

MORE ABOUT SURVEY TECHNICIANS

F. H. Marsh

The formation of an Association for Survey Technicians in Ontario has long been a must. A few technicians have taken on the job which is by no means small, of forming just such an organization. The first question generally asked by Land Surveyors and others, is "What are your objectives?". This can be answered briefly by saying that our objectives are to assist in the promotion of the science of land surveying and the education of the Members of this proposed Association in connection with the practice of the Profession of Land Surveying. Breaking this down we have - 1) the establishment of standards; 2) general education 3) additional education; 4) technical qualifications for both office and field staff; and last, but by no means at least, the recognition by the general public and the surveyor that the work of the Sur-

vey Technician is a trade.

The existence of and the need for trained survey assistants cannot be denied. Every Survey firm employs one or more of them. Some Survey Branches of the Government Departments and similar public bodies, employ many more Survey Technicians than they do Surveyors. As Land Surveying generally becomes more complex and technical, the need for trained assistants and the number employed, increases. It is this need, among other things, which the Association of Survey Technicians is aiming to fulfill.

Please refer any enquiries regarding the proposed organization to the executive committee by addressing Mr. F. H. Marsh, Chairman, Organization Committee, Association of Survey Technicians 1015 Warden Ave.,

TIME GENTLEMEN

W. Harvey Hall, P. Eng., D. L. S., O. L. S.

A problem often facing the surveyor has been the obtaining of an accurate azimuth on the ordinary isolated parcel or small subdivision, particularly in more remote areas.

This past winter, I found myself on just such a small survey in the near north. I had to have azimuth but my watch was not quite accurate enough to do a solar azimuth by hour angle and with ordinary equipment I distrust solar azimuths by altitude, so I waited for polaris and the wind to die down, which it refused to do. The tripod was rather shaky and to overcome this we had to pile snow around it as high as possible. One of our flashlights failed, so we had to build a fire behind the picket. At twenty degrees below zero I tended to get my big wet nose stuck to the barrel of the telescope. I got a charlie horse in my neck from trying to observe from an awkward position on the snow pile.

I finally got my observation completed and then had to hike three miles through more than three feet of soft snow, on snow shoes, to the road and then to camp by jeep.

Thoroughly chilled, numb both physically and mentally, I forgot to check the contents in the whiskey jug, it must have been fairly deep in there because the next morning I woke up in revolt. No human should have to suffer so and an answer had to be found.

The surveyor, like a ship in these circumstances, must be able to carry accurate time over long periods. With a little investigation I found that this year, a small eight-transistor standard wave - short wave radio has come on the market; dimensions 3" x 5" x 8" and three pounds all up weight cost price under sixty dollars, exactly right for a parka pocket. The power plant consists of three fountain pen batteries. Carry