

FIRST OFFICIAL PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES BY THE ASSOCIATION
OF CERTIFIED SURVEY TECHNICIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS OF ONTARIO,
CONSTELLATION MOTOR HOTEL, TORONTO.

by G.G. Leggat*

On June 10, 1967, more than 100 Certified Survey Technicians and Technologists met in Toronto's Constellation Motor Hotel. They heard reports, saw the official presentation of their Association's charter, heard an address by Vice-President F.J.S. Pearce, O.L.S., and were presented with their certificates by E. W. Petzold, O.L.S., Chairman of the Certification Board. But something of perhaps equal importance, they met together as a group from all across the Province for the first time.

"We formed a group of certified technicians and technologists," said Mr. Pearce at one point in his address. "Some of us (the OLS) said we formed a monster." Officially known as The Association of Certified Survey Technicians and Technologists of Ontario, the organization received Letters Patent from the Provincial Government January 23. Close to 275 received certification at the June 10 meeting. The balance of the membership, roughly another 100, should be eligible sometime in the fall.

According to S.C. Geneja, C.S.T., Messrs. Pearce, Petzold and Ralph Smith are three major reasons the association now exists in a legal capacity - and why Mr. Geneja is now President of what is familiarly called A.C.S.T.T.O. Through the good offices of the OLS, and their willingness to make representation to educational and political authorities, the dream of a man named Frederick Marsh has become a reality.

A.C.S.T.T.O. is completely independent of the parent OLS, now that it has come of age, with two exceptions. Financially, there is a possibility the new association will make use of the administrative facilities available through the OLS, a service they will pay for. Professionally, certification is made by a Certification Board appointed by the OLS. This Certification Board, appointed by the OLS, is made up of both OLS's and CST's. It sets out the standards required to meet the qualifications of the three categories (Technologist, Senior Technician and Technician). At the moment, with most technicians trained on-the-job, experience is the prime factor in considering a man's category. In his report, entitled The Role and Future for Survey Technicians, Ralph Smith, OLS, claimed that, with time, experience would be downgraded in favour of academic training. According to Mr. Smith, the shift is "away from skill power and toward brain power". Defining a Technician, Mr. Smith said he was "one who can apply, in a responsible manner, proven techniques which are commonly understood by those who are experts; or techniques which are specifically being prescribed by a professional." The difference between a Technician and a Technologist, continued Ralph Smith, "is related more directly to how specialized or how broad is his training and development." Similarly, the relationship of the Technologist to the Professional Surveyor "is related primarily to the depth in which the subjects are studied."

The Canadian Institute of Surveying colloquium on Survey Education in 1959 resulted in more academic training being made available. It is hoped, and expected, that the one held in November, 1966, will result in still further training being made available. Last year's Colloquium "pointed out a definite need to develop a graded

* Mr. G.G. Leggat is Associate Editor of A.C.S.T.T.O.

career plan for those in surveying," said Ralph Smith. As an example of misuse of manpower, he cited examples of "Surveyors who act as Party Chiefs instead of being able to concentrate on the job they are trained for.

In his banquet address, Mr. Pearce referred to the members of A.C.S.T.T.O. as "the group that had the higher qualifications and the higher rate of experience." Creation of this association is a major breakthrough in the development of the graded career plan spoken of at the Colloquium. There are other groups of survey technicians and technologists; there is only one group of "certified" survey technicians and technologists in North America. As the prototype of a group of technicians with "certified" qualifications, A.C.S.T.T.O. will be watched closely by both the OLS and the public.

Professor O.J. Marshall, speaking at the 1966 Colloquium, pointed out that "Surveying is not yet well recognized as a profession by the general public. Potential students at the secondary school level know virtually nothing about the activities of the professional surveyor ... The Professional Surveyor must become more of a supervisor. This will, in my opinion, create a demand for at least five assistants at the Technician and Technologist level for each surveyor." One small move toward public recognition of the surveying profession was publication in various papers across Ontario of advance material about A.C.S.T.T.O.'s June 10 meeting. And to reach the secondary school student, consideration is being given toward the preparation of a brochure on surveying as a life work.

Through the combined efforts of the OLS and A.C.S.T.T.O., there has been an increase in the courses available, both day and night, in high schools, in Provincial Institutes of Trades (PIT). And the fall, 1967, calendar of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute carries a course in surveying. For those already in the profession, and unable to make use of the night school courses, correspondence courses are being worked on. A group of nine text books, based on DHO manuals, was made available at nominal cost during early 1967. Some of the 100 printed were purchased by OLS people. And if there is enough demand, A.C.S.T.T.O. will be putting through a second printing.

With receipt of official status, and acceptance by the Department of Education, A.C.S.T.T.O. intends to again approach International Correspondence Schools (ICS), or some similar organization, with a view to setting up a satisfactory correspondence course. Backbone of this course would be the precis used by the Department of Education. When originally approached in 1962, ICS countered with a course based on material they had prepared for their Engineering Technician's course. This was not considered satisfactory by people like Dave Anderson, CST, Chairman of the Association's Education Committee. "This course would have only covered a limited number of our subjects, so we declined." Night school courses began in Toronto and North Bay in 1963. PIT set up its first course, in Toronto, in 1965, and have another in the works for Sault Ste. Marie this year. In the opinion of President Steve Geneja, all A.C.S.T.T.O. has to do is show ICS there is money to be made because there are enough students to be taught.

