

Chapter News

Volume 5, Issue 1

February 26, 2000

Famous Quotations:

- **Booker T. Washington:**
Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles that one overcome while trying to succeed.
- **Anonymous:**
There is not a right way to do a wrong thing.
- **Ralph Waldo Emerson:**
The end of the human race will be that it will eventually die of civilization.
- **Benjamin Franklin:**
Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.
- **George Eliot:**
An election is coming. Universal peace is declared, and the foxes have a sincere interest in prolonging the lives of the poultry.
- **Albert Einstein:**
Put your hand on a hot stove for a minute, and it seems like an hour. Sit with a pretty girl for an hour, and it seems like a minute. That's relativity!

1st Quarter Chapter Meeting Held in Beaumont

By Richard L. Worthey (email: rworthey@wortech.com)

The chapter held its first quarterly meeting of the new millennium on January 18th at the Beaumont Civic Center. The meeting was the first joint meeting of the surveying chapter with area engineering societies. Scheduled to coincide with the kick-off of the year commemorating the Spindletop Centennial Celebration, the theme was "Spindletop - Preserving the Heritage".



A large crowd listens to historian JoAnn Stiles at the Beaumont Civic Center. (Photo by Johnny Rodriguez Photography)

Free self-guided tours at the Texas Energy Museum began at 6:00 p.m. followed by a reception at the Beaumont Civic Center that began at 6:15 p.m. Over 170 people attended the dinner and listened to guest speaker, JoAnn Stiles of Lamar University present the history of Spindletop oil field and Lucas Gusher.

Special guests included TSPS President Pat Smith of Austin along with President-elect Dennis Walker of Tyler. Beaumont Mayor David Moore attended and was recognized by Chapter President Lequin Hildebrand. Other guests include Jim Rich and Tanzy Duncan of the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce and Laurie Leister of the Spindletop 2001 Commission.

The meeting was open to members and their guests of the following professional associations: *Texas Society of Professional Surveyors, National Soci-*
(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

<i>Joint Society Meeting Held</i>	1
<i>President's Column</i>	1
<i>TSPS Board Report</i>	3
<i>Chapter Gets Media Attention</i>	4
<i>Scholarships Announced</i>	5
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	6

President's Column

By Lequin Hildebrand (email: lequin.hilderbrand@lpcorp.com)

Super Tuesday. Black Friday. Friday the 13th. What do these three dates have in common. I don't know but it can't be good.

Being in the political year that we are, I find myself pondering candidates and parties, and wondering if it really matters. Considering the timing, I found

myself reminded of a trip of mine to Palm Springs. Sitting across the aisle of the plane from where I sat was Jim Wright. We exchanged how do you do's, followed by some general conversation. We then nestled into our journey and began working on our respective business matters.

(Continued on page 2)

Spindletop Preserving the Heritage

(Continued from page 1)

ety of Professional Surveyors, American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Society of Petroleum Engineers, Instrument Society of America, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, Texas Society of Professional Engineers, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and the Institute of Electrical and

Electronics Engineers.

Door prizes were given away to lucky attendees after the meeting. The prizes included a Magellan handheld GPS unit donated by Carroll and Blackman, Inc.; a Hewlett-Packard 48GX donated by WORTECH Land Surveyors, Inc.; a highly prized fishing rod and reel combination donated by Access Surveyors, Inc.; as well as replicas of the commemorative

brass disc set at the site of the Lucas No.1 gusher, to name just a few of the prizes.

The reception gave the surveyors an opportunity to display antique surveying equipment and maps that generated a lot of interest in the engineers. The meeting was a huge success in terms of attendance and public relations. Thanks to all those who volunteered.

President's Column

(Continued from page 1)

As we exited the plane, the pilot stepped out to shake the hand of Mr. Wright and express his wishes for a successful trip. The pilot turned to the flight attendant and stated, That was Jim Wright, our Speaker of the House. The flight attendant asked Whose house?

About five years ago I was in the office of an attorney friend of mine when he receives a rather important telephone call. On the other end was President Clinton. The President was calling upon my acquaintance to undertake a fairly serious challenge. The attorney says, I'll have to get back with you Mr. President. I just don't have the time right now.

