

# Chapter News

Volume 5, Issue 4

November 15, 2000

**Famous Quotations:**

- **Coach Mike Deane:**  
Show me a man who says his marriage is a 50/50 union, and I'll show you a man who neither understands women nor fractions.
- **Mark Twain:**  
It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them.
- **Thomas Jefferson:**  
The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground.
- **Will Rogers:**  
The minute you read something you can't understand, you can almost be sure it was drawn up by a lawyer.
- **Yogi Berra:**  
You can observe a lot by just watching.

## Abraham Lincoln, Deputy County Surveyor

Born on Feb. 12, 1809 in a one-room log cabin on Nolin Creek in Kentucky, Abraham Lincoln grew up with a passion for reading. Like most frontier children, Lincoln performed chores at an early age, but occasionally he and his sister Sarah attended classes in a log schoolhouse some two miles from home. Still, his formal education during childhood amounted to less than a year total.

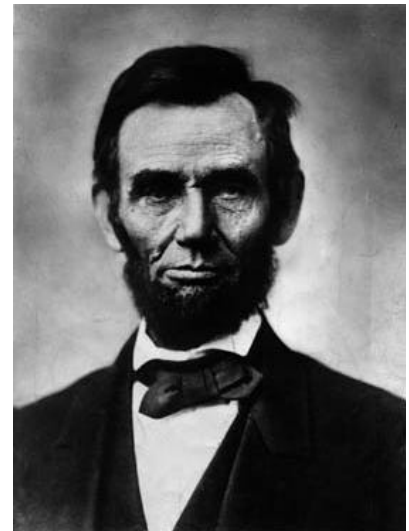
Lincoln's meager education and passion for reading had aroused his desire to learn. Among the many borrowed books he read were Robinson Crusoe, Pilgrim's Progress, Aesop's Fables, William Grimshaw's History of the United States, and Mason Weems' Life of Washington. The Bible was probably the only book his family owned, and his abundant use of scriptural quotations in his later writings shows how earnestly he must have studied it.

In December 1816, the Lincoln family crossed the Ohio River and settled in the backwoods of Indiana. Young Lincoln worked plowing and planting for

hire for neighbors during the spring and summer. He attended school in the fall and winter borrowing books and reading whenever possible.

In March 1830, Lincoln and his family journeyed 200 miles to Illinois where they settled on uncleared land along the Sangamon River, near Decatur. Lincoln hired out to neighbors splitting fence rails after his chores around the

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## President's Column

*By Nedra J. Foster (email: nedrajo@exp.net)*

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you this year. Any "organization" doesn't exist without the members - us - and each one of us is an important part of the whole. I hope you will choose to give that little extra this year to the betterment of our local chapter. We all benefit from

working together.

I was reading one of the "begats" lists from the Bible recently which caused me to ponder how important lineage and heritage were to the people of the Bible. This next year marks the fifty

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## Lincoln The Surveyor

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family farm were finished.

After a brief period of time in New Orleans, Lincoln returned to Illinois where he ran unsuccessfully for the Illinois General Assembly in 1832. He then bought a store on credit which later failed, leaving him deep in debt. Needing a job, Lincoln gladly took an appointment as deputy county surveyor in the autumn of 1833.

John Calhoun the county surveyor, was a man of talent and education. Not only did he give Lincoln the appointment, but lent him the book in which to study the art. By studying all day, and sometimes all night, Lincoln learned surveying in six weeks. He became proficient as a surveyor as witnessed by the plats and field notes signed by him.

Some of his creditors of his failed store began to get uneasy, and in the latter part of 1834 a man named Van Bergen, who held one of the notes, refusing to trust him any longer, had his horse, saddle, and surveying instruments seized by the sheriff and sold at public

auction, thus sweeping away the means by which, as he said, he "procured bread and kept soul and body together."

Even in this strait his known honesty proved his salvation. Out of pure friendliness, James Short bought in the property and gave it back to the young surveyor, allowing him time to repay.

