

ANGLE and LINE

A Quarterly Newsletter by COWAN ASSOCIATES, INC.

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RACE STREET PROJECT RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S AWARD

By: William D. Kee, P.E.

Race Street, one of CAI's engineering projects with the Carbon County Redevelopment Authority, was one of ten projects selected as a recipient of a 2003 Governor's award for Local Government Excellence. Phyllis Bolton, Executive Director of Carbon County Redevelopment Authority, was present in Hershey on April 16, 2003 to receive the award from Lt. Governor Catherine Baker-Knoll.

Ms. Bolton said:

"No project in the Authority's history ever generated so passionate a commitment from so many, or so totally changed a neighborhood. The transformation, from crumbling alley to captivating streetscape, was so dramatic that the project became known as the 'Race Street Renaissance.'

Although Race Street is an integral part of the Old Mauch Chunk Historic District and a National Landmark, it had been isolated from the center of town by a 20' elevation and a 6' wooden fence. By the late 1990's, Race Street's century old infrastructure had stymied economic and residential development. A retaining wall supporting a major part of the roadbed had collapsed, threatening the structural integrity of homes and businesses. The deeply pot-holed street and sidewalk created hazardous pedestrian and vehicular access. A maze of overhead wiring obscured the historic architecture."

Using \$525,000 in Borough, State, and local money, 750' of 16' wide roadway was completely rebuilt while keeping a number of businesses and residences accessible during construction. Rebuilding included replacement of an ancient

waterline; burying of electric lines; renovating sanitary sewer lines; installing new storm sewers; building a 20' high concrete wall whose color and textures mirror the historic laid-up stone buildings; sidewalk replacement, also patterned to emulate the original slate; complete roadway rebuilding; capped off with a small urban park atop the wall. The new public services, roadway and sidewalk have vastly improved the quality of residential life and allowed Jim Thorpe's small businesses located there to more fully participate in the growing local tourist economy.

It was a team of people who brought the project to fruition. Ms. Bolton said it best when she said:

"As remarkable as these historic and economic benefits are, the most enduring value of the Race Street renewal is found in the unique cooperative relationships that emerged as we coaxed our dream to reality. A grand community of neighbors, shop proprietors, local and state government officials, assertive utility representatives, our contractor, our engineer, and hundreds of history buffs and sidewalk superintendents reviewed, evaluated, cried, renegotiated, quibbled, fought and celebrated as we rebuilt this little street that had stolen each of our hearts.



CAI's Jim Thorpe Race Street Project receives Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence. Presenting the award is Catherine Baker-Knoll, PA Lt. Gov., to Phyllis Bolton, Exec. Dir. of the Carbon Co. Redevelopment Authority on April 16, 2003.

(continued to page 2)

RACE STREET

(Continued from page 1)

The real magic of the Race Street Renaissance became apparent on that Day of Appreciation as the Authority realized that none of these exceptional human beings – a sparkling pool of talent, education, experience and dedication – could have accomplished alone what we had achieved together. Throughout the project each of us grew personally and professionally as we watched the limits of our individual expertise vanish in the magic of cooperative effort. The Race Street Project succeeded equally as an outstanding example of neighborhood revitalization and as a case study of the cooperative possibilities when people look beyond individual needs and work with others toward a common goal."

CAI is proud to have been project engineer assisting Carbon County Redevelopment Authority from concept planning through grant application, design, and construction.

For more information on this project, refer to CAI's web site at cowanassociates.com, click on "News," then "Angle and Line 2000 Quarter 1."

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SURVEYORS CONVENTION 2003

by Todd R. Myers, PLS

Yes, even land surveyors - the rugged, outdoors people that we are - meet on an annual basis to attend a special "Surveyor's Convention." This event offers professional development seminars and gives us an opportunity for fellowship. This year, approximately 640 surveyors, surveyors in training, surveying technicians, and industry representatives related to the surveying field gathered at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA, from January 26 to January 29. I seem to remember that the first state-wide gathering of land surveyors was held in 1964 on the campus of Penn State; looking back, I can say we have come a long way.

The Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors (PSLS) is a state-wide organization of individuals having an interest in the practice of surveying. PSLS was incorporated on May 6, 1969. Our mission statement is "The Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors, a state-wide professional organization, exists for the purpose of supporting, improving, and enhancing the professionalism, its members, and the practice of land surveying. To these ends, the critical work of the society focuses on providing education, legislative involvement, enhancing the public awareness, and the promulgation of the ethics of the profession."



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Recently I had the opportunity to hear our State Director of the Department of Economic Development, Mr. Dennis Yablonsky, address the Upper Bucks County Chamber of Commerce. I was particularly impressed with the goals he laid out for his agency to foster economic development. The goals are: (1) Balance for a diverse economy; (2) Determine how Pennsylvania is to grow; (3) Collaboration (partnership with regional and local organizations); (4) Measure (setting benchmarks); and (5) Responsibility to citizens of Pennsylvania.

These goals are short goals. They are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and obviously have a timetable set by the next election. "Smart" goals are necessary for organizations and businesses to succeed. For a business such as a consulting firm, a balanced network of clients is essential for weathering dips in the economic cycle; growth necessitates picking a category and deciding upon type for which you want to strive – is it clients, employees, type of projects, etc.?; collaboration with clients, with employees, and participating with other firms is necessary for a successful project; measurable benchmarks include on-time and budget projects, successful operating projects, and happy owners and users of projects; responsibility means that we will be accountable and you will be available and accessible to solve problems that arise.

