

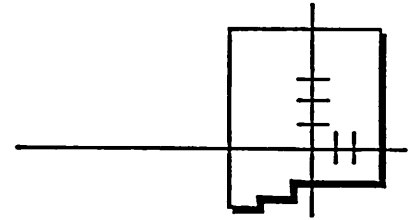
The MAP LEGEND

New Mexico Geographic Information Council

Volume 2

Number 2

Winter 1990



The U.S. Board on Geographic Names Enters It's Second Century

Bob Julyan

Geographic names are like bolts holding together a great ship: individually the bolts may seem insignificant, but if they don't fit properly, the ship will leak.

Last September, the U. S. Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) entered its second century of making sure the names—the "bolts"—on America's maps fit properly. President Benjamin Harrison created the Board in 1890, at a time when exploration reports, mining claims, and land surveys often referred to rivers, mountains, and settlements by different names. The need for standardization was acute.

Since then, the need for standardization has not been diminished, and at the Board's centennial celebration last September at the Library of Congress, representatives of the numerous government agencies and private businesses spoke

about the importance of consistent geographic names. For example, the Department of Defense pointed out that when troops were sent to the Persian Gulf last August, one of the first priorities was ensuring that the names on the maps used by pilots coincided with the names on maps used by the ground forces.

...geographic names are not mere labels but also are repositories for a nation's culture and history...

But because geographic names are not mere labels but also are repositories for a nation's culture and history, the USBGN in recent years has undertaken to collect and preserve the names of America's Native American peoples. And at the meeting of the Western States Conference on Geo-

continued on page 5

From the President

Tom Henderson

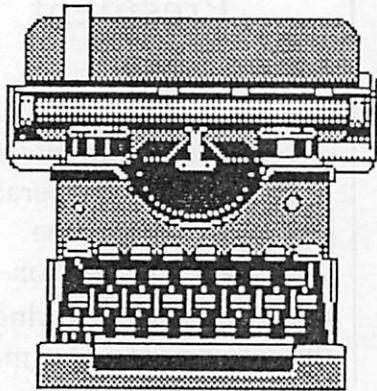


Communication and cooperation will be the guiding concepts for NMGIC during the coming year. Our mandate under Governor's Executive Order 87-19 clearly identifies these responsibilities, and we take that mandate seriously.

A significant step toward communications and cooperation was taken on November 30 when a Memorandum of Understanding was executed among the NMGIC, the Resource Geographic Information System (RGIS), and the new State Agencies GIS Advisory Committee (GAC). The MOU establishes these groups as peers and formalizes liaisons among them. An early tangible benefit of the MOU will be a close working relationship between the Standards Committee of the NMGIC GIS Committee and the

continued on page 4

The Map Legend



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The Map Legend is published quarterly by the New Mexico Geographic Information Council and is a benefit of membership in NMGIC. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the New Mexico Geographic Information Council, except where specifically noted. The mention of trade names or products does not constitute an endorsement of the NMGIC. Members are invited to send articles and announcements of interest to the editor by the following deadlines: September 1, December 1, March 1, June 1. Please direct all correspondence to:

Heather Rex
 MAGIC/Centennial Library
 University of New Mexico
 Albuquerque, NM 87131-1466

From the Editor

The Map Legend is well into its second year of publication with this volume 2, number 2 issue. Getting this humble newsletter to you is truly a cooperative effort in the best spirit of the NMGIC. The Staff Box in each issue tells only part of the story; it leaves out the part about the enormous amount of coordination, cooperation and generosity from the many people willing to give their time, talents and energy outside their normal jobs and normal working hours. Your editor very much appreciates the efforts of Amy Budge, Mike Dwyer, Dave Love and our quiet but faithful benefactor, Lee Aggers. As the second year gets underway and as we try to mature as an organizational newsletter, I hope you will keep *The Map Legend* in mind if you have news items or pertinent articles you would like to see published. Also, your comments and suggestions are most welcome at any time. Use the inside cover to write a message or give me a call.

Have a wonderful and prosperous New Year!

Heather

Calendar

Feb. 6-8, 1991. Mapping Awareness '91: Exhibition and Conference. London, United Kingdom. Contact: Angela Churchill-Coleman, Blenheim Online, Blenheim House, Ash Hill Drive, Middlesex HA5 2AE, UK. tel. 081 868 4466.

March 24-27, 1991. AM/FM International Conference, XIV-AM/FM/GIS: Navigating the Future. San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA. Contact: AM/FM International, 14456 E. Evans Ave., Aurora, CO. 80014-1409. (303) 337-0513.

March 25-19, 1991. ACSM/ASPRS Annual Convention. Baltimore, MD. Contact: ACSM/ASPRS, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD. 20814-2122. (301) 493-0200.

Fall Meeting of NMGIC....A Success!

Amy Budge

NMGIC's fall meeting was held in Albuquerque on November 16, 1990 at the University of New Mexico's Continuing Education Conference Center. The program featured presentations by Tom DiNardo, Chief, Branch of Program Management, USGS-Denver; and Nancy von Meyer, Fairview Industries, Madison, Wisconsin. Approximately 90 people were in attendance, many regular members, but also individuals attending their first NMGIC meeting. Some attendees renewed their membership for 1991, while others joined for the first time. Following a short business meeting with reports from the Committee Chairpersons, the program began with Mr. DiNardo addressing the status of USGS programs in New Mexico which included map revision requests submitted by our State Mapping Advisory Committee. He also introduced a federal/state coordination program for map revision and digital data production which the USGS is sponsoring. USGS has been encouraged by the ongoing contact with the SMAC regarding mapping needs in New Mexico as

well as by the interest and cooperation expressed via NMGIC and feels that a cooperative effort between USGS and New Mexico would be very beneficial to all parties. Questions regarding the status of the program should be directed to Dave Love, SMAC Chairman.