More recently, I was on a flight from Houston to Washington, D. C., and seated about eight rows in front of me was former President George Bush. Ironically, we flew out of George Bush Intercontinental Airport headed for Ronald Reagan International Airport. Of course, there was a dozen security

persons between President Bush and me, unlike my unencumbered trip with Mr. Wright. I observed a flight attendant whispering in the ear of the President. He shook his head no and I thought to myself, what a guy. The flight attendant continued down the aisle of the plane, stopping at each seat and repeating her whispering session. At long last, she reached my seat. She softly leaned towards me and whispered in my ear, Have you got change for a hundred? I gladly obliged her to which she turned toward the front of the plane and said, rather loudly, don't worry George, we've got it covered.

I shared these stories to remind each of us that we, as professionals, must use not only the most advanced technological tools available to us but to also use all of the political tools that are available. As I have shared in the past few months, TSPS has called upon its membership to collectively raise \$30,000.00 per year for our SURPAC mission, our political tool. To a chapter, that is about \$1,500.00; to a member that

is about \$12.00. Not a significant amount of money at all when realizing the benefits our respective places of business receive. So when the SURPAC hat passes through our next two or three meetings please consider the most generous donation possible. And, like me, if you ever wonder if it really matters, you can rest assured that it does.

Unlike the first experience above, we do not have to know who our political leaders are as TSPS has people and personnel in place to make the calls and knock on doors. Further, and also unlike the second example, we should heed the call or make the time if we are asked to give back. Lastly, bring your hundred-dollar bill; I'll make change.



TSPS Board Report

By Richard L. Worthey, Chapter Representative

The Texas Society of Professional Surveyors held their 1st Quarter Board of Directors Meeting, February 12th, in Austin. For those of you who have never attended one of these meetings, it might be good for me to first take you through the schedule.

The Executive Committee, comprised of the elected officers along with the Executive Director and the Past President of TSPS, meet the Friday evening before the board meeting to discuss financial matters including the budget, committee activities and any other important issues concerning the society. The "EXCOM" works closely with the President and the Executive Director of TSPS and has the oversight of the day to day operations of the society

There are other committees that sometimes meet on Friday evening as well because of time constraints or conflicts with the schedules of members and the different committees they may serve on. Otherwise, committees begin meetings very early on Saturday morning. The chair of these committees will give a report on their activities as well as inform the board of any important matters or issues affecting the society at the board meeting later that day.

The Chapter President's Forum meets at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday to discuss issues that are important to the individual chapter and their members. This forum is relatively new and we are already seeing positive results.

A major project underway is the creation of web sites that will link to each chapter as well as the

state's web site. The purpose is to give the membership a tool for better communication throughout the state. Proposals were presented by two webpage design firms at this past forum. TSPS President Pat Smith is committed to having this project completed by end of this year. You will be hearing more about this later on.

The Chapter President's Brunch follows the forum and committee meetings at 11:00 a.m. The brunch is usually attended by all of the chapter presidents, chapter representatives, area representatives, as well as the officers and directors of TSPS. It gives each chapter the opportunity to share with the others the activities that are going on within their respective chapters.

The board meeting follows at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will begin with the call to order by the president, followed by the invocation and roll call. The president may then offer his opening remarks.

The secretary-treasurer will then give the financial report followed by the minutes of the previous meeting. This is then followed by reports from the executive director, TSPS legal counsel, and the executive committee.

The meeting then proceeds to hear from the various divisions and committee reports mentioned earlier. The highlights of this quarter's board meeting are as follows:

TSPS Legal Counsel

1. Plats must accompany drilling permit applications.

2. TSPS has been placed on Interested Party list with the Railroad Commission.
3. It was also reported that it is imperative that the society builds its Surpac fund in anticipation of the next legislative session. The society has finally gotten the attention of lawmakers, but will need the funds to get important bills passed.
4. Texas Department of Insurance took no action on the title policy deletion issue that, if implemented, will effectively do away with the need for a number of title surveys. TSPS is scheduled to meet with department official soon to discuss our concerns.

Society Affairs Division

Governmental Affairs - this committee is in the planning and development stage for issues to be presented during the next legislative session. Issues that the committee is planning to pursue are sale tax exemptions, hazardous facilities (pipelines) location, and creation of the Institute of Surveying Sciences at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi.

Education Division

Education - this committee is working on the development and implementation of an updated curriculum for professional seminars, paraprofessional seminars and certification, professional specialty certification and development of a pool of instructors.

Liaison Division

Registration and Practices/

(Continued on page 4)

TSPS Board Report

(Continued from page 3)

TBPLS - reported that the Governor appointed four new members to the TBPLS and selected TSPS member Raul Wong as Chair. Also reported are several new rules concerning easements and construction estimates and prohibited competitive bidding of surveying services for governmental entities.

