

THE  
**OREGON**  
SURVEYOR

A publication of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon



Vol. 37, No. 5, 2014



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503-656-4915 | lee@townshipsurveys.com

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jthatch1@ch2m.com

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY **AIMEE McAULIFFE**

503-303-1472 | execdirector@plso.org  
www.linkedin.com/in/amcauliffe

## PLSO OFFICE

PO Box 230548

Tigard, OR 97281

PHONE 503-303-1472

TOLL FREE 844-284-5496

FAX 503-303-1472

EMAIL office@plso.org

WEB www.plso.org

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### ARCHIVES

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### AWARDS

John Thatcher, jthatch1@ch2m.com

### BYLAWS/CONSTITUTION

Brent Bacon, brent.bacon@eweb.org

### CONFERENCE

Jered McGrath,  
mcgrathjered@hotmail.com

### EDUCATIONAL GOALS & ACTIONS (EGAC)

Joe Ferguson, joe@flspx.com

### FINANCIALS

Gary Johnston, garyjohn@wildblue.net

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Ryan Godsey, rgodsey@cesnw.com  
Dan Linscheid, linschd@co.yamhill.or.us

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Dave Wellman,  
dave@wellmansurveying.com

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Tim Fassbender, htimfass@aol.com

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Gary Anderson  
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Bob Neathamer, bob@neathamer.com

### OACES LIAISON

Scott Freshwaters  
sfreshwaters@chamberscable.com

### THE OREGON SURVEYOR

Greg Crites, gac@deainc.com

### PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES

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### SCHOLARSHIP

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### STRATEGIC PLAN

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### TRIG-STAR

Joe Ferguson, joe@flspx.com

### TWIST

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## CHAPTER OFFICERS

|                           |                     |                |                                 |
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|                           | PRESIDENT-ELECT     | Kevin Samuel   | kevin_r_samuel@yahoo.com        |
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## THE OREGON SURVEYOR

Vol. 37, No. 5, 2014

### Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon

#### Executive Secretary

Aimee McAuliffe  
PO Box 230548  
Tigard, OR 97281  
503-303-1472  
Toll-free: 844-284-5496  
execdirector@plso.org  
www.plso.org

#### Publications Committee

Greg Crites, PLS, *Editor*  
gac@deainc.com  
Paul Galli • paulg@hhpr.com  
Chuck Wiley • charleswiley@gmail.com

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#### LLM Publications, Inc.

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Portland, OR 97202  
503-445-2220 • 800-647-1511  
www.AssociationPublications.com

#### President

Linda L. Pope, linda@llm.com

#### Advertising

Dan Hartzog, danh@llm.com

#### Design

Lisa J. Switalla, lisa@llm.com

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

#### Country Roads

Fall is upon us. Did you find time this summer to set down the tools of our trade, and get out and experience what Oregon has to offer? If not, it is time to plan a weekend road trip anywhere in the state; hit the back country roads to discover some of our great rural communities and hidden natural treasures. My record road trip experience, so far, is touching five states in one weekend—so anything is possible. Be sure to get out and see what you can find and have fun.

**The Oregon Surveyor** is a publication of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO). It is provided as a medium for the expression of individual opinions concerning topics relating to the Land Surveying profession.

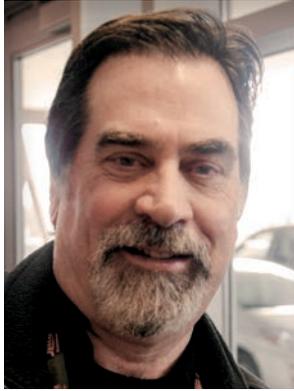
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#### Editorial matters & contributions of material

*The Oregon Surveyor* welcomes your articles, comments and photos for publication. PLSO assumes no responsibility for statements expressed in this publication. Editorial matters should be directed to Greg Crites, [gac@deainc.com](mailto:gac@deainc.com).

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# Final Point

■ Greg Crites, PLS

No, this isn't the title for my last editorial, but both John Thatcher's article and Pat Gaylord's photo in this issue gave me pause to reflect on a few "Final Points" of my own.

In 2012 while serving as the PLSO Westfed representative, my dear friend and fellow WFPS representative from Washington State, Mike Mickiewicz (for those of you who can't pronounce Polish, that's "Mick-eh-wits") unexpectedly passed away during a presumably simple surgical procedure. To say that I was saddened by his loss is an understatement. Virtually every event I attended while serving on the WFPS BOD over my nine-year tenure was an opportunity to see Mike and gain further insight into his quirky sense of humor and generally pleasant demeanor. Serving with him on various committees, I also came to appreciate his professionalism and the extent of his professional network. Not only was Mike big in stature, he was also "big" in our profession. He has left an indelible mental picture with many of us.

I attended an informal ceremony to dedicate Mike's Final Point on the grounds of his childhood home on Whidbey Island. Mike touched many lives in our profession, and quite a few of those folks attended as well. It was a sad, solemn and wonderful opportunity to give Mike a final send off in a spirit that I know he would have appreciated.

The most significant outcome of that dedication was the chance to meet Mike's mother, and siblings, and wander over the place where he grew up. Putting such a "personal" spin on his life helped me to better understand who he was as a man, not just a surveyor. So many of us in this profession lead lives that are far more complex and interesting than the one we display in our chosen career; so opportunities to get beneath the superficialities are a great help—for me at least—to get closure on such tragedies.

Bernsten's "Final Point" program represents a great way to honor someone who has made significant contributions to the profession of surveying. Though I don't think it would be advisable for everyone to pursue such a memorial (as I think there could be a few cemeteries that might be annoyed by a long list of requests to position control points among their memorials), I do believe that circumstances like Mike's represent a fitting opportunity for such an honor. For the curious, the picture of his Final Point graced the cover of the Summer 2012 issue of the *Evergreen State Surveyor*.

Then there's the photo by Pat Gaylord on the cover of this issue. Many mental pictures came to mind. The motorcycle ride over roads in the central Willamette Valley, the many bicycle rides over those self-same ribbons of tarmac, James Hilton's "Lost Horizons" and even the song "Somewhere Over the

Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz*, to name a few. That road is leading somewhere, and it's left to the reader to imagine the destination. I like seeing things that make me pause and wonder. The opportunity for more to this story resides in that photograph. Maybe, in a literal sense, that road is leading you inside the covers of this magazine. Certainly there are stories and articles contained within it that can stir long-buried memories, enrich your understanding of yet another element of the fertile field of surveying, or even entertain you. I can even imagine this country road leading to the childhood home of my friend Mike. I smile when I think of him! I have Pat Gaylord to thank for that. ♦

*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.*



Mike Mickiewicz's Final Point

# The Snottygram

■ Lee Spurgeon, PLS; 2014 State Chair

Anyone who works on resolving boundary disputes will eventually receive the dreaded ‘snottygram.’ A snottygram is a term I created. (*Why not? If being PLSO Chairman doesn’t give me the authority to create a word or two, I’m not sure what the whole point is.*) A snottygram is a letter written by an attorney, designed to use coercion and intimidation—within strict limits of the Bar Association’s ethics code—to get you to change your survey. It also gives you the opportunity to say/write something really stupid that the attorney can use against you in court. The smartest thing to do with a snottygram is ignore it.

