

CORPUS CHRISTI STATE UNIVERSITY'S DEDICATION OF
THE CONRAD BLUCHER INSTITUTE FOR SURVEYING AND SCIENCE AND
THE CONRAD BLUCHER CHAIR FOR EXCELLENCE IN SURVEYING

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I am reminded of the old story about the man who was being tarred and feathered and ridden out of town on a rail. He was asked how he felt about it, and he said, "If it wasn't for the honor of the thing, I'd just as soon walk." I certainly don't feel that I am being tarred and feathered or ridden out of town on a rail here today, but I must tell you that I am walking - walking on air. The honor you have done me is one I shall long remember and prize.

Through the centuries, people have been selected for various kinds of designations on many different standards of judgement. Some are based on drawing straws, some based on purity - even virginity, some the result of knowing the right people - or the wrong people. We have all seen choices that emerged from smoke filled rooms or a sort of game of blind man's bluff. I prefer, of course, to regard your choice of me here today as either divine inspiration or the reward of virtue.

The Sunday preceding Bob's death on Friday, I taught a Sunday School lesson to the Men's Bible Class in our church. In this lesson I talked about man as a symbol-maker, a ritual-maker, drawing pictures, acting his way through ceremonies which

punctuate the holiness of life - holiness experienced in peculiar, strong ways at sensitive and pivotal points: birth, marriage and death. What do we symbolize? Beginnings and endings.

We symbolize beginnings because therein lies the hope and visions of mankind.

We symbolize endings because there is something within us that wants a medium to express the conviction, "What has been was good, it was meaningful, it was rich." We commemorate not that it is over, but that it was and that it was good. And that we are much richer for its having been.

It is indeed a rare opportunity to symbolize both on the same occasion.

I was most fortunate to have known both Conrad and Bob. Conrad in mostly a social manner through T. S. A. The Blucher's possessed that unique old world charm and dignity and were recognized as someone particularly special to those of us who were fortunate enough to know them. Conrad was a Surveyor Extraordinaire, and the Blucher's excellence on the dance floor will always be remembered. His love of his surveying heritage and the profession is certainly evidenced by the beginning of this Institute that bears his name. The surveying profession will be greatly indebted to the Bluchers for generations to come.

Bob Turpin and I worked together on so many projects that his influence completely indoctrinated me, and I feel my continued work in this endeavor is just an extension of Bob. He said to me many times, "Today's way of life will not be repeated in the future. Evidence points toward a radically changed tomorrow and

the surveying profession must be so mindful of this fact and keep abreast of our constantly changing times."

What an opportunity we have for the surveying profession through this Institute. The only limit to our realization of tomorrow is our doubts of today. There is no limit to the opportunities before us.

There is a saying - or should be - that the greater the gratitude, the shorter the speech of thanks. If that were the rule on this occasion, I must confess I would by now have completed my remarks, because words cannot convey the fullness of my appreciation. So I shall not take up any more of your time, but suffice it to say that I shall endeavor to justify the confidence you have bestowed upon me.

Darrell D. Shine