

Volume 16, Number 3

INSIGHTS

Member News of the
SURVEYORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 2011

NOMINATIONS BY PETITION

Candidates for the two positions on the Surveyors Historical Society Board of Directors (SHS/BOD) for the three-year term between the Spring 2012 meeting until the Spring 2015 meeting will be voted on later this year. During the recent Surveyors Rendezvous meeting held near Portsmouth, Ohio; the SHS/BOD accepted the following four members' nominations by committee or petition:

1. Chas Langelan, #550, Maryland
2. Steve Okuley, #904, Ohio
3. Roland Trietsch, #795, Arkansas
4. Duane Weiss, #653, Illinois

If you would like to suggest additional candidates for these two positions, please contact headquarters by November 25th. Ballots and brief biographies of the candidates will be mailed to voting members during the first week of December. Current SHS/BOD members, their terms of office, and contact information is listed on page 15 of the enclosed "Backsights".

REVISED MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Unanimously Approved!

During the 2011 Surveyors Historical Society Membership meeting held during the recent Surveyors Rendezvous unanimous approval was given by the SHS members to combine our membership categories as outlined on the second page of the May 2011 "Insights". The SHS/BOD had been discussing the categories for several meetings, and a couple members had contributed several additional hours work to the subject; but I am always a little surprised by a "unanimous" vote among surveyors. The outside rear cover of the enclosed "Backsights" reflects the simplification of the dues-paying membership categories. The membership fees shown there remain unchanged for the 2012 membership year. The SHS membership year coincides with our fiscal year and the calendar year.

SURVEYORS RENDEZVOUS 2012

Mark your calendar now to attend the Surveyors Rendezvous, September 13, 14, and 15, 2012 in Council Bluffs, Iowa. "It is shaping up to be a three-day event," says Chairman Richard Leu. I agree, it will take at least that much time to "get 'er done". Day One will focus on the 200th anniversary of the General Land Office; Day Two lectures on the surveys for the transcontinental railroad; and Day Three will debate Lewis and Clark surveying.

The city of Council Bluffs, as you probably know, is on the east bank of the Missouri River; and it is near where Lewis and Clark allegedly had their first encounter with "Native Americans". It is a city still on the Missouri River; but since 1805 a bunch of surveyors laid out a railroad through the area (1860's); and a hundred years later another bunch of surveyors made it a crossroad of Interstate Highway 80 (east-west) with Interstate Highway #29 (north-south). Even the Morman surveyors marked their "Cart Trail" through Council Bluffs.

If you are looking at a modern day map of the area, you would find the words "Council Bluffs" in somewhat smaller print adjacent to **Omaha**, Nebraska, which would be in bolder print and west of the Missouri River. Looking at that same map you would notice that most of the roads are running due north and south or due east and west. I think that pattern may have been influenced by another batch of them darn "surveyors" who was a-workin' for the General Land Office. I am told the GLO will be celebratin' their 200th anniversary next year. If we can get them GLO surveyors to show up, maybe they can explain that checkerboard pattern.

The truth is that we will have speakers and tours available about all the above historic surveying events. Details and registration forms for the Surveyors Rendezvous 2012 will be available after the first of the year.

RAILROAD SURVEYOR

I was watching television the other night, and about 8:00 p.m. a commercial appeared showing a modern surveyor at work. I think the ad was for the Norfolk/Southern Railway (?). It reminded me of our profession's long and historic connection with railroads. We will discuss the pre-Civil War survey of the five transcontinental routes at Surveyors Rendezvous 2012; but in the meantime; SHS will be calling attention to the "Railroad Surveyor" by two other methods next year. First when you receive our roster of membership in December; our 2012 annual postcard on the cover will feature an old photograph of railroad surveyors

Secondly, you may want to start a collection of lithographed railroad stock certificates with surveyors depicted in their vignettes.

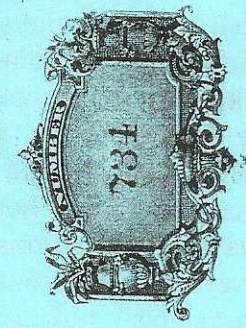
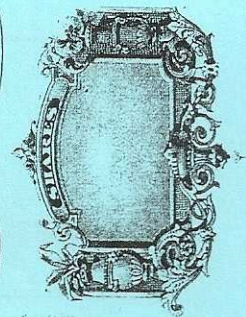
Like most everything, there are "collectors" of cancelled stock certificates; so some can be quite expensive. For instance -- the Keokuk and Des Moines Railway Co. (circa 1880) certificates with a vignette containing a surveyor in the foreground and a railroad bridge in the background typically sells for \$100.

Less rare railroad stock certificates depicting surveyors in action are more moderately priced; and the Surveyors Historic Society has purchased some of them for our membership. If you are interested in starting a collection, more details of their vignettes are on the enclosed order form.

Several railroad museums also have displays of surveying equipment. If you have worked as a railroad surveyor or with a railroad museum on such a display; please contact headquarters about your experience.

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