



PARALLAX

Newsletter of the Central Coast Chapter of the California Land Surveyors Association

Volume 5, Issue 2

February 2001

U.S. Land History, Part VI

Translated from Spanish by Luis G. Zorilla, Archivist.

Provided by Joe Carey, LS, PE, Ret.

This boundary commission's duty included the correction of errors on the Disturnell map, which had served as the basis, in the Treaty, for showing the New Mexico boundary from present day El Paso Texas to Yuma Arizona.

The commission found a solution acceptable to both countries, and even though it was approved by the U.S State Department and Department of the Interior, it was later repudiated by Washington, giving pretext to a new U.S. Government land grab for more Mexican territory, which they later obtained. Indeed Mexico was in no condition to offer any resistance. Thus it was that the Gadsden Agreement ("La Mesilla") was signed Dec 30th 1853 (Cliff Lewis' birthday). Before ratification on April 25, 1854, by the U.S. Senate, it was completely modified, and a new version ratified in an exchange dated June 30, 1855. This Treaty established the border as per Article I of the Gadsden agreement. (The boundary itself was a minor consideration- other documents from my own research show that the U.S. was anxious to be relieved of an erroneous commitment stipulated in Article XI of the Hidalgo Treaty. It required that the U.S. must protect Mexican citizens south of the border from Indian attacks in the "Indian Territory" shown on the Disturnell map. By Article II of the Gadsden agreement, Mexico agreed to forego protection in exchange for ten million dollars, which was paid by the U.S. It appears from verbal reports to me, made by engineers in Jalisco Mexico, to whom I was teaching English in 1994-1995, that President Santa Ana received the money intended for the national treasury, pocketed it himself, and took off for Europe on the next boat. Santa Ana, for all that he had valiantly attacked the Alamo 20 years earlier, with 5000 highly trained Mexican soldiers in front of him is widely known today as the Mexican Judas Iscariot. Bi-cultural people near the border prefer the title: Mexican Benedict Arnold!) Authors footnote.

Continued on Page 4...

LS/LSIT REVIEW CLASSES

The Central Coast Chapter is proud to sponsor a Land Surveyor and Land Surveyor in Training review classes for 2001. The classes will be a review of test subjects presented by local Land Surveyors. You need not be taking the test to enjoy and learn from the classes.

DATE & TIME..... Wednesday nights from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.
First Class will be on February 28 and they will run every week through April 4.

LOCATION..... Conference Room at John L Wallace & Associates
4115 Broad Street Suite B-5- San Luis Obispo
Between Tank Farm Road and the Airport
200 yd. south of Tank farm on west side of Broad Street; 2nd Floor

COST..... \$25.00 made payable to CLSA Central Coast Chapter

REGISTRATION..... Call Tom Mastin at 544-4011 (Ext. 156) by February 16. (If Possible). Leave a message indicating LS or LSIT Class.
Actual registration and payment of fees will be held at the first class.

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FEBRUARY MEETING NOTICE

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2001 Location: A.J. Spurs
 Time:..... 6:30pm.....no-host cocktails Templeton
 7:00pm.....business meeting 508 N. Main Street
 7:15pm.....dinner Dinner: Order from Menu
 8:00pm.....Program & Speaker Cost : Order from Menu

Program:

RTK presentation by John Mueller Geodine Positioning Systems, Inc.

RSVP by Tuesday, February 6th to:

Rochelle Vierra549-3461 or email Rochelle_Vierra@dot.ca.gov



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CLSA Central Coast Chapter

January Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2001

Meeting held at McLintocks in Shell Beach

I. Call to Order @ ±7:05 by Bob Fredericks who introduced Mark Lewis as new President.

II. Introductions

III. Approval of November 2000 Minutes. Motion to approve by Bob Fredericks, second by Tom Mastin. Minutes approved.

IV. Officer's Reports

A. President's Report by Mark Lewis - Mark presented slate of officers and committee chairs for 2001

B. Vice President's Report by Rochelle Vierra - No Report

C. Secretary / Treasurer's Report by Craig Yates

General Fund \$7475.81

Education Fund \$2000.00

Legal Fund \$40.00 Historical Fund \$250.00

V. Committee Reports

A. Standing Committees

1. Education Committee - Tom Mastin, LS and LSIT review classes to begin in late February, more info in next parallax.

2. Membership Committee - Craig Yates- 2001 chapter membership applications will be mailed.

3. Professional Practices Committee - (Mark Lewis, Joe Morris, Linda Richardson, Dan Manion, Leonard Lenger) Discussion as to needing 7 members on committee, Mark will investigate. Tom Vaughan added to committee.