If we can meet these goals, we will fulfill our vision – to be an outstanding civil engineering service provider, who partners with clients with diverse needs, to successfully turn their ideas into reality.

There are 16 chapters located in various areas across the Commonwealth. I belong to the Bucks County chapter.

The Convention is essentially divided into two sessions, morning and afternoon, Monday through Wednesday. Professional development meetings offered a plethora of choices including stormwater management, introduction to global information systems, hydraulics, early surveying techniques as contract law for land surveyors, global positioning satellite applications, writing legal descriptions, basic survey math, ethics for the surveyor, geodetic control, boundary dispute resolution, the farmer as

(continued to page 3)

surveyor, legal issues in global information systems, and the Pennsylvania One-Call System.

My favorite session was the workshop entitled "The Surveyor on the Witness Stand," by presenter Charles W. Stopp, Esq. Items discussed during this class were review of direct examinations, testimony of the expert witness, cross-examination, expert opinions, qualification of the expert witness, preparation, depositions. This particular session was extremely informative. The following are some practical tips received during this presentation:

Anxiety of being called an expert witness is not unusual because it is not a typical experience for the surveyor.

Qualification questions by the attorney are set up to discredit and/or disqualify the expert. Check the accuracy of your resumé.

Listen to the questions during direct and cross-examination attentively.

Wait until the question is concluded before answering.

You are an expert witness. Make certain you understand what is being asked of you.

Express opinions, not beliefs.

Just answer the question asked.

HUMOR

Two young engineers applied for a single position at a computer company. They both had the same qualifications. In order to determine which individual to hire, the applicants were asked to take a test by the department manager.

Upon completion of the test, both men missed only one of the questions. The manager went to the first applicant and said, "Thank you for your interest, but we've decided to give the job to the other applicant."

"And why would you be doing that? We both got 9 questions correct," asked the rejected applicant.

"We have based our decision not on the correct answers, but on the question you missed," said the department manager.

"And just how would one incorrect answer be better than the other?" the rejected applicant inquired.

"Simple," said the department manager. "Your fellow applicant put down on question #5, 'I don't know.' You put down, 'Neither do I.'"

Remember the 4 B's: Be honest, be believable, be prepared, be patient.

Lastly, and what I found interesting, is that there are three distinct mental elements that an expert witness's statement of fact must contain:

Perception - An impression in the mind of something perceived by the senses.

Recollection - He or she must have a memory of that impression and be able to recall it.

Narration - He or she must communicate the recalled impression when on the stand.

The afternoon session on copyright protection was almost as interesting as Mr. Stopp's. Wayne K. Applegate, PLS, who is a Professional Land Surveyor from the State of New Jersey, discussed copyright law. He reported:

Copyright is a form of protection provided by the laws of the United States under Title 17 of the U.S. Code to the authors of original works of authorship. This protection is available to both published and unpublished works. Section 106 of the Copyright Act generally gives the owner of the copyright exclusive right to do and to authorize others to do the following:

To reproduce copyrighted work

To prepare derivative works based upon copyrighted work.

To distribute copies of copyrighted work.

To display copyrighted work publicly.

Length of copyright is the life of the author plus 50 years, and the copyright is transferable to assigned heirs.

Copyright, which is registration of the work, exists immediately upon creation of the work.

In the case of works made for hire, the employer and not the employee, is presumptively considered the author. Simply stated, this means that if you or any of your employees create a map, the copyright belongs to you or your firm as the author.

Certain persons are legally entitled to submit applications for copyright, including:

The author. This is the person who actually created the work or, if the work was made for hire, the employer or other persons for whom the work was prepared.

The copyright claimant. This is either the author or a person or organization that has obtained

(continued to page 4)

Cowan Associates, Inc.

120 Penn-Am Drive
P.O. Box 949
Quakertown, PA 18951

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SURVEYORS CONVENTION

(continued from page 3)

ownership of all the rights under copyright that originally belonged to the author.

The owner of exclusive rights. The person or organization to which the author has transferred exclusive rights, or the duly authorized agent of any of the above.

There is no requirement that applications for copyright be prepared or filed by an attorney.

All works of the surveyor should contain a visible notice of copyright that contains the following three elements:

copyright symbol (circle around the letter "c") or the word "copyright" or the abbreviation "Copr.;"

year of the first publication of the work.

name of the owner of the copyright.

Copyright registration procedures - for a survey map is a relatively simple process. The author of the work

needs to submit the map in an envelope, with the following:

A completed application form.
A non-refundable filing fee of \$20.

to the Register of Copyrights, Copyright Office,
Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20559-6000.
There is also a copyright hotline number available
- 1-202-707-9100.

My time in Hershey was well spent and I commend the accomplishments of the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors for the time and effort expended for this and past conferences for propagation of continuing education.

So, the next time you see a surveyor walking down the street, carrying a strange-looking stick and scratching his head, question him as to why he is not a member of the PA Society of Land Surveyors because that Society provides guidelines, guidance, and education for the next generation of surveyors. Tell him to join so he can stop scratching his head and wasting time and money.

CAI

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Cowan Associates, Inc., 120 Penn-Am Drive, P.O. Box 949, Quakertown, PA 18951, 215-536-7075, Fax 215-536-1582
E-Mail: cowan@cowanassociates.com / Website: www.cowanassociates.com
President: William D. Kee, PE, Executive Vice President: Johann F. Szautner, PE, PLS, Vice President: Todd R. Myers, PLS
Editor: Margaret Lewis