In Oregon, most civil trials do not have ‘discovery’ where each side is obligated to share all pertinent information with the other side. Some attorneys call this system ‘trial by ambush.’ If you receive a snottygram, the attorney’s case is pretty weak because it tells the opposing counsel what their evidence is and it allows the opposing attorney to develop counter-arguments. This is a huge strategic disadvantage. The mailing of a snottygram signals that the attorney said to the client, “You don’t have much of a case, but for a \$100 I will mail a letter and see if that does anything.” It doesn’t.

That being said, I have responded to *only one snottygram* during my surveying career. The attorney (*we will call him Mr. Hosenozzle for the sake of preventing a second snottygram*) was a freshly minted land attorney, straight out of law school. I felt it was my duty as a licensed land surveyor to help him further his career by responding to his snottygram so that he could better understand the proper relationship between attorneys and the professionals he needs to work with. It was my civic duty. I’m sort of like Albert Schweitzer in that regard.

The survey—SN 2009-061—can be found online at the Clackamas County Surveyor’s survey records: [www.clackamas.us/surveyor/findsurveys.html](http://www.clackamas.us/surveyor/findsurveys.html).

Here is the snottygram with a few edits to protect the parties involved, and my responses (set in gray italics and in parenthesis).



RE: Smith/Jones property survey

Dear Mr. Spurgeon:

*(Nice opening. My mother called me Mr. Spurgeon when I was in serious trouble so this really sets the tone.)*

This office represents Hiram and Eustice Jones. As the author of a survey received concerning the Smith and Jones property, I direct this letter to you and your company. *(That would explain why my name and company were on the envelope, but thanks for the clarification.)* You received no permission to trespass upon *(I did receive permission. It was granted by the Oregon Legislature and you may find that permission in ORS 672.047 which we complied with to the letter. Please see the enclosed photograph of our blue door hanger on the doorknob of the Smith’s front door.)* or make a survey of the Jones property, *(we surveyed the Smith property which coincidentally shared portions of a property line with Jones. I am not sure how one is supposed to survey one side of a line, which by definition has no width, and not the other. I eagerly await your solution to this vexing problem.)* and thereafter record that survey. *(I am more or less obligated to file the survey. Please review ORS 209.250).* To the extent the erroneous survey *(are you calling my survey erroneous? What evidence do you have of this? Are you willing to say this publicly? Probably not.)* causes my clients any damage or delay which results in financial harm, we may hold you liable. *(I like the word ‘may’ you used there. It comes real close to coercion and intimidation without crossing the line. Well done!)*

The narrative statement goes far beyond what a surveyor is authorized to do. *(I thought the narrative said exactly what a narrative is supposed to say.)* The narrative makes unsubstantiated legal conclusions that only a court of law could make. *(The narrative states facts and it is the duty of land surveyors, and land surveyors only, to make authoritative determinations of boundary lines and corners. Please review ORS 672.)* Your effort to record the survey represents a malicious, libelous action intended to cause harm. *(So now you are a mind reader? Nice!)* You have no authority to publicly declare what is the boundary between the Jones property and the Smith property. *(Once again, please read ORS 672.005. There is some real good stuff in that chapter.)* I demand that you promptly retract the survey from the public record and inform this office when that action is completed. *(Would you be so kind as to point out where the Oregon Revised Statutes allow or have any basis for retracting a survey? Oh wait, there is none.)*

Continues on page 7 ►



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# Getting the most out of your membership

■ *Aimee McAuliffe, PLSO Executive Secretary*



**A**s the new membership year starts up, I would like to take a moment to thank you for being a member of PLSO. We look forward to working with you and continuing to serve the professional community. Many of you have been PLSO members for years and have seen a handful of PLSO Executive Secretaries. Others of you are earlier on in your career. Whichever one you are, it's always important to evaluate a return on investment. Are you getting the most of your membership or do you find yourself writing a check each June, only to think of PLSO again next year when it's time to do it all over again?

Association memberships can be very valuable to your career as long as you are taking advantage of the opportunities offered. Participation also makes an association strong. The stronger the association, the more benefits it can offer its members. It's a symbiotic relationship.

Here are a couple of ways to **maximize your membership value:**  
**Show up to the party.** During this age of digital interface, it's easy to think communicating through an email or social media is enough. However, putting a face to your company name and attaching a memory of an actual conversation to that LinkedIn connection is invaluable. We get it—you're busy. Just know that association events provide the opportunity to network with colleagues. As relationships form, it's easier to pick up the phone and call someone when you have a question, need help solving a dispute or are ready to take the next big step in your career.

**Get engaged.** Okay, so you showed up to the party and now you're holding up the wall, silently keeping all your potential friends safe from the roof collapsing on their unsuspecting heads. Take a deep breath and stop being a wall flower. The truth is, nobody really *likes* networking. Some

people are just better at it because they've experienced the rewards. Volunteering is a great way to make you more visible to your professional community. It also feels good to have an impact on something you care about. PLSO always needs volunteers and input from its members. Whether it's at the chapter level, Board of Directors or just helping out at the registration desk for a couple hours at the annual conference, we always appreciate the time you give us.

**Utilize benefits.** There are a number of programs set up to save members' time and money so take advantage of these opportunities. For a list, go to [www.plso.org/memberbenefits](http://www.plso.org/memberbenefits). PLSO's Membership Committee meets via teleconference the second Wednesday of each month. Topics range from membership numbers to potential benefits. If you have insight on creating more value, join the party by contacting Membership Committee Chair Gary Anderson.

When you show up, talk to members and utilize the available opportunities, the value of PLSO increases. Your network will grow and your professional career is enhanced. And the best part? You support an association specifically built to support your professional industry.

So, be sure to check out the PLSO calendar on the website for upcoming events and save the date for the 2015 Annual Conference, January 21–23 in Salem. See you soon! ♦

## PLSO Education and Outreach Auction

**P**reparations are underway for the PLSO Education and Outreach Auction at the 2015 PLSO Annual Conference in Salem. 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. ♦

# Lost Surveyor

■ Pat Gaylord, PLS

## Question

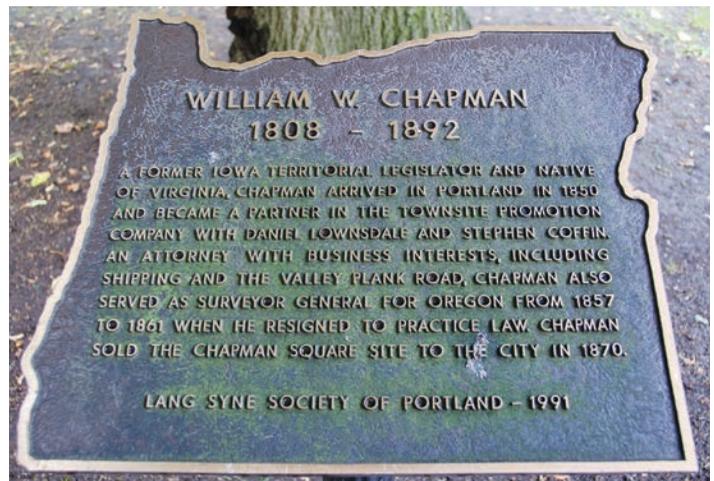
Can you name the park in downtown Portland that is named for a Surveyor General of Oregon, and hosts the pioneer family statue, “The Promised Land?”