Geographic Information Systems - this committee is working with the education committee to develop seminars on GIS. They are also working on a set of standards and specifications that may be included in the Manual of Practice.

Texas Assoc. of Counties - the liaison reported that a bill will be introduced by TAOC to eliminate all county surveyors in Texas.

Membership Division

Publications - Metes & Bounds to go totally Internet based in the near future. This move will coincide with the chapter web site project and is designed to help reduce cost in light of decreasing revenues and a desire to keep dues to a minimum.

Administrative Affairs Division

Budget and Finance - Secretary Treasurer Harlon Pickett

presented the annual budget, which for the first time in a number of years shows a positive balance. This in spite of steadily decreasing revenues that the society has been experiencing. Of course this budget also reflects the dues increase that is scheduled for next year.

New Business

Corpus Christi was selected to be the site of the TSPS 2002 convention.

I hope to have a more detailed look at the divisions and committees in my next report along with any developments from the TSPS Board.

Area Surveyors Combine Old and New Skills to Relocate First Oil Gusher, Lucas No. 1

This is the News Release issued by the Spindletop 2001 Commission at a press conference held February 23rd at Gladys City Museum.

Using skills of a bygone era and the latest space-age technology, a team of area surveyors joined forces to officially locate the Lucas No. 1 gusher well site, marking the first phase of the Spindletop Commission 2001 project of establishing a permanent viewing platform near the original well site.

Finding the original well site again led searchers along a path with as many twists and turns as bringing in the well the first time at Spindletop. After decades of discussion, conflicting documentation and more hazy recollections than actual survey meas-

urements, the certainty of the exact well site had grown, well, uncertain.

In the 1940s, an aging Pattilo Higgins was asked to point out the site for the placement of a historical marker. Many felt that he did not get it exactly right. In the 1950s, sulfur was mined from the Spindletop Hill resulting in its subsidence into a small marshy lake and the removal of the historical marker.

When talk of Spindletop's 100th anniversary began more than a year ago, two groups determined to locate the Lucas Gusher No. 1, the Deep East Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors (TSPS), headed by Joe Breaux, and the South Park Home Owners Association.

"Without the determined effort and expertise of these 20 volunteers, donating both the historical research and the actual surveying, the original well site would still be a mystery, related Laurie Hall Leister, Spindletop 2001 commissioner and project chairman.

Just as when drilling for oil, promising leads came up dry as TSPS chapter members Darrell Shine and Nedra Foster pieced together the historical information and documents.

"We used the first known map of Spindletop made by surveyor L.J. Kopke in 1902, field books by W. F. Daniel from the 1940s in the archives of BP/Amoco Oil Com-

(Continued on page 5)

Following in the Footsteps of Original Surveyors

(Continued from page 4)

pany in Houston, old surveyor field notes, a Gulf Oil map from the '20s, Railroad Commission documents and hours of research to make the determination," said Foster of their research journey.

By scanning the old maps into a computer, all in the same scale between known points and layering the various deed maps, Lucas Gusher No. 1 fell within five feet of the original location on the Kopke map. This location is also on the old foundation where a monument was placed in 1941 during the Spindletop 40th Anniversary.

The combination of old surveying methods and today's high-tech instruments were used in the field. Armed with the location of Lucas Gusher No. 2 data and maps, the volunteer surveyors used Global Positioning System (GPS) to calculate the exact position.

The local chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors placed a commemorative brass disc to make the well site. The marker was designed by Foster, and replicas are available through the survey society. Future plans include either a flagpole or derrick to also be added at the well site.

Additional survey filed work included topographic and boundary survey work for the viewing site, access road easements, monument site easement and viewing site easement.

Those donating their time, resources and equipment were volunteers from Wortech Land Surveyors including Richard Worthey, Nigel Poll, Rod Harrington, Robert W. Sutton II and J.L.

Sims; from Access Surveyors, Joe Dorsey and Mitch Brackin; John Cannatella, Jefferson County engineer; from Shine and Johnston, Darrell Shine and Nedra Foster; from Carroll and Blackman, Jack Meaut, Kevin Springfield, Blaine Josey and Steve Boucher; from Smithcorp, Sam Smith and from the Texas Department of Transportation, W.J. (Joe) Breaux.

