

Articles from Periodicals

The Canadian Surveyor. The Canadian Institute of Surveying, Vol. 34, No. 2, June, 1980.

"A New University Centre of Surveying in Canada." Dr. J. A. R. Blais and Dr. E. J. Krakiwsky, pp. 114 - 122.

"Photogrammetric Application of Skylab Photography." Dr. E. E. Derenyi and S. C. MacRitchie, pp. 123 - 130.

"Block Adjustments of Bundles." G. H. Schut, pp. 139 - 152.

"Atmospheric Temperature Models for Short Range E.D.M." Dr. P. V. Angus-Leppan and F. K. Pruner, pp. 153 - 165.

Chartered Surveyor. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Vol. 112, No. 9, April, 1980.

"How to measure houses." D. Robinson and J. Shaw, p. 362.

"Avoiding negligence in structural surveys." D. Ensom, pp. 363 - 365. Vol. 112, No. 11, June, 1980.

"Land Pooling in Western Australia." P. Marshall, pp. 494 - 496.

"Building the Hong Kong mass transit railway." A. Samson, pp. 501 - 502.

"The meaning of 'without prejudice'." A. Bowhill, pp. 513 - 514.

Surveying and Mapping. American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. Vol. XL, No. 2, June, 1980.

"Land Surveyors: Whither Thou Now?" Robert D. Reckert, pp. 141 - 151.

"Readjustment of the National Geodetic Vertical Datum." Rear Admiral H. R. Lippold, Jr., pp. 155 - 164.

"The Solar Surveyor." Gunther H. Greulich, pp. 165 - 167.

"The Great Dilemma - or When is a Fence Just a Fence?" Mitchell G. Williams, pp. 212 - 213.

"Protection of Thermometers - A Necessity." Paul Kubecka, pp. 213 - 214.

"On Moonlighting - A Second Opinion." William J. Carrington, Jr. R.L.S. pp. 216 - 220.

The Link. Corporation of British Columbia Land Surveyors. Vol. 4, No. 1, June, 1980.

"E.D.M. Calibration." Janet Lundeen, p. 8.

"The Song of the Transitman." Anonymous, p. 15.

"Error Ellipses, Survey Monuments and My Neighbour's Fence." L. Marshik, pp. 16 - 18.

Royal Engineer Observatory New Westminster." John D. Spittle, pp. 30 - 35.

Surveyors of The Past

—BY CHARLES FAIRHALL—

ROBERT SPARKS, P.L.S.

Robert Sparks was a graduate of the famous "Oliver Cromwell School" of surveying in Perth. A contemporary of his, William Ogilvie, P.L.S., article with Sparks and also married his sister, Mary.

Sparks operated a survey practice in Ottawa in the era of 1860 - 1880. He made the front pages of Canadian newspapers when he won a marathon walking race from Arnprior to Ottawa against the walking champion of England.

He was drowned in the sinking of the steamer "Asia" in a storm in Georgian Bay.

The following account of the Championship Walking Marathon is reprinted from "Carleton Saga", written by Harry and Oliver Walker, published by the authority of Carleton County Council 1968, and printed by Runge Press Limited.

"Early on a hot June morning of 1873, two famous athletes started a sporting classic from in front of the old Lyons Hotel in Arnprior witnessed along the route to Ottawa by many residents of Huntley and March (Townships). Before these two - Fred Pace, the champion of England and Robert Sparks of Carleton, land surveyor - stretched 48 gruelling miles to the Russell Hotel in Ottawa.

Pace who had come to Ottawa to visit relatives also was looking for a race in Canada for a good side bet, and had heard of the exploits of Robert Sparks and his long distance treks through the Canadian bush. Pace challenged Sparks to race him. Sparks accepted provided it would be a long marathon. So the Arnprior to Ottawa route was decided. And the Press of the country speculated on the chances of a wiry free-standing surveyor against a trained professional. Two days before the race Pace was favoured in the betting odds of five to three.

The contestants followed the route of present Highway 17, except for a stretch where the old Arnprior road followed the river along the Connaught rifle ranges.

"For the first sixteen miles", reported the Times, "the road passes through forest and swamp overlaid by the use of corduroy of which nothing is more tiring

than a railway track." It was not until the outskirts of Ottawa (a mill city then), that there was even a macadam road surface".

Sparks led briefly from the start. Then for the first six miles the men were nearly shoulder to shoulder, reeling off the yardage.

At Carp, Pace was leading by three-quarters of a mile. Then Sparks increased his speed and lengthened his rangy stride.

At March Corners, Sparks had closed the gap while Pace was trying desperately to shake off the spurt of the Ottawa surveyor. Pace began to have cramps. Suddenly he faltered and collapsed at the Boucher farm. Bob Sparks kept on without any distress with two carriages of judges and reporters following him.

The Ottawa Times reporter recorded that as Sparks neared the city, a multitude trailed him along Wellington Street and into Sparks Street. From here to the Russell Hotel, the street was jammed. Sparks put on a magnificent finishing spurt, forcing those who tried to keep up with him, into a jog trot.

Over \$5,000 changed hands when Sparks won to the delight of his fellow townsmen, who celebrated the rest of the day in the long cool Russell bar. Sparks finished the grind of 42 miles in 8 hours and 17 minutes at the rate of slightly more than 5 miles per hour over the route. But we will not see such walking classics again for the reason that this auto-borne generation is losing the use of its legs?

In the summer issue of the quarterly there was a feature "Surveyors of the Past" on V. B. Wadsworth, the basis of which was "Early Exploration and Surveying of Muskoka District", by Robert J. Boyer, published by the Herald-Gazette Press, Bracebridge.

We are glad to belatedly acknowledge this.

Editor