B. Special Committees

1. Publications Committee - (Bryce Dilger, Mark Lewis) No Report.

2. Trig-Star Committee - (Randy Woodjack, George Marchenko, Keith Crowe, John Sanders, Skip Touchon, Jo Ann Head, Alan Volbrecht, Mark Lewis, Randy Ellison, Tom Mastin, Geoff Villegas, Dave Carey, Burke Blake, Leonard Lenger) Testing to be done in April, awards in May. Currently participation by schools in Paso Robles, Atascadero, Templeton, SLO, Morro Bay, and Mission Prep. Trying to get Santa Maria involved. Chapter trying to solicit contributions from outside companies to increase the prize for winners.

3. Workshops/Seminar Committee - Randy Ellison, Tentatively looking into water boundaries seminar by Roy Minnick in cooperation with FATCO, more information to come.

4. BBQ Committee - (Ken Fargen, Mark Lewis, Clay Margason, Bryce Dilger) Ken Fargen reported BBQ will be July 7th at Cuesta Park.

5. Nominating Committee - Mark Lewis, No Report.

6. Christmas Committee - Linda Richardson, No Report.

C. Ad Hoc Committees

1. Scholarship Committee - (Bob Fredericks, Tom Mastin) Bob Fredericks reported on two CSUF students, John France and George Neistrom, and presented motion to recommend to provide \$500 scholarships each at Fresno Conference. Seconded by Tom Mastin. Motion approved unanimously Mark Lewis to present awards at Fresno Conference.

2. G.I.S. Development Committee - Victor Rasgado, Last meeting in October was presentation by Dan Harris of Vaughan Surveys on MetaData. Next meeting will be January 25th at 6p.m. at JLWA, agenda to be GIS Opportunities. Looking into getting Alice Carter with City of SLO GIS for February meeting.

3. Historical Records Committee- (Dan Manion, Dave Carey) Past chairman Randy Ellison thanked all, especially Dave Carey for their help with move into new building. Dan Manion donated flat files from SLO County. Big Thank You to Berk Blake who bought two brand new legal file cabinets, they still need one more at a cost of ±\$162. Motion by Randy Ellison for chapter to order and donate one 4-drawer file cabinet, seconded by Bob Fredericks, motion passed. Dave Carey reports that work will still need to be done to cross reference flat filed maps with list. Building to officially open in July ±. Randy Ellison reported on problems with Dalide Adobe drainage problems and may need volunteer work in future.

4. Legislative Liaison Committee - Mike Stanton, Mike and Leonard sent letter to Kami at SLO County regarding minimum Lot Area based upon record boundary, more information and discussion in future.

VI. State Board Report (Randy Woodjack, Randy Ellison, and Linda Richardson)- Alternate reps added to be Tom Mastin, Joe Morris and Mark Lewis. Randy Ellison to provide future reports.

VII. Old Business - None

VIII. New Business - None

IX. Announcements - A special thank you to Bob Fredericks from everyone. Next meeting will be February 8th at A.J. Spurs in Templeton.

Speaker John Mueller of GeoLine.

X. Program - The speaker this evening is Glen Priddy, Interim County Surveyor. Glen discussed recent Board of Supervisors decision to change name of County Engineering to Public Works and its ramifications and impacts. Director of Public Works will be by in-house recruitment and no registration as LS or PE is required to become Director of Public Works. Glen gave a brief history of SLO County engineering department and why it was called County engineering. He also gave the names of individuals vying for the Department Head position as well as those who could possibly become the Permanent County Surveyor.

XI. Adjournment

There were 33 in attendance.

Respectfully submitted, Craig Yates.

U.S. Land History (Continued from Page 1...)

The commission charged with the duty of marking the border on the ground finished the job in June 1856, and everything looked rosy. But it was not. The commission had barely concluded their work when the new plenipotenciary minister in Washington, John Forsyth, received instructions in 1857 to acquire parts of Chihuahua, Sonora, and all of Baja California. Two years later, in the middle of a reform movement in Mexico- (The liberation of Berto Juarez) the succeeding plenipotenciary minister, Robert MsLane, ordered the purchase of Baja California from the Juarez government along with acquisition of transient rights across Sonora from Matamores to Mazatlan, and also across Tehuantepec. Nevertheless the monuments placed in 1848 and 1853 would have to prevail, even though after many years, distrust persisted and gave the Mexican administration no piece of mind, occasioned by continual slight modifications of the line.

In effect, the two rivers that marked the boundary. Changes in the course of the Rio Grande, during floods and droughts frequently cut the neck of some previous curve, leaving portions of Mexico on the other side by hundreds of meters, and erosion might produce the opposite effect. Below El Paso-Juarez a short time after 1856, the river divided into two branches, leaving Isleta and other little towns on the American side, and by 1866, El Chamizal sprung up in the same region. To resolve these problems, which now came under international law, the two countries developing theories and proposing solutions, signed various agreements. One such was Nov. 12, 1883, by which changes due to accretion were accepted, but not those due to avulsion. Another was March 10, 1889, which established the River Limits Commission to distribute the additions and diminutions effected by the rivers, in spite of the fact that the Hidalgo Treaty indicates that a permanently fixed border was marked, everywhere, including the part marked by rivers. The Treaty also permits border changes by mutual consent.