Hint: This place was also the center of the Occupy Portland encampment in October 2011.

## Solution on page 18



The Promised Land, by Oregon artist David Manuel



# PLSO 2014 Mid-Year Financial Report

■ Gary Johnston, PLS

At the midpoint of 2014, PLSO's finances were in very good condition. Cash assets (checking and money market accounts) amounted to \$179,568 on June 30, 2014—a \$21,768 increase over the balance on June 30, 2013. Financial reserves are typically at a high level in the summer, since a majority of annual conference revenue has been received during January and February, and annual dues renewals have begun arriving in May.

Net income for the period January 1–June 30, 2014 was \$34,155. Income was expected to be higher, but many dues renewals were pending arrival well after the July 1 due date. In fact, only about 66% of expected dues income had been received as of June 30 with another 14% coming in by the end of July. Historically, many renewals are actually paid two or three months after the July 1 due date. If all forecasted 2014 dues are received, that will yield an additional \$19,000 of income. Aside from dues, only minor amounts of other income are expected through year's end but operating expenses draw down on our revenue. In the ensuing winter months, revenues will increase again with the receipt of annual conference registrations.

Cash reserves are sufficient to easily meet normal expenses during the next six months—which complies with PLSO's financial policy. The PLSO Board plans to expand its outreach effort during the months ahead, but funds are adequate to meet these and other expected expenses through 2014. PLSO will begin 2015 with a favorable cash balance. ♦

## FROM THE PLSO CHAIR... continued from page 3

There was an obvious error which was readily apparent on your survey. The northwest line of the Smith property was marked as 43.00 feet which is not a record (*held*) measurement. (*If you will note from SN 1971-06 that line is shown as two distances added together, a distance of 20.80 feet and a distance of 22.2 feet. If you would be so kind as to consult a calculator, you will find that if you add these two numbers together you will find that their sum does, in fact, equal 43.00 feet.*)

Of further importance is the error in not depicting a record monument, the properties as legally described in the vesting deeds and depicting the easterly property line of the Smith's that did not use available ground markers/ties to ensure its proper location. Your survey reveals that you did not locate and use the existing iron pipe reflected in the Andy Paris survey recorded as SN 1971-006 to locate the eastern line of the Smith property. (*We looked for the monument and did not find it. At that point, we calculated the position based on SN 1971-006 and used surveying instruments to locate the monument. We still didn't find it. I wonder why? Could it be because it wasn't there?*)

This office is open to correcting these errors (*what errors?*) with you in a cooperative fashion (*which explains this letter, right?*) such that the boundaries of the Smith and Jones property can be appropriately reflected. (*It was, by my survey.*) This matter must be addressed to avoid harm and financial damage to the Smiths. Please contact me in a timely manner concerning your intentions.

I thank you for your time and attention to these matters.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Hosenozzle

After I received this letter and sent my response, I sent copies of both pieces to the Smith's attorney. He said—and I agree with him—that he liked the concept but it was better for my clients to simply ignore the letter. Once again, in a trial by ambush, it is better not to tip off your opponent.

When I have a survey which I am fairly sure will result in controversy, and a snottygram is one sure way to know that attorneys are already involved, I do several things to ensure I am on firm ground.

- I ask several of my respected peers to review the survey to ensure that I am not making a horrific mistake.
- I ask the County Surveyor to give this survey particularly close scrutiny.
- I like taking controversial surveys to our local chapter of the PLSO to present as a case study.

The point of all of this is to make the strongest possible testimony if the survey does go to court. On this particular survey, I also entered it into the PLSO map contest and it won first place in 2010. That validation makes it fairly difficult for an attorney to claim that the map was poorly done.

As an epilogue, I have worked several other cases with Mr. Hosenozzle since this episode and we get along just fine. He hasn't brought up my response to the snottygram, and for the sake of remaining professional, I won't either. ♦

# Blanket Easements

## (The Good, the Bad and the Ugly!)

■ *Jerry Moran*

**Definition:** It is an undefined easement that “blankets” an entire parcel. e.g. the local utility acquires an easement on Lot 1 of ABC subdivision with no description of the location.

**The Good:** The utility likes this kind of easement because anybody can write an easement with literally no training. Construction (the utility’s) can place their facilities anywhere on the property they like without having to worry about staying within a pesky right-of-way.

**The Bad:** It is terrible for the property owner! Why? It puts unreasonable burden on the property which may make the property hard to sell and obtain title insurance.

**The Ugly:** Most courts take a dim view of blanket easements. A sample testimony from a court case:

The property owner’s attorney to the utility’s right-of-way person: **Mr./Ms. Jones, you work for a multimillion/billion dollar company/agency. Don’t they give you any training on how to avoid devaluing or diminishing the use and value of private property?**

How does the right of way (surveyor) person respond?

**Remedies:**

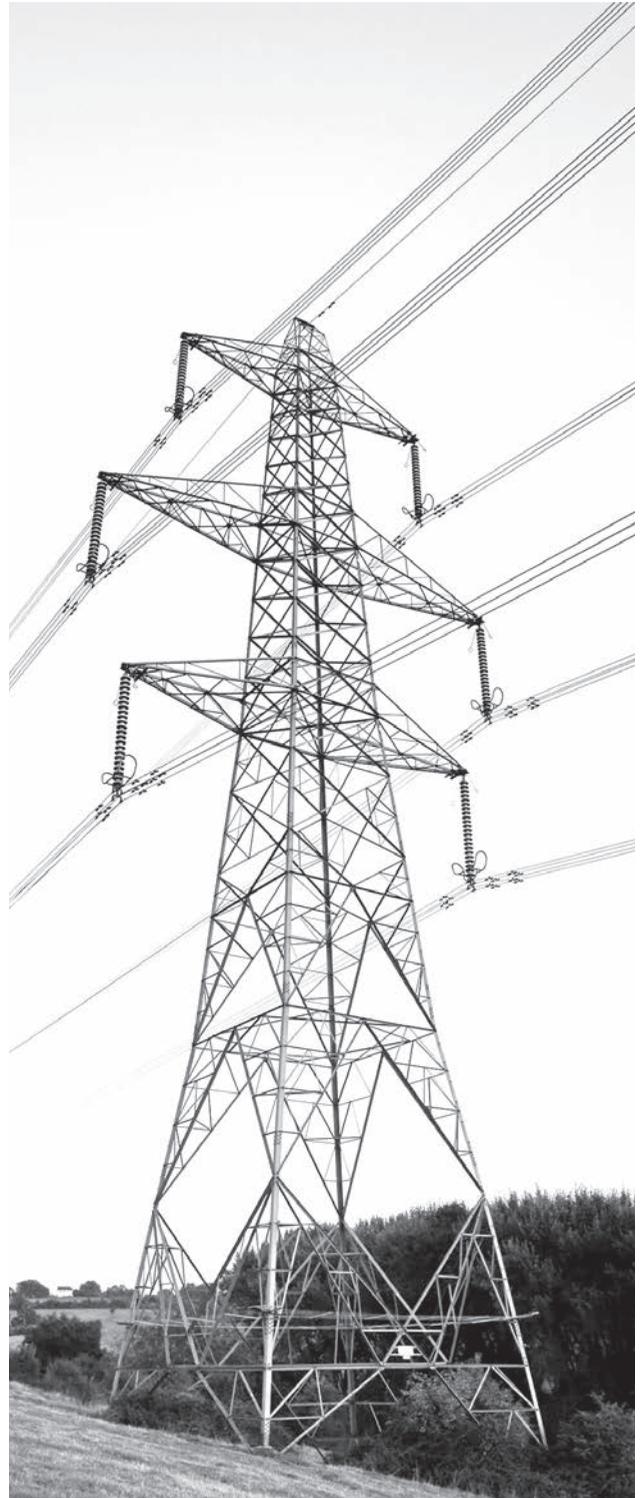
If you are a utility: Stop taking them!