"The second phase of this project will be the platform area providing a direct view of the well site. Due to restricted access, the area is still in active oil production, visitors will not be able to go directly to the well site. However, the viewing platform will include outdoor exhibits providing a geological and social interpretation of the Spindletop story," Leister explained.

Access to the site two miles south of the Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum will be from the east side of West Port Arthur Road, the viewing platform will handicap-accessible, well lighted and landscaped. The Lucas Gusher No. 1 platform is one of the permanent

commemorative designations the Spindletop 2001 Commission has undertaken. Others include improvements and additions to the Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum.

"Being able to see the site of the Lucas Gusher No. 1 completes the Spindletop experience for visitors to the area. It will tie the history of the Gladys City Museum and the Texas Energy Museum together," said Janice Trammell, Spindletop 2001 commissioner and executive director of Continuing Education at Lamar University.

"Like the Spindletop commission, this project has been a grassroots effort from the very beginning- community members volunteering their time and effort to an activity that will greatly enrich the community," said Evelyn Lord, chairman of the statewide Spindletop 2001 Commission.

See the News section of the chapter webpage for reprints of the articles published in the Houston Chronicle and Beaumont Enterprise concerning this project.

Scholarships Announced for Area Surveyors and Students

The Chapter Board of Directors met in December and elected to grant scholarships totaling \$2500 each year. Two scholarships of \$500 each will be awarded to chapter members for attending the Technicians Short Courses. Three additional scholarships of \$500 each will be awarded to college students.

Guidelines and applications are currently in development for these scholarships. However, any current chapter member who wishes to

apply for a \$500 scholarship to attend the next short course, may send a letter of request to:

Lequin Hilderbrand
Manager - Land & Titles
Louisiana-Pacific Corp
E-Mail: Lequin.
Hilderbrand@LPCorp.com

The letter should list your current membership status, employment status, and work history along with planned career goals. Deadline for submission is March 7, 2000.

**TEXAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS
DEEP EAST TEXAS CHAPTER NO. 6**

P.O. Box 20815
Beaumont, Texas 77720

Phone: 409-866-9769
Fax: 409-866-7075
Email: surveyor@tsps-6.org



Sighting on 2000



Calendar of Events

March 19 - 26; Texas Surveyors Week

March 9; Chapter Board Meeting

To be held at the Red Onion in Lumberton. Lunch meeting begins at 11:45 AM. This meeting has been rescheduled from the previously announced date of April 13th due to timing of some important issues that need to be resolved.

April 22; Technician's Certification Exam

Deadline for application is March 2nd. Contact Joe Breaux for details.

May 27; Chapter Quarterly Meeting

This will be a joint meeting with Chapter 8 of Lufkin area. We will meet Saturday, May 27, at 4:00 at the Catfish Cabin on Highway 96 North in Jasper. Pat Smith will be our guest. We will also use this opportunity to attract our surveying brethren from the outlying areas of our respective chapters. Should be a lot of fun.

June 2-3; TSPS Board Meeting

Omni Southpark - Austin, Texas

June 9-10; Annual Heart of the Big Thicket "Gradient Boundary" Seminar

Field exercise at Village Creek State Park - Silsbee, TX. Classroom and hotel accommodations at the Hilton Hotel on IH-10 in Beaumont.

June 29; Chapter Board Meeting

To be held at China Border Restaurant in Beaumont. Lunch meeting begins at 11:45 AM.

July 13; Chapter Quarterly Meeting

To be held at Hoffbrau Restaurant in Beaumont. Meeting begins at 6:00 PM.

July 23-28; SURVEYING II

Advanced Short Course to be held at Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

August 4-5; TSPS Board Meeting

Omni Southpark - Austin, Texas

August 10; Chapter Board Meeting

To be held at J&J Steakhouse in Beaumont.

Lunch meeting begins at 11:30 AM.

September 1; Election of Chapter Officers

Election of officers for 1999. Ballots mailed out to members August 10th. Must be received by September 1st. New officers to be announced in September newsletter.

September 18; Chapter Annual Meeting

To be held at the Post Oak Grill on IH-10 in Beaumont. Social begins at 6:00 PM. Meeting begins at 6:30 PM.

October 7; Annual Chapter Sporting Clays Shooting Event

To be held at the 100-in-1 Gun Club on Hwy. 421 in Lumberton. *Details to be Announced.*

October 18-21; TSPS Annual Convention

Austin, Texas

December 7; Chapter Board of Directors Meeting

Details to be Announced.