



NEWSLETTER NO. 2 - JUNE 1969

Here we go with CHA Newsletter No. 2, a little late perhaps, but as full of newsy items and information, as your contributions have made possible. If this newsletter appears weighted heavily with Central Region contributions, it is only because the vast majority of suggestions, criticism and input has come from that region. A notable exception to this weighting has been the input and constructive criticism provided by Mr. Bolton.

A newsletter cannot be a success if it does not reflect to some extent the views and opinions of a broad cross section of its readers. How about it, Atlantic, Pacific and Headquarters, next newsletter contributions are required by September at the latest?

PRECIS OF 1969 HYDROGRAPHERS CONFERENCE

The 1969 Hydrographers Conference was held in the pleasant surroundings of the Red Lion Motor Inn in Victoria, B.C., March 3 to 7. The Conference was well organized and was the first to use accommodation facilities other than our own. This arrangement of using Hotel conference quarters proved to be most advantageous and it is hoped that the practice will continue wherever possible or practicable. The use of the Hotel's small board rooms for evening meetings and other functions was an especially attractive feature.

The Agenda of the Conference covered many varied and interesting subjects applicable to Hydrographic field operations with special emphasis on data gathering and data processing technique development for standard as well as multi discipline surveys. Lengthy discussions ensued from the number of panels which were set up to cover such interesting topics on Development vs Production, echo sounders and scalers, and electronic positioning systems.

During the conference most informative papers were given by Mr. P.M. Troop of the Department of Justice, on the legal liability of chart makers, and a summary of the Canada Centre for Inland Waters operations by Mr. H.B. Macdonald. This idea of including participation from outside organizations was well received and is a practice recommended for future Hydrographic Conferences.

The social activities as organized by the Conference hosts were most enjoyable and will be long remembered especially by those giving papers on Wednesday morning and by those who caught early Saturday morning flights to points East.

Submitted by E. Brown

CHA NEWS AND EVENTS

One of the latest courses arranged by Central Region is a comprehensive programme in Scuba diving which is being taught by Ottawa Y.M.C.A. personnel.

Every Wednesday eight Hydrographers tear themselves away from their office work and go to the pool for almost half of a day. Here they are taught, in pool and classroom sessions, the necessary aspects of swimming, life saving and skin and scuba diving. The pool sessions become a stringent endurance exercise; and the retreat from the pool is usually very shaky for the students. However, these soldiers somehow manage to crawl to the "coffee shop" to regain their lost excess pounds. In the classroom, movies and lectures supplement the course content.

How will these successful candidates become useful to a hydrographic field party? These divers will be able to expedite survey work and add much to the accuracy of the final chart by visually examining and positioning navigation hazards such as cribs, shoals and wrecks. They could also install and remove underwater pressure instruments, recover articles lost overboard and examine vessels for damage without having to remove the boat from the water. The course will terminate by late April, at which time the department will issue a certificate authorizing the successful candidates to dive on departmental business.

The students appreciate this opportunity to learn a new skill (while having a weekly bath) and are quite eager to participate in this phase of hydrographic surveying.

Submitted by K. Hipkin

Two more of our happy carefree field men have voluntarily committed themselves to shackles of matrimony. Ed Thompson is marrying Miss Terry Webb of Toronto on March 8 and Ralph Courtnage is to be married to Miss Mary Juanita Doyle of Antigonish, N.S. on June 28.

Ralph and Ed were stagged on February 19 at the Bruce MacDonald Motel. During the evening amid much hilarity and the customary jokes, they were presented with a pen and pencil set and a how-to-do-it sex manual. Rumour has it that Ed and Ralph have exchanged their manuals between themselves to broaden their knowledge of the subject.

Ray Chapeskie the Barry's Bay fiddler, provided music "country style" to liven-up the evening. The party was a smashing success. There was an unusually large number of hydrographers on leave the next day. But Ralph and Ed made it to the office, probably saving their leave for later.

Submitted by P. Davies

DID YOU KNOW THAT --- ?

HM2 "SURVEYMARINE"

Central Region will have an HM2 "Surveymarine" sidewall hovercraft operating out of Tadoussac in support of the Production/Development survey that is presently based there. The HM2 will operate out of Tadoussac from July 7 to August 25. The craft is 50 feet in length with a maximum beam of 19 feet. She draws about 5 feet when floating and has an approximate draft when hovering of 2 feet 8 inches.