E.W. Petzold, OLS, Chairman of the Certification Board, outlined the work of the Board over the past few months. To avoid some of the pitfalls encountered by similar organizations in their formative periods, "considerable investigation, outside the sources immediately at our disposal" was made. Specifically the "Professional Engineers and their Technician programme" was studied in detail.

The grade allocated to each man was based on the information contained in the "existing membership form" since it was the only source available "at the time of our grading." Any anomalies created by this arbitrary decision will be corrected in time. Many membership forms were not comprehensive enough, many were out of date. Re-application, in more detail if necessary, can be made. And it was decided at the Certification Board meeting of May 30 to design a new, more comprehensive, membership form.

After mid-October, application for the various grades will not be accepted without proof of certain minimum academic qualifications, "or approved equivalent." Technologists will require Grade 12, Senior Technicians, Grade 11, and Technicians, Grade 10. The OLS decides what represents an "approved equivalent." This minimum formal education standard was set by "the Committee on Certification and Education under Fred Pearce, OLS" to give the high school or continuation school graduate equality with the technical school graduate. Under the new set-up, when an OLS nominates a candidate he no longer recommends what grade the candidate should be given. This decision is in the hands of the Certification Board.

The final report at the afternoon plenary session, given by Vern Rice, CST, A.C.S.T.T.O.'s Secretary, was a rundown of the organization's history. Starting with people like Fred Marsh, Keith Skinner and Vic Fox he ran through all periods of both the Association of Survey Technicians of Ontario (A.S.T.O.) and the Association of Certified Survey Technicians and Technologists of Ontario (A.C.S.T.T.O.). From Fred Marsh to Steve Geneja. It is perhaps of more than passing interest that the name of E.W. Petzold appeared in the first minutes of the first meeting of A.S.T.O. back in 1960.

The first report of the afternoon was presented by Steve Geneja, the last President of A.S.T.O. and the first President of A.C.S.T.T.O. His remarks ranged from Fred Marsh to Letters Patent, from receipt of certification to the Association newsletter NORTHPOINT, from education to wages. An indication of the breadth of his report can perhaps be shown by pointing out that the quotation by Professor Marshall at the 1966 Colloquium came from his report. In speaking of Mr. Marsh, he said, "it isn't much, but in his memory your Board of Directors has reserved Registration #1 in perpetuity for him." Mr. Marsh may be dead, but the idea he worked for so long and hard, professional recognition of technicians in the survey field, is very much alive.

"The annual increase of surveyors is not meeting the demand," said Mr. Geneja, a point also made by OLS members present. Another of his comments that was repeated in other words by OLS personnel was "Surveyors need the services of career Technicians." "Enlightened self-interest," was the phrase used by Fred Pearce for the reason A.C.S.T.T.O. was created and given legal and professional standing. "You are all-important to the land surveyor," said OLS President R.R. Smith when presenting the Association with its charter. In the course of the more than 100,000 words spoken during the twelve hours the various sessions took to run their course, the value of the technician - and how that value will increase with the up-grading of standards and qualifications - became more and more apparent.

The Open Forum, which followed the presentation of the five reports, was perhaps the most revealing period. By the questions asked, and answered, it indicated the calibre of men (and women) who make up the overall membership. Questions

ranged from Ken Boston's desire to know who made up what committees "and why", to Mrs. Ingrid Shean's "why don't you interest more women?" Discipline, finances, wages, the various categories, the "grandfather clause", qualifications, academic training that is coupled with practical training, the possibility of technologists becoming OLS, how to differentiate between field and office training under the new set-up, note taking - these were some of the other subjects touched on during a free-wheeling discussion period.

Conversation at the banquet, at least at the table where the two distaff members of the profession, Mrs. Shean and Mrs. Jane Mucklestone, were seated, ranged from photography to the currency curiosities of Russia. The Certified Survey Technicians and Technologists of Ontario have a wide range of interests, a deep knowledge of their profession and a strong feeling of the worth of their profession.

Whether A.C.S.T.T.O. remains an association of technicians employed only by land survey people depends on the feelings of the members - there are opinions held on both sides. Whether the membership in A.C.S.T.T.O. will become predominantly academically trained or remain as it is depends on how interesting and worthwhile the association is made to appear to the up-coming course graduates - they have evinced interest. Whether A.C.S.T.T.O. becomes "a monster" as some OLS fear, or "a leader in the field of survey technology" as Mr. Genega feels it will, depends on the degree to which both parties to this arrangement - A.C.S.T.T.O. and the OLS - make full and proper use of the association created.

The sophisticated advance in the science of measurement that is taking place demands changes. One of these changes is full recognition of the place in the profession that belongs to the Technician.