It took Lincoln seventeen years to get rid of his troublesome debt, the last installment not being paid until after his return from his term of service in Congress at Washington; but it was these seventeen years of industry, rigid economy, and unflinching fidelity to his promises that earned for him the title of "Honest Old Abe," which proved of such inestimable value to himself and his country.

Lincoln continued in surveying until 1836 when he left this field to continue studying law and to spend more time in politics. His surveying background paid him dividends in his legal career as well. In 1859 he was called upon

to render a decision on how the section was to be legally divided into quarters. The sole reason he was called upon in this case was his surveying experience. There is some evidence also that this background helped him obtain clients concerned with land transactions and mill rights.

Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860, and was thus the Commander-in-Chief of the Union Army during the Civil War. The knowledge of mathematics, map reading and reconnaissance gained while a surveyor no doubt aided him in functioning as Commander-in-Chief, and helped him formulate the plans for the Transcontinental Railroad and westward expansion undertaken while he was in office.

Lincoln stands among several U.S. Presidents in American history who were surveyors. The principles for which he and the others stood are part of the heritage of our proud and noble profession.



## President's Column (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

year anniversary for Texas Surveyor's Association (now TSPS). A prime opportunity for us to consider our own lineage and heritage – and what a rich one it is! It's always wise to look back at where you came from before you begin to navigate forward into the unknown. The state organization will be looking back at the founders and their vision for the surveyors of the state.

It's also an appropriate time for each of us to look back (or in some cases, beside) to the mentors that helped us move forward in the process of becoming surveyors. No one ever arrives at registration alone. Each one of us has had people willing to invest in our lives and our careers. Take the time to write a note or give a word of appreciation to the ones who helped you along.

We're having a Christmas party!! Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Darrell Shine, 220 West Avenue P in Silsbee. There will be musical entertainment (some homegrown....rumors of a karioke (sp?) machine). I'm really looking forward to this event – oughta be a hoot! Please make the effort to be there – could be the highlight of your holiday season.

## Annual Sporting Clays Event Held in Lumberton

The chapter held its Fourth Annual Sporting Clays Shooting Event at the 100-in-1 Gun Club in Lumberton on October 7<sup>th</sup>. There were many of the area surveying companies represented with a total of eighteen shooters taking part in this exciting and fun filled event. The weather was great, although the windy conditions made hitting the clay pigeons a little more challenging.

First place went to Robert Sutton with a total 33 points out of a possible 50 scored. Mitch Brackin took second place with a score of 29. Bringing home the third place prize was Clint Rawlings with 26 clays scored. Winners received plaques and very nice prizes donated by area sporting good stores.

All participants received many goodies donated by area sponsors. No one went away empty handed!

Capping off the event was a BBQ lunch featuring Ana Romano's smoked chicken. Brady Giroud's helping received special treatment from Ana to ensure his taste buds were satisfied to his liking (you had to have been there to understand, folks!).

A special thanks to all of the following sponsors for making this Millenium Shoot a great success: *Academy Sporting Goods, Access Surveyors, Ace Roofing Supplies, All Seasons Pool and Spas, Bar B Western*

*Store, Benningan's, Burrs Bar-B-Que, Cajun Cookery, Circle M Feed Store, Cowboy Harley Davidson, Golden Triangle Cycle Center, The Horseman Store, Lumberton Farmers Market, Lumberton Specialties, Oasis Car Wash, Olive Garden, Orange County Building Materials, Oshman's Sporting Goods, Pittsburgh Paints, T-Shirt Junction, Trike Town USA, Transit and Level Clinic, Whites Blue Print.* We look forward to visiting these merchants in the years to come.

A very special thanks to Mitch Brackin and Ana Romano for their tremendous effort in putting this event together.

## Minutes of Meeting

The chapter held its Annual Member's Meeting September 18<sup>th</sup> at Don's Seafood and Steakhouse in Beaumont. Twenty-two members and their guests were present to hear TSPS President Pat Smith of Austin. Of special interest to members was an update on the status of the proposed title insurance rules pending before the state insurance commission and the results of the efforts of TSPS to block the changes.