The HM2 is fitted with Minifix receiver, Atlas sounder with digital paper tape read-out, track plotter, auto pilot and many other survey and navigational refinements. During her sojourn at Tadoussac she will be crewed by a Crew Commander, an Engineer and a Decca Technician, in addition to our own survey staff.

According to her owners the craft can maintain an average of 30 knots in seas up to 2 feet. In particularly rough conditions the craft can proceed in safety in the displacement mode.

SURVEY OF BOATING FACILITIES

(U.S. Department of Commerce News Release, 1 January 1969) The Coast and Geodetic Survey is conducting a charting investigation of more than 4,000 boating facilities in 14 U.S. coastal states, and also the District of Columbia.

Marinas and boatyards will be inspected in areas covered by 39 Coast Survey charts, over half the agency's small-craft editions, to provide the latest information on the supplies and services available since the facilities were last inspected about six years ago. The boating facilities are located in Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Washington, California, and the District of Columbia.

The investigation is being conducted by the Coast Survey's four photogrammetric field parties, three operating out of Norfolk, and the other from Seattle. The Coast Survey is an agency of the Environmental Science Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The small-craft charts show the location of boating facilities and the availability of supplies and services, as well as information on their approach and pier depths. The charts also contain local tide, wind speed, and weather broadcast information.

HYDROGRAPHIC SYSTEM PACKAGE

Offering a new concept in high-speed hydrographic surveys is this system built around a survey launch, complete with its own trailer.

The vessel is a 22' highspeed cathedral-hull driven by two 1/0 power units, each of which has a separate fuel system and steering mechanism in the interests of fail-safe operation. The hull is of 3/16" aluminum (bottom) 1/8" aluminum (sides, deck and superstructure). A one-piece rubber fender skirts the entire vessel.

Electronic equipment is of standard solid state units married into a single system capable of recording vertical and horizontal control on magnetic tape to a rate of 600 samplings per minute. The transducer mounting ensures high quality sounding at speeds in excess of 25 knots. Vertical and horizontal control are effected by a dual-frequency Atlas digital depth sounder, and a Mini-Fix solid state navigational system which requires no shore-based personnel.

The system is offered in a building-block concept ranging from the survey craft with racks and analogue sounder, to a complete digital system with onboard computer for preparation of data for acceptance by a shore data centre which finishes and plots the finished product.

From Survey Division, Computing Devices of Canada Limited,
P.O. Box 508, Ottawa 4.

PUNCHLESS CARDS

The punched card is about to lose its holes. The Potter Instrument Co. of Plainview, N.Y., thinks it has a better idea--a developmental magnetic unit record system that uses binary-coded magnetic dots on a standard 7-3/8-by-3-1/4 inch IBM card, and has a new card reader to enter this magnetically coded data into a computer's memory. Any conventional typewriter or line printer can prepare the cards, if it has been provided with special type bars or slugs showing the coded dots; it can print man-readable alphanumerics at the same time.

The new cards will appear with feasibility models of related equipment at the Spring Joint Computer Conference opening this week in Boston. Each card contains 10 lines of up to 70 characters each; the total capacity is almost nine times as much as the 80 columns of punches containing one character each in conventional punched cards.

"NOTHING"

Nothing is an awe-inspiring yet essentially undigested concept highly esteemed by writers of a mystical or existentialist tendency, but by most others regarded with anxiety, nausea, or panic. Nobody seems to know how to deal with it and plain persons generally are reported to have little difficulty in saying, seeing, hearing and doing nothing.

People of logic will have nothing to do with this. Nothing, they say, is not a thing nor is it the name of anything, being merely a short way of saying, of anything it is not something else. Defined nothing means "not anything." Appearances to the contrary are due merely to the error of supposing that a grammatical subject must necessarily be a name.

Asked, however, to prove that nothing is not the name of anything, they fall back on the claim that nothing is the name of anything (since according to them there are no names anyway). Those who can make nothing of such an argument are welcome to the attempt. When logic falls out with itself, honest men come into their own and it will take more than this to persuade them that there are better cures for this particular headache than the old and now discredited method of cutting off the patient's head.

Nothing may be divided up in different classes---know nothing, hear nothing, see nothing, do nothing.

"Nothing is but what is not." saith Macbeth.

Holes, gaps, lacks, losses, absences, silences are all perceived fragments of nothingness -- blanks which command nonetheless their share of attention and, therefore, deserve recognition -- petty and partial nothings depending on what already exists.

For example there is a hole in something. Take the thing away and the hole goes too. More precisely it is replaced by a bigger if not better hole itself relative to its surroundings and so tributary to something else.

