

Chapter News

Volume 4, Issue 4

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Famous Quotations:

- **Robert Frost:**
In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: *It goes on.*
- **Helen Keller:**
The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.
- **Anonymous:**
Pain is inevitable. Suffering is optional.
- **Ralph Waldo Emerson:**
Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising up every time we fail.
- **Thomas Jefferson:**
The advantage of public opinion is like that of the weather-gauge in a naval action.
- **Eleanor Roosevelt:**
No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.
- **Ernest Hemingway:**
Most people never listen.

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Y2K !



The economy continues to move at a strong pace in the United States. However, many corporations find that further cutbacks are necessary to remain healthy in the fiercely competitive global market. Sad to say, even Santa Claus is beginning to feel the pinch.



It has been learned recently that a new policy is being implemented to help streamline by the Board of Directors at North Pole Industries to head off potential losses and possible labor lawsuits. The following memo was leaked to the press and is being presented in its entirety:

Effective immediately, the following economizing measures are being implemented in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" subsidiary:

- 1)The partridge will be retained, but the pear tree, which never produced the cash crop forecasted, will be replaced by a plastic hanging plant, providing considerable savings in maintenance;
- 2)Two turtledoves represent a redundancy that is simply not cost effective. In addition, their romance during working hours could not be condoned. The positions are,

FAA Issues Santa Clearance for Christmas Flight

Santa Claus, like all pilots, gets regular visits from the Federal Aviation Administration, and it was shortly before Christmas when the FAA examiner arrived. In preparation, Santa had the elves wash the sled and bathe all the reindeer. Santa got his logbook out and made sure all his paperwork was in order.

The FAA examiner walked slowly around the sled. He checked the reindeer harnesses, the landing gear, and Rudolf's nose. He painstakingly reviewed Santa's weight and balance calculations for the sled's enormous payload.

Finally, they were ready for the check-ride. Santa got in, fastened his seatbelt and shoulder harness, and checked the compass. Then the examiner hopped in carrying, to Santa's surprise, a shotgun.

"What's that for?" asked Santa incredulously. The examiner winked and said, "I'm not supposed to tell you this, but you're gonna lose an engine on takeoff."

(Courtesy of santaclaus.com)

- therefore, eliminated;
- 3)The three French hens will remain intact. After all, everyone loves the French;
- 4)The four calling birds will be re-

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A Christmas Story

(Continued from page 1)

- placed by an automated voice mail system, with a call waiting option. An analysis is underway to determine who the birds have been calling, how often and how long they talked;
- 5) The five golden rings have been put on hold by the Board of Directors. Maintaining a portfolio based on one commodity could have negative implications for institutional investors. Diversification into other precious metals, as well as a mix of T-Bills and high technology stocks, appear to be in order;
- 6) The six geese-a-laying constitutes a luxury, which can no longer be afforded. It has long been felt that the production rate of one egg per goose per day was an example of the general decline in productivity. Three geese will be let go, and an upgrading in the selection procedure by personnel will assure management that, from now on, every goose it gets will be a good one;
- 7) The seven swans-a-swimming is obviously a number chosen in better times. The function is primarily decorative. Mechanical swans are on order. The

current swans will be re-trained to learn some new strokes, thereby enhancing their outplacement;

- 8) As you know, the eight maids-a-milking concept has been under heavy scrutiny by the EEOC. A male/female balance in the workforce is being sought. The more militant maids consider this a dead-end job with no upward mobility. Automation of the process may permit the maids to try a-mending, a-mentoring or a-mulching;
- 9) Nine ladies dancing have always been an odd number. This function will be phased out as these individuals grow older and can no longer do the steps;
- 10) Ten Lords-a-leaping is overkill. The high cost of Lords, plus the expense of international air travel, prompted the Compensation Committee to suggest replacing this group with ten out-of-work congressmen. While leaping ability may be somewhat sacrificed, the savings are significant as we expect an oversupply of unemployed congressmen this year;

- 11) Eleven pipers piping and twelve drummers drumming is a simple case of the band getting too big. A substitution with a string quartet, a cutback on new music, and no uniforms, will produce savings which will drop right to the bottom line;

Overall we can expect a substantial reduction in assorted people, fowl, animals and related expenses. Though incomplete, studies indicate that stretching deliveries over twelve days is inefficient. If we can drop ship in one day, service levels will be improved.

Regarding the lawsuit filed by the attorney's association seeking expansion to include the legal profession ("thirteen lawyers-a-suing"), a decision is pending.

Deeper cuts may be necessary in the future to remain competitive. Should that happen, the Board will request management to scrutinize the Snow White Division to see if seven dwarfs is the right number.

Submitted by: Meridee Mannino-Phistry
(Courtesy of www.santaclaus.com)

Member s Limelight

Congratulations to chapter members Bryan Gunter, Rodney Harrington and Bart Burrell on their successful passing of the fall Technician s Certification Exam held in November.

A total 15 people took the exam statewide with 93% passing. A total 90 people took the exams in April with a resulting 44% passing rate. The next exams will be held some-

time in the Spring of 2000.

Congratulations are also in order for the area s newest Registered Professional Land Surveyor, Nedra Jo Foster (RPLS# 5502) of Silsbee. Nedra was one of 26 applicants successfully passing the state exam.

