessary drawings and documentation such as "Corner Perpetuation and Filing" record for filing.

Schedule:
The Case Study "Corner Perpetuation and Filing Record" is to be completed and presented by Power Point on December 05, 2006.

Students communicate with different agencies (such as city and county government, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Idaho Transportation Department) and private surveyors when searching for the required GLO plats and field notes, maps, corner perpetuation records, and ownership deeds. The field work requires students to perform a search and locate public land survey section corners, and take a pictorial record of found monuments relevant to the case study. To collect Real Time Kinematics (RTK) GPS observations and process the GPS data, students utilize the Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) installed at ISU College of Technology in 2004 and GPS data processing software.

Based on research and evidence found, students perform evaluation and analysis to determine the acceptance of the public land survey section corner later restored by them. All this work is done with the support of, and in collaboration with, city and county of BLM surveyors (Gibson 2007) (Figures 2 and 3). Students develop the final survey plat and corner perpetuation of the monument(s). Since the launching of the Geomatics Technology program in the spring 2001, six public land survey section corners have been restored.

Senior Surveying Project
The purpose of this capstone project is to teach students to work independently from the start of the project to its completion, i.e., perform surveying tasks in class and in the field and execute the findings of their research in real-life setting. The project is covered in a three-credit hour course (GEM 416) comprised of a study and execution of all the major activities (outlined below) of a surveying project. It can be assigned to the student as a community service, or the student can select his/her own project with the Instructor's approval. Senior surveying projects usually involve property boundary and/or public land surveys, but other surveying topics can be proposed and are accepted. Students follow a pre-determined procedure for project execution. They coordinate with governmental agencies in researching the necessary historical surveying documents, such as deeds, maps, field notes and prepare the evidence required to develop the necessary surveying maps and corner perpetuations. Students compile all pertinent legal documents into a technical report, a Project Report, and present the project to the evaluation committee consisting of faculty, professional land surveyors, and, in some cases, a client representative.

Throughout the project, students are required to utilize surveying equipment, computer software, and learned surveying techniques made available for project work under a set of general guidelines provided for project execution.

Geomatics Curriculum *continued on page 16*

Figure 2. Students discussing their findings about section corners with BLM representatives, as part of a 2005 Public Land Surveying Class case study. From right to left: BLM representatives Tim Quincy and Doug Welman.

Figure 3. Students setting a section corner using RTK GPS, as part of a 2004 Public Land Surveying Class case study. Richard Green, City Surveyor of Pocatello, Idaho, standing in the back at right.

Geomatics Curriculum *continued from page 15*

Project Activities

The senior land surveying capstone project consists of the following major activities:

- Proposal to faculty for review/approval;
- Research historical documents;
- Meeting with county or city surveyors and engineers to obtain available information on section corners, Bench marks, and other important monuments in and around the project area;
- Utilization of survey equipment (total station/data collectors, TDS data collector, level, GPS);
- Utilization of computer software for drawing project maps;
- Development of a technical report; and
- Presentation of the project utilizing Microsoft PowerPoint.

General Guidelines

Students performing a senior surveying project are required to abide by the following guidelines:

- The written proposal will outline the objective of the project, its scope of work, fieldwork and office work expected to be needed, time schedule, equipment to be used, and required software;
- An outline specifying fieldwork activities, equipment required, and methods and techniques to be used;
- Download and process field data in class;
- Analysis and evaluation of results in class;
- Preparation of a report which should include evidence of changes in property ownership (chain of title), how these changes were effected, a summary of findings, and conclusions reached; and
- Submittal of a written Technical Report for review and discussion.

Requirements

- Students meet with project faculty/advisors assigned to their projects on a weekly basis to review the progress of the surveying project; and
- At least three weeks prior to project presentation date, students submit the "Surveying Project Completion Status Check list" (Appendix E) to the assigned project faculty/advisors. Any item checked "NO" on this form will make the project unacceptable for presentation to the Professional Land Surveyors Committee for evaluation.

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As Summer Approaches, Don't Forget the Sunscreen

Sunlight contains ultraviolet (UV) radiation, which causes premature aging of the skin, wrinkles, cataracts, and skin cancer. The amount of damage from UV exposure depends on the strength of the light, the length of exposure, and whether the skin is protected. There are no safe UV rays or safe suntans.

Skin Cancer

Sun exposure at any age can cause skin cancer. Be especially careful in the sun if you burn easily, spend a lot of time outdoors, or have any of the following physical features:

- Numerous, irregular, or large moles.
- Freckles.
- Fair skin.
- Blond, red, or light brown hair.