Outgoing Chapter President Lequin Hilderbrand presided. Before passing the gavel to incoming President Nedra Foster, he reflected on the accomplishments of the chapter over the past year. He presented special presidential awards to a couple of chapter members for their valuable assistance and guidance during his tenure. He also recognized those who have served in the various offices or otherwise contributed to the chapter during the past year with

special certificate of appreciation plaques.

TSPS President Pat Smith then installed the following new chapter officers for 2001:

- President - Nedra Foster, RPLS, LSLs
- Vice President - Steve Butz, RPLS
- Secretary Treasurer - W. Joe Breaux, RPLS
- Director - James Verrett, RPLS (2 year term)
- Director - Jack Meaut, SI (2 year term)
- Chapter Representative - Lequin Hilderbrand

(Director John Cannatella and Steve Boucher have 1 year remaining on their terms.) The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

### AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

**SEMINAR COORDINATOR SOUGHT** – The decision was made to again have a chapter sponsored seminar in our area in August 2001. This seminar is a vital part of our chapter activities as it provides local surveyors an excellent opportunity to satisfy their educational requirements for licensure, while at the same time funding the chapter's scholarship program.

Someone needs to step up to be the GO TO PERSON for this endeavor. Mostly involves organization and attention to detail – staying on top of things! You will not be left hanging out to dry! Ones who have taken this responsibility before will give you help and advice. If you've thought you might have some extra time to give to the chapter, this is your chance to make a very important contribution.

Contact Nedra Foster at 385-5266 or Richard Worthey at 866-9769.

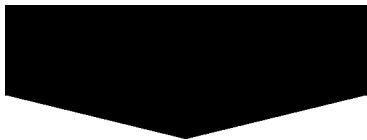
**TEXAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS -  
DEEP EAST TEXAS CHAPTER NO. 6**

P.O. Box 20815  
Beaumont, Texas 77720

Phone: 409-866-9769  
Fax: 409-866-7075  
Email: surveyor@tsp6.org



*Sighting on 2001*



## Calendar of Events

**November 15-16; Southeast Texas Career Fair**

Career Fair targeting high school students at the Beaumont Civic Center from 8 AM. – 2 PM. Wednesday and Thursday. Contact Lequin Hilderbrand (409-385-5201).

**December 9; Boundary Retracement Seminar**

Presented by D. D. Shine and Nedra Foster at the University of Texas at Tyler. For information please contact Joey Stanger at 903-534-0174 or email: joey@stangercorp.com

**December 12; Chapter Christmas Party**

Dinner and festivities at the home of Darrell D. Shine, 220 West Avenue P in Silsbee beginning at 6:30 PM. 409-385-4250 (home) 409-385-5266 (office). Musical entertainment. 'Tis the season.

**January 4; Quarterly Chapter Members Meeting**

To be held at the Spindletop/Gladys City Boomtown Museum SALOON. Dinner meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. Program and details to be announced. This is your chance for this hundred years to celebrate this most significant local event.

**January 21-26; SURVEYING I - The Basic Course**

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Texas. Sponsored by TSPS and TAMU-CC. Chapter scholarships available. Contact Lequin Hilderbrand or Nedra Foster.

**February 6; Quarterly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**

Details to be announced.

**March; Quarterly Chapter Members Meeting**

Details to be announced.

**April; Quarterly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**

Details to be announced.

**June; Quarterly Chapter Members Meeting**

Details to be announced.

**July; SURVEYING II - The Advanced Course**

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Texas. Sponsored by TSPS and TAMU-CC. Chapter scholarships available. Contact Lequin Hilderbrand or Nedra Foster.

**July; Quarterly Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**

Details to be announced.

**August 25; Fourth Annual Heart of the Big Thicket Seminar**

Local chapter sponsored seminar. Time, topic, speaker, and place to be announced.

**September 1; Election of Chapter Officers**

Election of officers for 2001. Ballots mailed out to members August 15th. Must be received by September 1st. New officers to be announced in September newsletter.

**September 10; Annual Chapter Members Meeting**

Date Tentative. Details to be announced. Installation of Officers.

**October; Annual TSPS Members Meeting**

State TSPS convention in Galveston.

**October 14; 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.*