Nothing in short is given only in relation to what is and even the idea of nothing requires a thinker to sustain it.

"Why should anything rather than nothing exist."

QUOTATIONS

Once again we attempt to stimulate discussion by printing a few quotations, all of fairly recent origin and all pertinent to our profession.

A prominent supporter of CHA recently made the following comment:

"CHA has the unique capability of being able to communicate at all levels with personnel in the Hydrographic Service. It might be pointed out that management does not have the capability and in fact suffers acutely from lack of communication both regionally and vertically throughout the structure."

High praise and total damnation in two short sentences should stimulate some controversy.

Another supporter of CHA recently wrote -- "The Canadian Hydrographic Service might re-examine its recruitment policy and resume the hiring of Master Mariners. A Hydrographic Service which aims to be the best in the world, cannot afford to be without a leavening of such men".

I know what I feel regarding that quote - but how about you - do you feel differently?

The next quotation comes as a result of the idle reflection of your editor on a day when every operational or administrative crisis appeared to have been dealt with effectively and timely, for a short period, seemed to have slowed down or even stopped.

"If Science is systemized knowledge and Art is knowledge made efficient by skill, whither then lies Hydrography?"

To some extent such thoughts were brought about by consideration of the following quote -

"Machines may reflect much of the Science of navigation, but only a competent human can practice the Art of navigation."

Finally, this quotation, which while not peculiar to the practice of hydrography, nevertheless is extremely pertinent in these days of high powered launches and many inexperienced staff and crew.

"An accident is due to a certain number of coincidences where the technical and the human element are inextricably mingled under conditions which have never arisen in the past and will never again arise in the future."

After publishing the last newsletter I received one letter commenting (disparagingly) on my choice of quotations. I will not repeat the letter, but I will say that

SOUNDING OFF

Are you all so concerned with CHA, CHS and life in general that you cannot contribute anything to make this page a success?

How about this as an example?

Why do we persist in a rigid examination system at the termination of the Hydrography II Course? Today, many teaching and training authorities are questioning the usefulness of such a requirement, where the passing of the exam. has become more important than the knowledge absorbed by the participants. I believe we should take a good hard look at our present system with a view to seeing if it is possible to do away with the formal exam. system and substitute a more informal series of tests given from time to time throughout the life of the course. In this way the CHS would have a measure of the student's actual knowledge and the student would not be faced with an assessment of his knowledge based only upon how he reacts to a one, two or three hour exam.

SUMMARY OF C.H.A. MEETINGS IN 1968

CANADIAN HYDROGRAPHIC CONFERENCE, 1968

The Canadian Hydrographic Association provides the best opportunity each year for the C.H.A. to hold a National meeting. Nevertheless, the executive committee and the C.H.A. will not be disbanded, however, so logically what is done is to call all members attending the conference, principals and staff, and executive members at the executive meetings.

Two executive meetings were held, the first on the evening of March 3rd and the second on the evening of March 5th. A general meeting was held at the conference of all C.H.A. members, on the afternoon of March 4th.

At the executive meetings the prime subjects considered were the "grandfather" clause, education and training, and constitutional amendments.

The "grandfather" clause was finally accepted. (The list of members included in the "grandfather" clause has now been completed and forwarded to CHS for reference when selecting candidates for the Hydrographer courses. The certificates are being prepared and will be distributed as soon as they are received.)

Adam Kerr reported on the CHS Hydrography Courses. C.H.A. plays an important role in the preparation of these courses. A C.H.A. committee composed of one member from each Branch and co-ordinated by Adam Kerr advises on course content. Adam is the C.H.A. representative on the CHS Training Committee thus permitting us direct involvement in the planning of these courses.

The largest portion of the time at the executive meeting was devoted to constitutional amendments. A list of the amendments accepted by the executive was prepared for later ratification by the general membership. (The amendments to the constitution have now been voted upon and returned by the Branches. The new constitution incorporating these amendments is attached.)

At the general meeting, a review of C.H.A.'s activities during 1968 was delivered by our Past-President Tom McCulloch. The Branch Vice-Presidents delivered reports on their respective Branches and Adam Kerr reported on the CHS Training Program and answered questions from the floor. The questions dealt mainly with the Hydrography II Course.

As usual not enough time was given to the subjects and the subjects in detail. He was asked to repeat and give and the general findings show marked differentiation. Many subjects were not recognized as being of value. Nonetheless some progress will have been made with each of the above before CHA reaches a solid basis.

Submitted by N.H. Anderson

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