If you have them and are challenged: Offer to have the location surveyed and negotiate a defined easement then quitclaim the remainder.

If you are a property owner: Contact the easement owner and ask the owner for what was stated above. The easement may not still be used.

If the easement owner was granted the easement in their name(s) and Assigns, try to determine if an assignment was made!

In a nutshell, you may need professional help. Contact a knowledgeable professional. This author may be able to help. ♦

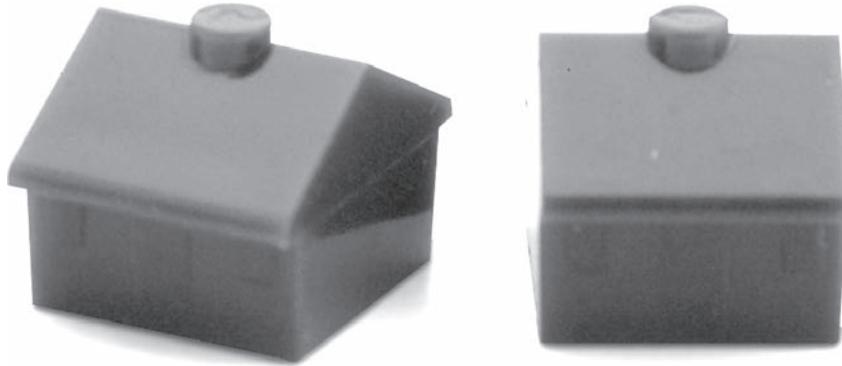



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*Jerry Moran is the Vice President of NMI Management & Training Services.*

# Five ways a land surveyor can help in the home buying process

■ Joe Ferguson, PLS



Okay, so you found the perfect house to buy—right size, right price, right color, beautiful landscaping, and so on. You are in love with it. Where do you sign? Whoa there! Have you thought about where the property boundaries are? Are there fences? Are they in the correct location? What about the neighbor's deck? Are there any easements or other hidden boundary issues that may arise after you buy your piece of the Isle of Dariabar? It is imperative that you have land surveyed before you purchase any real estate because your real estate agent or broker can't legally tell you where the boundaries are. Considering a home purchase is the single most important financial transaction most people will make in their lives, they often don't appreciate the value of a property survey and the several steps that should be taken prior to purchase. The best time to hire the services of a land surveyor is before completing the transfer of title (the purchase) process. In fact, making the purchase contingent on completion of a survey prior to closing (if one hasn't been done in the past 10 years) that identifies any possible problems with the deed gives you the assurance that the boundary as stated in the deed of sale is true and has no problems.

While all these questions may sound like a headache, a professional land surveyor can ease your worry in five simple ways:

1. **Review and interpret your deed.** Professionally licensed land surveyors are experts in their chosen field and by reviewing the deed for your property they should be able to tell you the exact limits of the property as spelled out in the legal description. If they can't, there may be a problem which definitely requires their services.
2. **Look for any existing property corners through research and a field trip.** A surveyor can research your property through the local County Surveyor's office and look for any surveys that have been recorded for or near your property. If property corners have been set in the past they can look for them, let you know whether they still exist, and if so, show you what they look like and their location. This is a very important step toward *KNOWING* what you're buying!
3. **Identify problems before you buy.** It is also important for you to determine whether neighbors have encroached upon the property. You can never be sure whether your lot boundaries are in harmony with all evidence of occupation. Your neighbors shed, garage, driveway, deck, fence, their recent addition (that one they never bothered to get a building permit for) or favorite tree actually may be on your land. You need to hire a surveyor to tell you whether there are encroachments and if so, how extensive. You can also make your purchase contingent upon the removal of those encroachments, which places *THAT* headache squarely on the shoulders of the seller, where it should be, as this step will likely require the services of an attorney who is well schooled in real property law.
4. **Peace of mind.** Nothing can be more stressful than discovering problems that have anything to do with items 1 through 3 above *AFTER* your purchase!
5. **How do I find a licensed surveyor?** It is really easy, just go to [www.plso.org](http://www.plso.org) and click on "Find A Surveyor." ♦

# Final Points

■ *John Thatcher, PLS*

I have been thinking about my epitaph for quite a while. When, at some unknown time in the future, a couple of star struck lovers amble past my gravestone and, between kisses, read the words engraved there, I want to give them a chuckle. It will be my last little gift to the world. I have come up with a few candidates, and I really like this one: “It’s been a good body—until now.” But I am still thinking and searching. I’ll know I have a winner when my wife doesn’t roll her eyes.

Why all this talk of death and epitaphs? One reason is that, now that I have people calling me gramps, I’m finally beginning to suspect that I won’t live forever. The most important reason, however, is that I have recently discovered the **NSPS Foundation Final Point Program**. I think it is a very cool and touching way to honor colleagues who have passed over the final boundary, so to speak.

My discovery of the Final Point Program came in an offhand way. Through my involvement in Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WFPS), I received two complimentary issues of the *Treasure State Surveyor*. (There are 13 western states represented by WFPS, so you have a one in twelve chance of guessing which state calls itself the Treasure State—you already know it is not Oregon. Hint: it is east of Idaho, north of Wyoming, and west of North and South Dakota.) In the October 2013 issue of said publication was an article about the Final Point Program and how the Mystery State’s Association of Registered Land Surveyors (MARLS) commemorated a colleague who had passed.

Here’s the deal: the NSPS Foundation has joined with Berntsen International to create the Final Point Program. For a nominal donation, part of which goes to the NSPS Foundation Scholarship Fund, Berntsen will create a four inch diameter bronze disk engraved with name, license number, and latitude and longitude of the final resting place of your colleague. The disk comes either polished or with a brushed finish. You can order the disk with or without a stem, depending on how it will be mounted.

A fillable PDF form can be found on the NSPS website, [www.nsps.us.com](http://www.nsps.us.com) (linked on the PLSO website). In the vertical ribbon on the left, third button down, you will see the link to the NSPS Foundation. Hover, then click “Final Point.” The stemmed monument costs \$100. Of that, \$25 goes to the NSPS Foundation, and \$50 goes to the Berntsen/NSPS Scholarship Fund. A stemless monument costs an extra \$20.

