2010 HISTORICAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT
December 28, 2010

The following are members of the MSPS Historical Committee: Dennis Pederson, Denny Honsa, Dick Walter, Don Borcherding, Gary Stevenson, Lee Brown, Paul Vogel, Pete Jenkins, Rod Eldevik, Rod Gunderson, Rod Squires, Ron Murphy, Richard Leu (Iowa Delegate), and Ed Otto - Chair. If you are interested in becoming a member of this committee please contact Ed Otto.

The MSPS Historical Committee formally met at the 2009 MSPS Annual Meeting in St. Cloud and at the MSPS Summer Meeting in Red Wing. Other correspondence between committee members was via email or teleconference.

INITIAL POINT WAYSIDE AND MINNESOTA/IOWA BORDER WELCOME CENTER KIOSK:
At the January 2010 committee meeting, the idea was outlined for creating a wayside rest pull out at the site of the Initial Point of the survey of the south line of Minnesota and providing new signage on the MnDOT kiosks at the State line welcome center pull out near New Albin, Iowa.

Pete Jenkins presented some drafts of the signage to be placed at the welcome center and outlined that the cost would be $1,500.00 to do three panels. Richard Leu, ISLS-NSPS Governor and Surveyors Historical Society (SHS) President suggested that MSPS, ISLS, and SHS each donate $500.00 toward this project. Tony Blumentritt took this request to the MSPS Board of Directors and it was approved. Richard Leu made requests of ISLS and SHS. The checks came from ISLS and SHS in March and April. Another unsolicited check for $500.00 came from MACS mid-summer.

Pete Jenkins and Don Borcherding have been working all year with MnDOT on approvals of the “story” of the surveyors’ part in the development of the area along the Great River Road. Initially, we had talked about three panels and the latest is that MnDOT would like five panels of survey information at the welcome site.

At the January 2010 meeting, the wayside kiosks were discussed along with the creation of the Initial Point pull out as one project. During the year these projects developed into two separate projects. In May, the Houston County, Minnesota, and Allamakee County, Iowa Highway Departments teamed up to actually build the wayside pull out and parking area and at no cost to us! Don Borcherding, L.S., and Dick Walter, L.S. (Houston County Surveyor) met on-site with the County Engineers and made presentations to the two County Boards about our project and the Counties just moved forward and built it! The Allamakee County Board even approved a variance from the Manure Ordinance to allow the construction.

Once the site was actually built it was time for the committee to go to work! Houston County personnel did the field work for a Topographic Survey of the site. Don Borcherding prepared and designed a Site Plan and Landscaping Plan. Ed Otto cut, scribed, and painted the replicated 8 feet long, 12 inch square post and built the kiosk. Don Borcherding designed the sign panels that were placed on each side of the kiosk. Dick Walter and Don Borcherding sought donations and bought the landscaping plants and materials.

On Friday, July 2, 2010, Don Borcherding, Dick Walter, Tony Blumentritt, Peter Oetliker, and several others from MSPS Chapter 3 installed the split rail fence around the patio area at the pull out site. They also planted numerous trees and shrubs and landscaped the area.
On Saturday, July 31, 2010, the installation crew met at the Initial Point wayside to install the kiosk and replicated post. Members of the crew were Ed Otto, Dick Walter, George and Tammy Mauss (with tractor), Richard and Joyce Leu (ISLS-NSPS Governor), and Pat Veraguth with his three sons. Work proceeded with the digging of the holes for the placement of the kiosk and post. The informational panels were installed with protective acrylic on both sides. Protective split rail posts were set in front of the kiosk and post. Limestone boulders from a nearby quarry were placed in a row along the split rail posts and around the replicated post (see article in the Fall 2010 Edition of the Minnesota Surveyor).

On Saturday, September 11, 2010, an estimated 75 people attended the formal dedication of the Initial Point wayside (see article in the Winter 2010 Edition of the Minnesota Surveyor). Ed Otto introduced the key participants in the project. Don Borcherdng, dressed in an 1852 military costume, impersonated Captain Andrew Talcott and gave a power point presentation on the significance of the Initial Point and the history of the survey of the south line of Minnesota. At least four newspapers covered the event and we received a lot of positive feedback.

WELCOME CENTER / INITIAL POINT BUDGET:
To date we have received $4,500.00. This includes $500.00 each from MSPS, ISLS, SHS, and MACS and 25 individual and corporate sponsorships at $100.00 each. Expenses to date total $3,094.40 including the $1,500.00 we are committed to pay after the signage is installed at the welcome centers when they are complete. This leaves a balance of $1,405.60. This amount should cover the cost of installing directional and informational signage at the county park shelter in New Albin and at Lee’s monument which we plan on working on in 2011.

Don Borcherdng and Peter Jenkins continue to work with MnDOT staff to complete the panels for the Welcome Minnesota pull out area. We hope that the finished panels will be installed in the Spring of 2011.

MSPS HISTORICAL DISPLAY:
The MSPS Historical Display was at the Runestone Museum in downtown Alexandria from May 13, 2009 to May 17, 2010. It was moved from Alexandria back to the Wright County Heritage Center in Buffalo where it was on display next to the Smithsonian Institute’s traveling exhibit called “Journey Stories” until September 2010. It remains in Buffalo until the MSPS Annual Meeting where the committee will bring it to St. Cloud for all the members to see. Hopefully, the members will see how easily adaptable it is to a new location. After the annual meeting the display will move to the Sherburne History Center in Becker, Minnesota where it is scheduled to be until August 1, 2011. Gary Stevenson reported that the Ottertail County Historical Museum is interested in displaying the exhibit but those plans are still tentative. If you know of a suitable location for the display after August 1, 2011, please contact me.

DONATED EQUIPMENT:
At the committee meeting in August in Red Wing, Paul Voge brought several pieces of historical equipment that were donated to MSPS by the Duluth Missabe and Iron Range Railway. The equipment includes a dip needle, three polar planimeters, a Stadia slide rule, a right angle glass, two hand levels, a magnifying glass, and a field range finder.

It was suggested by the committee that possibly this equipment could be displayed in an “Office of Yesteryear” display similar to the one that the Wisconsin Society has in Green Bay.

BERNIE LARSON DONATED MATERIALS:
In July 2009 Ron Murphy, Ron Squires, Ted Kemna, and Ed Otto met at Ewald Consulting to go through materials donated to the Society from the family of Bernie Larson. The usable textbooks were donated to the Miller Library at St. Cloud State University. Ron Murphy volunteered to go through the remaining materials. On December 3, 2010, I got a letter from Ron stating that he and Fred Johnson, L.S., had finished going through the materials and that they have 1 ½ bankers boxes of items relative to Bernie’s history, to land surveyors, and some court cases and corner research. The committee will have to decide what we should do with these materials.

The next committee meeting will be at 7:30 a.m., Friday, January 28, 2011, at the Historical Display in the Exhibit Hall at St. Cloud. All MSPS Members are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Otto
Edward J. Otto, P.L.S.
MSPS Historical Committee Chair

cc (via email): Eric Ewald, MSPS Executive Director