By the way, ask Darrell Shine (RPLS # 502) how Nedra got that

special number the next time you see him.



Spindletop Preserving the Heritage

The Deep East Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors is hosting a joint meeting of area professional surveying and engineering societies to kickoff the Spindletop Centennial Celebration year. The theme of the event is "Spindletop - Preserving the Heritage".

The event will be held at the Beaumont Civic Center on the evening of January 18, 2000. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. followed by a presentation on "The History of Spindletop" by guest speaker JoAnn Stiles from Lamar University.

The dinner will be preceded by tours of the Texas Energy Museum from 6:00 p.m. until 7:15 p.m. Staff will be on hand to assist and answer questions. Volunteer members will be on hand to greet attendees and have them sign the guest register.

A reception at the Civic Center will begin at 6:15 p.m. A cash bar will be available with hors d'oeu-

vres, ice tea, and coffee provided courtesy of Saladin Pumps.

With Spindletop circa 1901 being the theme, western wear is the attire for the evening. The dinner menu reflects the theme as well with members dining on:

- jalapeno potato salad or sweet & sour coleslaw
- best of the border brisket or pairie chicken breast
- cajun rice dressing
- southern style baked beans
- catus jack biscuits
- jalapeno corn muffins
- fruit cobblers
- freshly brewed coffee
- ice tea

Cost of the event is \$15.00 per person for members and their guests, payable at the door. Reservations are required. The museum tours are free.

There are numerous door prizes that will be given away including a HP48GX handheld calculator and a Magellan handheld GPS unit.

Other surprises await you at the event.

The evening promises to be a very special time for the Chapter and its members and one that you definitely will not want to miss. It is hoped that we will all come away from this event with a better understanding of the impact that Spindletop has made on all of our lives as well as the role all our professions play in this industry. We also hope to establish lines of communications with each society and thereby foster a better relationship. And of course, get the word out to the public about what we are doing.

We are expecting a large turnout with various members of the news media as well as local dignitaries attending. Please make sure to get your get your reservations early by returning the enclosed form as soon as possible. The deadline for reservations is January 7, 2000.

See you there in 2000!

Sporting Clays Event Held

The Chapter held its third annual sporting clays shoot on October 23rd at the 100-in-1 Gun Club in Lumberton, Texas. Once again the exciting format included 3 pairs shot at the Wobble Trap, 3 pairs of Skeet Doubles, four pairs shot at the Duck Pond, four pairs of Decoying Ducks, four pairs of Wild Quail, four pairs of Crow Crossings, and 3 pairs of Turbo Rabbits.

Fifteen shooters from area surveying companies participated in this popular event. Awards were given to Ron Davis (Transit

& Level Clinic) for a 1st Place score of 39; Jack Meaut (Carroll & Blackman, Inc.) took 2nd Place with a score of 30; Brady Girouard and Brian Gunter (both of Arceneaux & Gates) tied for 3rd Place with a scores of 29 each.

Once again, Mitch Brackin's gun broke. This time, Joe Dorsey was out of town and unable to compete, so everyone else had a chance to win.

Participants received prizes courtesy of the sponsors; *Academy, Leica, Transit and Level Clinic,*

Bar-B Western Store, Classic Clippers, Golden Corral, Golden Triangle Cycle Center, H.E.B., the Horseman Store, Lumberton Specialties, Novrozsky's, Office Depot, Rod & Reel Doctors, Young's Printing and White Blue Print. Proceeds of the event went to the Texas Surveyors Foundation, Inc. fund that grants scholarships to surveying students in Texas.

This event proves to be popular with members every year as evidenced by the growing participation.

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Sighting on 2000



Calendar of Events

January 18; Chapter Quarterly Meeting

Joint professional societies meeting "Spindletop - Preserving the Heritage" at the Beaumont Civic Center. Reception and museum tours begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be JoAnn Stiles of Lamar University.

January 23-28; Surveying I, Basic Short Course

February 11-12; TSPS Board Meeting

Omni Southpark Hotel in Austin.

April 13; Chapter Board of Directors Meeting

Lunch meeting begins at 11:45 a.m. at the Red Onion in Lumberton.

May 11; Chapter Quarterly Meeting

To be held at Pappadeaux Restaurant in Beaumont. Reception begins at 6:00 p.m. Speaker to be announced.

June 2-3; TSPS Board Meeting

Omni Southpark Hotel in Austin.

June 9-10; Annual Gradient Boundary Seminar

Tentative. Details to be announced.

June 29; Chapter Board of Directors Meeting

Lunch meeting begins at 11:45 a.m. at the China Border restaurant in Beaumont.

July 13; Chapter Quarterly Meeting

To be held at the Hoffbrau Steakhouse in Beaumont. Reception begins at 6:00 p.m. Speaker to be announced.

nounced.

July 23-28; Surveying II, Advanced Short Course

August 4-5; TSPS Board Meeting

Omni Southpark Hotel in Austin.

August 10; Chapter Board of Directors Meeting

Lunch meeting begins at 11:45 a.m. at J&J Steakhouse in Beaumont.

September 18; Annual Chapter Meeting

To be held at the Post Oak Grill in Beaumont. Reception begins at 6:00 p.m. Speaker to be announced.

October 7; Annual Sporting Clays Shooting Event

Details to be announced