Another very cool thing you can do, once the disk is permanently mounted in a stable footing, is to occupy it with a static GPS receiver and submit the data to the National Geodetic Survey’s OPUS DB Program. You can download a PowerPoint by Mark Armstrong, Oregon State Geodetic Advisor, from the NGS website. Armstrong prepared the presentation for the Western States Regional Webinar in November 2013. It is titled “OPUS-DB Publishing with OPUS,” and it includes background and technical information along with instructions on how to occupy a monument and get your results published. I have downloaded Armstrong’s presentation, and PLSO Executive Secretary Aimee McAuliffe has found

a spot for it on the PLSO website. After you log in, click on “Members.” On the members page you will see a link titled “NDAA Presentation.”

Getting a GPS point published via the OPUS DB Program takes planning and time. Briefly, order the disc with a point in the center, get a sonotube, concrete and rebar, then occupy the point for a minimum of four hours after the concrete has set. You will need to provide documentation that includes photos, the serial number of your instrument, your antenna model and height, and all other information detailed in the instructions.

Where to go from here? I presented the Final Point Program at the April 2014 PLSO Board Meeting. The board agreed that the chapters should participate in and fund the program as they see fit. Read: Pass the hat.

As a denizen of the Pioneer Chapter, I consider it a no-brainer to commemorate PLSO co-founder Bertel Mason, Jr. I plan to agitate at Pioneer Chapter meetings for honoring Bert, and also Ray Buckel, a good man and a friend who recently died. I’ll gladly give up some beer money to seed the pot and honor these fellows. As an added benefit, we could do some outreach at the same time by getting some press in the local paper. This last suggestion will dovetail nicely with the growing push for the outreach mandate of our Strategic Plan.

Of course, the wishes of the surviving family need to be taken into account. Let’s be sure to contact them for approval. Who wouldn’t be touched by a lasting memorial to their departed loved one, arranged and executed by his or her professional peers? ♦



***PAY TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED THE  
PROFESSION SO WELL***

Berntsen International and the National Society of Professional Surveyors Foundation (NSPSF) are pleased to announce the ***Final Point*** Project. This is a joint effort to build an endowment for surveying scholarships. At the same time, it is an opportunity for you to honor that surveyor who had been important to you personally and to your career. For every customized marker purchased, \$25.00 will go into the NSPS Foundation and \$50.00 will go into the Berntsen/NSPS Scholarship Fund. The price of the customized marker is \$100.00.

Each marker is a beautifully engraved, solid 4" diameter bronze marker. It is personalized with the name of the surveyor being honored, with the latitude and longitude of his/her resting point. It is available with a high polish or brushed finish.

We think this is a unique way to honor a special surveyor and promote surveying education.

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS FOUNDATION, INC.

## FINAL POINT

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Information required to be placed on Marker

Individuals Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Surveyor License Number (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Marker (Cemetery/Office Building/Home)

Latitude \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude \_\_\_\_\_

Finish of Marker  High Polish  Brushed Date of Ceremony \_\_\_\_\_

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Frederick, MD 21704

Phone: 240-439-4615 Fax: 240-439-4952

# Cadastral tales

■ *Bob Taylor, PLS*

## #10 Hiatus

Note: Cadastral Tales #4–9, were published in *The Oregon Surveyor*, Vol. 37, Issue 4, 2014.

WHILE MOST SURVEYORS HAVE WORKED on complicated surveys during their careers, my first came at the young age of 19. We were based in Winston and the site was about 15 miles west of Roseburg and about 7 miles northwest of the “Hamlet of Ten Mile.” Hamlet was the term used by Al White: quite quaint.

The survey was along the 6th Standard Parallel South through Range 8 West. The first survey was complete in 1856 by Dennis Hathorn as the North boundary of T. 28 S., R. 8 W. The same line was resurveyed by William Haydon in 1896. Haydon’s re-plat indicated he couldn’t find monuments for 2.5 miles of the line along Sections 2, 3, & 4...

I need to stop here and thank Douglas County Surveyor, Randy Smith for his quick response to my inquiry for this survey (No. 12858), plus the assistance of Jean Crawford in sending me the survey and the report. I found my name at the end of the report under “Field Assistants” George R. Taylor, Chainman. This was the earliest time I’d ever seen my name included in a survey: 1961.

...So on with the story and the work. John Jelly took one crew and started the resurvey along the south line of T. 27 S., and Jake Jelly’s crew (myself included) surveyed along the north line of T. 28 S. We found a few original survey monuments as well as some that had been perpetuated by the County Surveyor. When the two lines were plotted it showed the widest variance was about 310 feet (north to south).

We then set new monuments at the missing corners, blazed the new bearing trees and set blaze marks along both lines. This became T. 27 ½ S., R. 8 W. The land was covered by old growth fir, hemlock & cedar with smaller groves of yew and madrone. There were one or two logging roads which crossed the township line but nothing had been logged as yet. Question: Who owned the land in the Hiatus?

In 1965 I was working for Bruce Shaner PE, RPLS in Roseburg and on one occasion we went to a job site to locate a section line for a logging company. We arrived at a clear cut area and only needed to walk a few hundred feet to get to the starting corner. I began to take notes on the monument and write down the data shown on the bearing tree tags. As I read each tag it was marked “CAW” (Charles A. White) then looking at T. 27 ½ S. I knew where I was. I had stamped the brass cap and marked the tags.

Imagine Bruce’s surprise when I told him there was a corner about 200 feet north of this one. The answer to the question can be found at the BLM office or in the deed records at Douglas County. ♦

## #11 Quimby

AS LONG AS I’M TELLING TALES OF MY EARLY YEARS IN SURVEYING I must include a friend I’ve kept in touch with for years.

Ron Quimby and I met in 1965 while working for Bruce Shaner PE, PLS. Bruce was a perfectionist. He wanted work done correctly, notes kept cleanly and work done only once. None of this was an unreasonable request. I worked for Bruce for nine months that year. I think it was a record at the time.

I started out as a chainman and rodman for Bruce or his designated crew chief. I had gone through about three crew chiefs that summer. Each time, always on a Friday, Bruce would call me into his office and ask how I thought the crew chief was doing. I usually said fine or about average. Then on Monday morning I would come to work and meet the NEW crew chief. After one such occasion, I got to work and Ron Quimby got to meet his new crew chief,

ME! A big surprise to me. So off we went, setting centerline for logging roads, running profiles, measuring cross-sections and setting slope stakes for construction. We got along very well. Both young with new families and living the good life.

I remember once (Ron had to rescue my memory on this one) while working in Gold Beach on a steep side slope covered with Salal brush, Ron slipped and cut his thumb. I got the first aid kit and Ron thought it would be okay but I took him to the hospital and he received some much needed stitches.

Sometime later we were driving up a slick logging road and to get up the hill, I was spinning the wheels in a new Jeep (less than 1000 miles) and hit a dry spot which pitched us forward, and as a result I killed the front headlight on the passenger's side.

Well, that Friday, Bruce called Ron in the office when we got back. I just packed all my gear, rain coats, tools, etc. into my car and waited for the final check from Bruce. We shook hands and parted ways, and I drove to Portland.

My first work place in the "Metro" area was with Robert E. Meyer Engineering. This introduced me to my next best friend, Layne Caswell.