Self-Examination

It's important to examine your body monthly because skin cancers detected early can almost always be cured. The most important warning sign is a spot on the skin that is changing in size, shape, or color during a period of 1 month to 1 or 2 years.

Skin cancers often take the following forms:

- Pale, wax-like, pearly nodules.
- Red, scaly, sharply outlined patches.
- Sores that don't heal.
- Small, mole-like growths—melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer.

If you find such unusual skin changes, see a health care professional immediately.

Block Out UV Rays

Cover up. Wear tightly-woven clothing that blocks out light. Try this test: Place your hand between a single layer of the clothing and a light source. If you can see your hand through the fabric, the garment offers little protection.

Use sunscreen. A sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 blocks 93 percent of UV rays. You want to block both UVA and UVB rays to guard against skin cancer. Be sure to follow application directions on the bottle.

Wear a hat. A wide brim hat (not a baseball cap) is ideal because it protects the neck, ears, eyes, forehead, nose, and scalp.

Wear UV-absorbent shades. Sunglasses don't have to be expensive, but they should block 99 to 100 percent of UVA and UVB radiation.

Limit exposure. UV rays are most intense between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you're unsure about the sun's intensity, take the shadow test: If your shadow is shorter than you, the sun's rays are the day's strongest.

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Australian High Court Rules in Favor of Surveyors' Copyright

Copyright Agency Limited (CAL)'s case for surveyors to have their copyright claims acknowledged has proved successful, with the High Court overturning the Full Federal Court's decision that State governments had an implied license to use survey plans for free. Surveyors have been concerned at the extensive use of their works for commercial purposes by State governments since 1997, and asked CAL to negotiate with State governments on their behalf.

CAL is an Australian copyright management company whose role is to provide a bridge between creators and users of copyright material. CAL represents copyright owners, including surveyors, as their non-exclusive agent to license the copying of their works to the general community, including government. CAL began negotiations with State governments with respect to the use of surveyors' plans in 1997. A Copyright Tribunal application to determine payment was lodged in 2003, with the High Court application commencing in 2007.

Prior to the High Court application, the Full Federal Court rejected a claim by the NSW Government that it owned the copyright in plans surveyors created and registered – but found that there was an implied license allowing the NSW government to use the plans, without payment to surveyors. CAL appealed the Full Federal Court's decision, on the grounds that the State's use of surveyors' registered plans are subject to section 183 of the Copyright Act (Crown Copying Provisions), and therefore should be paid for.

Pat McNamara from the Association of Consulting Surveyors NSW said that the ruling is good news for surveyors, and importantly, that it will not impede the management of the land title system in Australia.

"The land title system in Australia is one which all surveyors hold dear to their hearts, and our intention has never been to compromise this process," said Mr. McNamara. "However the decision does mean that the extensive unremunerated use of surveyors' work by government will cease, and surveyors will be recognized as creators, and rewarded for the use of their work."

CAL Chief Executive Jim Alexander said that the decision is a significant step for all copyright owners."The High Court ruling acknowledges the importance of individual skill and input into survey maps and plans," said Mr. Alexander. "On a larger scale the decision also acknowledges the importance in valuing creative works. It puts paid to the concept of an implied license giving away the right to use works without remunerating the creator."

About CAL

CAL is an Australian copyright management company whose role is to provide a bridge between creators and users of copyright material. CAL represents authors, journalists, visual artists, surveyors, photographers and newspaper, magazine and book publishers as their non-exclusive agent to license the copying of their works to the general community. CAL's Board is authorized under its Constitution to allocate up to 1% of all copyright license fees collected to support cultural development.

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The following has transpired since UCLS received this.

Australian copyright management company Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) has been meeting with Australian surveyor groups to discuss an appropriate means of licensing government use of surveyors' plans.

This follows on from last year's High Court ruling in favor of surveyors' copyright. The ruling recognized that surveyors own the copyright of the plans they create, and while government has the right to copy surveyors' plans for the purposes of the Crown, they are obligated to enter rights agreements with surveyors regarding the use of those plans.

CAL recently met with the NSW Department of Lands to explore a possible negotiated settlement that would both meet the Government's copying needs and recognize surveyors' rights in the works they create.

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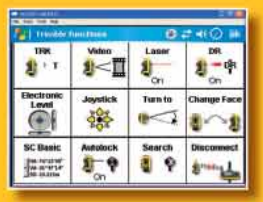

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