Recognizing the principle of continuously change river boundaries, and at the same time adjacent portions of the border not controlled by streams are marked by permanent fixed monuments, that portion from El Paso-Juarez to the Pacific Ocean should cause no problem, except possibly the short stretch (20 miles) of the Colorado River. Nevertheless a few problems cropped up even in the geodetically determined portions of the line, and such problems are the ones that induced Zorilla to write the original Spanish of this report.

A special Thanks to Joe Carey for his contribution of this series. Ed.

To submit something to Parallax,
email it to: parallax@vaughansurveys.com

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Job Wanted

Anyone looking for someone to help out as a surveyor or run AutoCAD? If so, you've found the right man for the job. I am Jim Tomkins and I'm a Cal Poly student in civil engineering. I'm looking for work over the summer (preferably full time but will except part time if that's all that is available) from June 18th to September 21st. I've taken Engineering Surveying and am currently taking Intro to CAD this quarter at Cal Poly. I'm in my second quarter of calculus and have a solid trigonometry background. I am also an Eagle Scout and am willing to work hard. Call me at (805) 756-3148 or send me an email at jtomkins@calpoly.edu

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**Board of Directors Meeting
January 20, 2001
Highlights**

Patrick J. Tami was handed the gavel as the new board President.

Marc Van Zuuk is the new President elect. (We, as a chapter should arrange to have him speak at one of our meetings this year if possible. It needs to be arranged at an early date or he will be booked for the year.)

The joint venture our chapter initiated with central office for our Subdivision Map Act seminar was a big success. More of the same was proposed for the coming year, having central office handle the details while the chapter takes care of setting up and peopling the seminar.

Our chapter did not submit a Chapter Report. We were asked to make sure one is provided prior to the next board meeting.

There is progress being made in attempting to require that NSPS dues be combined with CLSA dues and requiring membership of both organizations. Our chapter should discuss how they want us to represent their wishes in that concern.

There was a request made for door prizes for the upcoming conference, March 17 through 21. Also, donations are needed to help fund the student workers at the conference. Although ACSM has not yet sent out the mailings for the conference, all of the rooms reserved for it at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas are already taken. Central office is trying to arrange more rooms either at that hotel or at one nearby so make you reservations as soon as possible.

The CLSA website is in the process of moving to central office. Once this change is made the address will stay the same but the password will change to "chains". We will keep you posted.


There was much discussion about whether scholarships should be founded through the CLSA Education Foundation or just through the chapters. Apparently, sometimes when a scholarship is given and a grant is awarded the amount of the scholarship may be deducted from the grant amount and given to someone else. If this is the case, a scholarship does not help the student.

Retired status is now an option for CLSA membership. If one has had 10 years of continuous membership, is retired from practicing land surveying and is either 62 years of age or permanently disabled, the chapter can forward a resolution to the Board of Directors requesting that person be given Retired Corporate Membership.


The Board voted to support Mike Welch as the L.S. candidate for the Board of Registration. Two other board members are running for the office. They are Tony Spillane and John Willusz. It was requested that letter be written to the Governor requesting that this position be filled. It has been empty for 18 months now. You may support whomever you please; however, the chapter must support the candidate that its board has voted to support.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda M. Richardson, P.L.S. 6904

KEN WILSON LS 5571



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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

John W. Belsher, Esq.

412 MARSH STREET SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
TELEPHONE 805-542-9900
FAX 805-542-9949
E-MAIL SLOLAW@aol.com

625-A EAST CHAPEL SANTA MARIA, CA 93454
TELEPHONE 805-349-7929
FAX 805-349-7930

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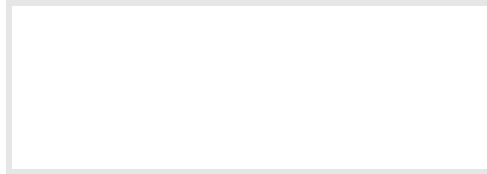
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Chapter Rep.....434-1834

TOM MASTIN
Alt. Chapter Rep.....544-4011

Questions, articles, advertisements or items of interest should be sent to:
Parallax
c/ o Bruce Dilger, Vaughan Surveys
1101 Riverside Ave, Paso Robles, CA
93446 Fax (805) 238-5835



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c/o Bryce Dilger
Vaughan Surveys
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U.S. Land History Part V

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