If you know Quimby, ask him about the wonderful treat he brought home to his wife after we brushed through several hundred feet of poison oak which was about 15 to 20 feet high. ♦

## #12 Jake

MOST OF MY CADASTRAL SURVEYING FOR BLM was under the direction of Al White and, more importantly, with crew chief Jake Jelly. Tall and lanky and one of the most ingenious people I've ever met; he could build handheld walkie-talkies from scratch. This was 50 years ago. At the time I didn't know anybody could do that. Remember, I was from Baker.

Well, this tale took place as we were working out of Grants Pass. We would drive north up I-5 near Wolf Creek, then easterly along logging roads to the work site. In all, about 15 miles into the woods. We met a couple of brothers up there and Jake told them what we were surveying for and they slowly nodded their heads okay. A lot of people in that country didn't particularly care for any government workers, but these two seemed to like Jake. I heard later, the brothers got into a right-of-way argument along the main highway and so they subdivided their road crossing into one foot squares and sold them to tourists. I just heard that tale, maybe someone down there can tell us if it's true.

Back to Jake. One day we made our trip up to the survey jump-off site after crossing some really rough roads. When we stopped we could smell gasoline. Checking under the truck we could see the fuel line had broken off the gas tank. Jake said we needed to get out of the woods before the loggers left or we would spend the night there.

Jake thought for about five minutes, then started going through the truck. He pulled out a one gallon gas can (empty) used for the chainsaw (which we didn't have). Then he went under the hood and cut out the longest windshield wiper hose he could find.

We then siphoned one gallon of gas out of the gas tank into the one gallon can and then Jake taped the hose from the one gallon tank to the fuel pump. Then taping it all down under the hood, we drove out eight miles or so at a time, back to Grants Pass. Eight miles, re-siphon, eight miles, re-siphon.

It was great fun to see the look on the attendant's face when Jake told him that he needed to re-attach the fuel line to the tank. The man looked at Jake and said, "How did you get here with no fuel line?" Jake raised the hood and the man just stood there shaking his head.

That was the genius of Jake Jelly. ♦

*Continues on page 14 ▶*

# #13 New Jail

WE WERE WORKING OUT OF WINSTON IN 1961, and as it happened the only thing I knew about Roseburg was the infamous explosion from a truck loaded with 6.5 tons of explosives that blew up eight blocks of downtown in 1959. The blast blew a hole in the ground approximately 52 feet wide and 20 feet deep. It was truly a tragedy. It killed 14 people and injured 125. Still, today it is the largest such explosion in Oregon. By 1961, a lot of the core of downtown had been rebuilt including a court house and new county jail.

*(Editor's note: I rode through downtown Roseburg the weekend after the blast with my parents and I remember the complete devastation it caused as if it were yesterday. Read more on page 15.)*

As stated earlier, I was in Winston a few miles south of Roseburg. Our motel was on old Highway 99-S and across the street was a tavern.

Again, in those days if you behaved yourself in a small town, the bartender would let you drink a few beers. We played the jukebox, and Willie Nelson was new and Johnny Cash was new, and so on.

This one night ol' Fred and I had a few beers, and as we left the tavern to go to the motel across the street, the speaker outside the tavern was playing great music, Tennessee Ernie Ford I think, so I kinda danced my way across old Highway 99 to the tune of "16 Tons."

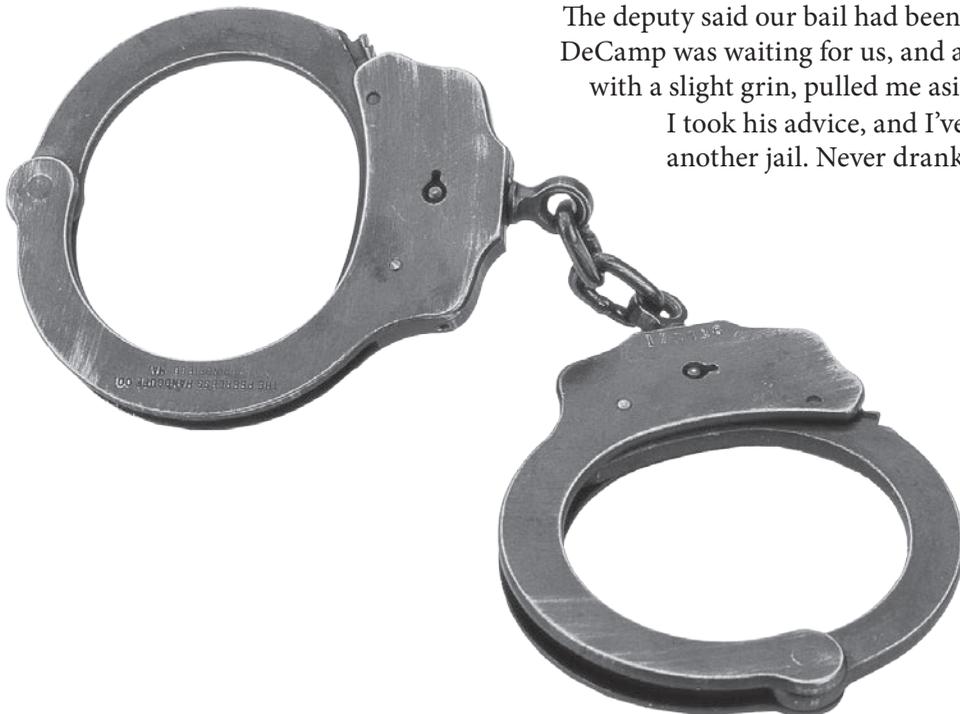
Well, out of the shadows came a sheriff's car. The deputy was stern but polite and wanted to know where we were going. I said right here to the motel and going to bed. He said, "Fine have a good night." As I started to walk away, my "friend" Fred said, "And what are you going to do about it anyway?"

Yah, you guessed it. We got to see the inside of the new Douglas County Jail. It was spotless, clean, shiny, and a pleasant place to spend the night. As soon as we got booked, we learned that the fine was a big \$35 for disorderly conduct. We were then escorted to a cell with two bunk beds. The light went out and in about 10 minutes Fred asked for a cigarette. I lit one and rolled it across the floor. Ten minutes later, I did it again and told him that was all.

The next morning as the deputy woke us up, I saw that it wasn't Fred across from me but a stranger who thanked me for the smokes!

The deputy said our bail had been paid and we could go. Ken DeCamp was waiting for us, and as we walked outside, Al White, with a slight grin, pulled me aside and said, "Never, again."

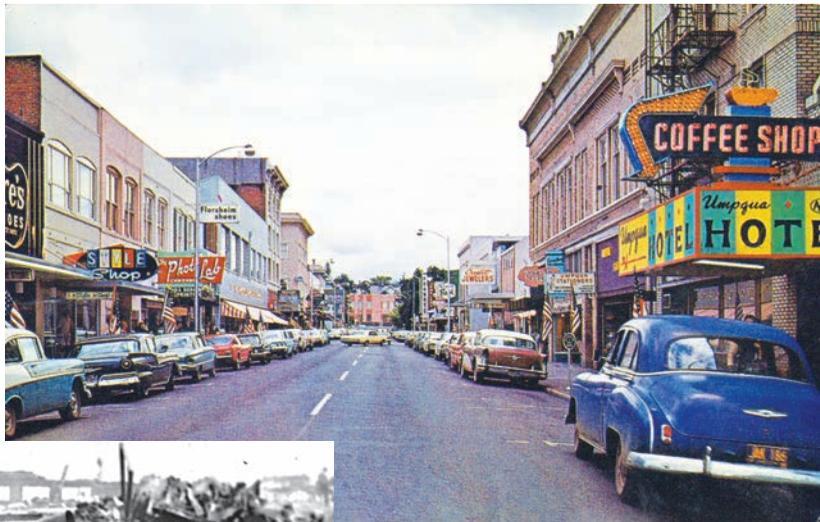
I took his advice, and I've never seen the inside of another jail. Never drank with Fred again either. ♦



# The Roseburg Blast Crater

■ Joshua Binus, © Oregon Historical Society  
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Roseburg Blast Crater, 1959 OrHI 62414



Jackson Street, Roseburg, c1950s



This photograph of the crater created by the “Roseburg blast” was taken in the days following the accidental detonation of 6.5 tons (13,000 lbs.) of explosives on August 7, 1959.

On the night of August 6, 1959, George Rutherford of Chehalis, Wash. drove a Pacific Powder Co. truck carrying 2 tons of dynamite and 4.5 tons of nitro carbo nitrate into downtown Roseburg. After scheduling his first delivery for the following morning, Rutherford parked the truck in front of the Garretsen Building Supply Co., near the corner of Oak and Pine Streets, and retired for the night at the Umpqua Hotel. During the night, the Garretsen building caught fire. Alarms were sounded across the downtown shortly after 1 AM, and within minutes firemen arrived to put out the blaze. Unfortunately, the explosive-laden

truck remained unnoticed until moments before it detonated.

The explosion and the fire destroyed all of the buildings within an 8-block area and heavily damaged structures throughout 30 blocks. Fire crews from Eugene and Springfield responded for aid, and by nightfall, National Guard units from Roseburg and Cottage Grove cordoned off the 30-block area from public access to deter looting. The blast led to the deaths of 14 people and injured another 125. The damages to the city were estimated to be between \$10–12 million.

In the months following the blast, city leaders entertained the idea of rebuilding Roseburg’s downtown as a showcase for the wood-products industry. Richard Neutra, a famous

architect agreed to provide Roseburg with a master plan to redevelop the devastated area, but the failure of the city to qualify for federal urban renewal funds squelched the idea. Luckily, 98% of the downtown’s businesses had insurance plans and were not dependent upon outside aid to recover their losses. While Roseburg’s businesses rebuilt, city leaders capitalized on the opportunity to improve traffic flow by obtaining parcels of land near the blast site to allow for the construction of a new bridge across the South Umpqua River into the downtown.

Investigations by the Interstate Commerce Commission into the blast faulted both Rutherford and the Pacific Powder Co. for parking their truck in a “congested area” and leaving it unattended—something they were warned against just two days prior to the accident. Civil damages amounting to approximately \$1,200,000 were awarded to victims of the blast in March 1962, but criminal proceedings found the company innocent. At the time, laws concerning the transportation of explosives pertained only to common carriers and did not regulate privately contracted deliveries. ♦

# Teaching with Spatial Technology



■ Timothy A. Kent, PLS



Shannon Johnson



Steve Crow

During the last week of June, twenty K–12 teachers were on the Clark College campus in Vancouver to immerse themselves in surveying, global positioning systems (GPS), and geographic information systems (GIS). This program is sponsored by Oregon Technical Institute and is taught by three professors from that institution: Mason Marker, John Ritter, and Tim Kent.

The impetus of the program is to have high school teachers become aware of and utilize knowledge in spatial

technology so that they can expose their students to these somewhat unknown employment fields. This information can be used to help guide the students to look at post high school education and hopefully enroll in colleges that teach these technologies.

These K–12 teachers came from across the western states and teach math, history, and related sciences at their schools. They were provided a number of teaching tools including software and hardware that they could then incorporate into their curriculum.



Judith Cryer-Garcia and David & Sandi Balling



Pacing the walk



Jason Richmond and Tanja Ownbey

The teachers were in the classroom in the morning and roving around campus most afternoons, collecting data with their new GPS units, measuring their pace, and using their new hand compasses in a variety of exercises. It was great to watch them in their many “aha” moments as it all began to come together. The spatial data gathered with the GPS units was then downloaded into ArcGIS software for further analysis and use in lab sessions.

Esri provided the K–12 teachers an instructional use campus license (500-seat, version 10.2 software w/ Spatial, 3D, and Network) to any school that does not have access through a district or state license. A very big commitment! With Professor Ritter leading the way, the teachers developed some very interesting and well thought out exercises during the week. These were presented on the last day and shared with everyone.

A huge thank you is due to the efforts of the state surveying societies and the Board at NCEES in obtaining monetary support for the teachers. They provided funds for



David Pettit, Mason Marker and Connie Rogers

their registration fee along with most of their travel costs. In these tight economic times, this course would have been very difficult to have without that support.

Of course this training would not have been possible without the excellent support and instruction from my colleagues at Oregon Tech, Professors Marker and Ritter. I am indebted to them for their effort with TwiST.

Be ready to recruit teachers to attend the 2015 event at Clark College in Vancouver. Support this effort by assisting the WFPS representative, currently John Thatcher, in identifying teachers that you believe would benefit from attending this training. Remember, the students they teach can become the professional surveyors of tomorrow. ♦



Carl Shangraw and Tim Ludwig



Gail Shatkus

Photos by Tim Kent

Timothy A. Kent, PLS, is the Surveying & Geomatics Program Director at Oregon Tech - Wilsonville. He can be reached at [timothy.kent@oit.edu](mailto:timothy.kent@oit.edu).

# Lost Surveyor

(from page 6)

■ Pat Gaylord, PLS

Do you know what downtown Portland park is named for a Surveyor General of Oregon and hosts the pioneer family statue, “The Promised Land”?

## Solution: Chapman Square and Lowndale Square

In the heart of downtown Portland at SW 3rd and Main, across from the Justice Center, sit two plaza blocks or courthouse squares—Chapman Square and Lowndale Square. These courthouse squares were the focal point of the 2011 Occupy Portland encampment, which lasted several weeks and culminated in a clash between police and protestors on the night of November 12, 2011. Keep reading and you might decide the squares should be renamed “The Surveyor Blocks.”

Chapman Square is named for **William W. Chapman** who served as Surveyor General of Oregon from 1857 to 1861. Lowndale Square is named for **Daniel Lowndale** who, some sources claim, surveyed Portland into its current configuration of blocks. However, while his name appears on the plat and it included all or part of his Donation Land Claim, **CW Burrage** was the City Surveyor of the 1866 plat. Lowndale was also party to an early Oregon land dispute and lawsuit which made its way from Oregon to the US Supreme Court (*Lowndale v. Parrish*, 62 U.S. 290 (1858)).

The last character impacting these downtown Portland blocks is **David P. Thompson**, who began as an apprentice blacksmith and later became a surveyor for the railroad lines. He was then appointed as a deputy surveyor for the United States to survey public lands in both the Oregon and Washington territories. He served in that capacity until 1863.

The following description of Chapman and Lowndale Squares is taken from the City of Portland Parks website:

([www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/finder/index.cfm?action=ViewPark&PropertyID=99&subareas=6](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/finder/index.cfm?action=ViewPark&PropertyID=99&subareas=6))

Chapman is one of two courthouse squares that comprise the Plaza Blocks which are bounded by Third and Fourth Avenues and Salmon and Madison Streets. The south square is named for former Iowa territorial legislator and native Virginian William Williams Chapman (1808–1892) who arrived in Portland in 1850. An attorney with business interests, he also served as surveyor general of Oregon. In 1870, he sold this portion of his land claim to the city. The north square is named for Kentuckian Daniel H. Lowndale, who settled in Portland in 1845 when there were fewer than 800 people living in the city.



The Plaza Blocks were lively places where orators held forth and citizens assembled. They are characterized in part by several large old elms and ginkgo trees. Chapman Square, originally designed for the exclusive use of women and children, features all female ginkgo trees. Lowndale Square was to be the “gentlemen’s gathering place.” Today the Plaza Blocks are still a busy gathering place, although men and women can now safely coexist in both of them.

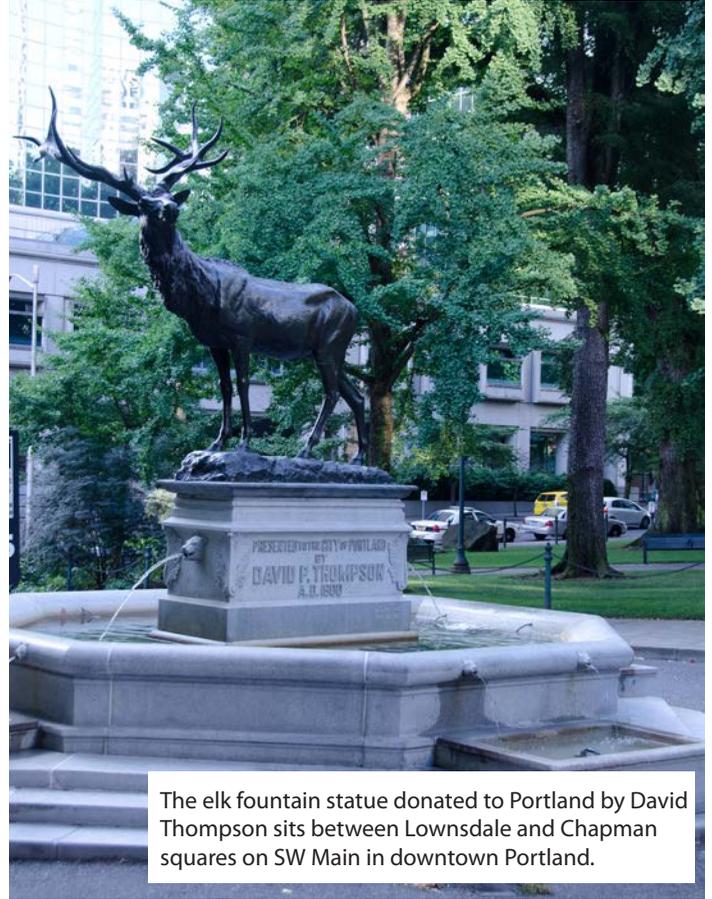
In Chapman Square is a bronze statue commissioned by the Oregon Trail Coordinating Council to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Oregon Trail in 1993. The Promised Land, by Oregon artist David Manuel, depicts a pioneer family—father, mother, and son—at the end of their journey. The red granite slab upon which the statue is mounted is inscribed with a quote by Thomas Jefferson. The plaza in front of the statue is sandblasted with footprints reminiscent of pre-settlement days: jackrabbit, black bear, porcupine, grouse, coyote, elk, and moccasin prints.

Between the two Plaza Blocks, Main Street curves around the second oldest sculpture in the Portland metro area—a huge elk fountain given to the city by David P. Thompson.

Thompson arrived in Portland driving sheep over the Oregon Trail. Thompson served as Portland's mayor from 1879–1882. One day he looked out of the office window in his New Market Building at the Skidmore Fountain and decided that he wanted to dedicate a fountain to the city as well. As founder and director of the Oregon Humane Society, Thompson's vision for the sculpture was to provide an accessible watering place for "bird, beast, and human."

He commissioned Roland Hinton Perry, whose work adorns the Library of Congress and the dome of the Pennsylvania state capitol, to create the sculpture. Local architect H.G. Wright designed the stone base of eastern granite, which included drinking troughs for horses and dogs. In 1900, the 3,000-pound bronze fountain was placed in a site that was a former feeding ground for elk that wandered down from the west hills of the city. The Exalted Order of Elks refused to dedicate it because they considered the statue "a monstrosity of art."

Many have tried to have Thompson's elk removed because they considered it a traffic obstacle, but the statue remains. In 1974, after a debate about disturbing the blocks in order to complement the then-new General Services Building, Thompson's elk and the Plaza Blocks were designated as Historic Landmarks. ♦



The elk fountain statue donated to Portland by David Thompson sits between Lownsdale and Chapman squares on SW Main in downtown Portland.

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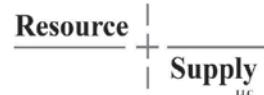
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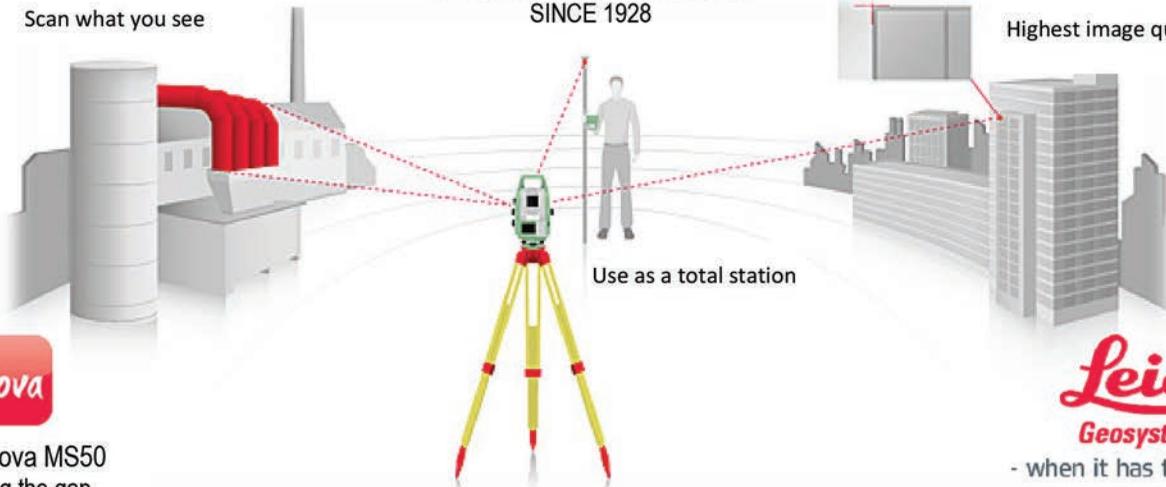
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