Ms. von Meyer gave an excellent....and very entertaining....overview of data modeling methods and approaches as applied to land information systems. Her approach and unique sense of humor transformed a very complex subject into sensible, understandable concepts. Notes from her presentation may be obtained via Tom Henderson, NM State Highway & Transportation Dept, 1120 Cerrillos Rd, Santa Fe, NM 87504; phone 827-5185.

continued on page 4



See page 7 for
Nancy von
Meyer's GIS Data
Modeling Reference
List

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From the President

continued from page 1

Standards Subcommittee of GAC.

Cooperation is also manifested in the recent NMGIC endorsement of the survey plat recordation legislation sponsored through the New Mexico Association of Surveyors and Mappers. Copies of the draft endorsement were distributed at the November 16 Fall Meeting for membership review. The purpose of the legislation is to provide a statewide requirement for plat recordation to ensure that valuable information on property boundaries and ownership is available for public use. The NMGIC Executive Board feels strongly that this is consistent with the spirit of information sharing that we are trying to promote in New Mexico. The endorsement

is our first formal venture into legislative advocacy, but it will not be our last.

Advocacy, however, depends on communication. Communication with other organizations and individuals is necessary to gather the facts that define a problem or issue. Communication with decision makers is necessary to translate positions into action. Most important, communication between the NMGIC membership and the Executive Board is necessary to ensure that the Board's advocacy is truly representative of the diverse community that NMGIC brings together.

My next column will focus on how you as members can better communicate your views to the Board.

Fall Meeting

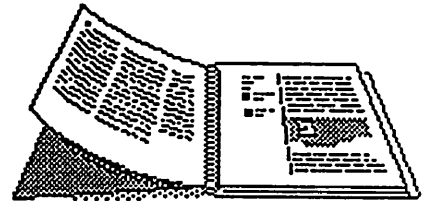
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The other highlight of the fall meeting was the user's show in which 12 exhibitors participated. Exhibits included a demonstration of the Census TIGER database, use of GIS to create an aeronautical chart, illustration of a prototype parcel level GIS, and a demonstration of a New Mexico geo-

graphic names database. Posters were displayed illustrating remote sensing and GIS in cover type mapping, and mapping activities throughout New Mexico. The exhibits proved to be very popular and most likely will become part of the program at future NMGIC meetings.

Directory and RGIS Surveys Are Completed

Dozens of surveys sent out to query the geographic information community have been returned and are being analyzed. John Peterson, working with the RGIS



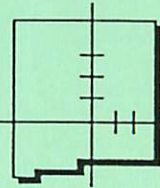
survey project and Heather Rex, editor of the *Directory of Sources for New Mexico Mapping and Remote Sensing Data* are working together to gather the information needed for both projects. Many thanks to those who took the time to fill out what might have looked like a lot of paperwork. Your organization's information about mapping projects and map availability will be invaluable. *The Map Legend* will give periodic updates on the status of projects as they develop.



The New Year also means it's time to renew your NMGIC Membership. Do it TODAY.

NMGIC Membership Dues

(\$15 per year)



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Send your membership form and check to:

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c/o Technology Application Center
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Membership entitles you to:

- Receive "The Map Legend"
- Attend semi-annual Meetings
- Receive special announcements
- Participate on Committees
- Seek and hold office

*Don't be cut-off from the New Mexico Geographic Information Council
-Become a member TODAY!*

Geographic Names

continued from page 1

graphic Names held in conjunction with the USBGN Centennial, the USBGN asked representatives from western states to comment on a proposed policy regarding Native American names and also for the states' experiences in dealing with these names.

names. This results from the religious nature of many names as well as from previous bad experiences with well-intentioned non-Native Americans. Efforts to have Native Americans involved in state names boards have not been very successful, and most states reported few issues involv-

...most so-called Native American names on current maps are, in fact, corruptions, bearing little resemblance to the original name

Regrettably, most states reported disappointment.

One problem is that most so-called Native American names on current maps are, in fact, corruptions, bearing little resemblance to the original name. Related to this is the extreme difficulty of representing the sounds of many Native American languages in Roman orthography. And as Don Orth, former USBGN Executive Secretary for Domestic Names, pointed out, "If you see a name on a map and can't pronounce it, you ignore it."

Another issue has been the reluctance of Native Americans to participate in efforts to collect and preserve their

ing Native American names. Despite these obstacles to collecting and preserving Native American names, however, Native Americans increasingly are conscious of their heritage and are seeking greater recognition and validation of their cultures; geographic names will likely become an increasingly important part of this.

Because of this, Native American names will continue as the theme of the 1991 WSGNC meeting, which will be held the second week of September in New Mexico. Bob Julyan, the New Mexico representative, promised to seek Native American representation at that meeting.

1991 Membership Dues Are Now Payable!



Membership dues to NMGIC for

1991 can now be paid. The membership year is the same as the calendar year (January 1991 thru December 1991) and entitles you admittance to two regular meetings (one in the spring and one in the fall), subscription to *The Map Legend* (published quarterly), participation in any of the committees, and receipt of other announcements that may be sent during the year. Dues are \$15.00 per year. Non-members are charged \$10.00 at the door to attend the general meetings. **BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!** Complete the attached membership form and send with your check payable to NMGIC to:

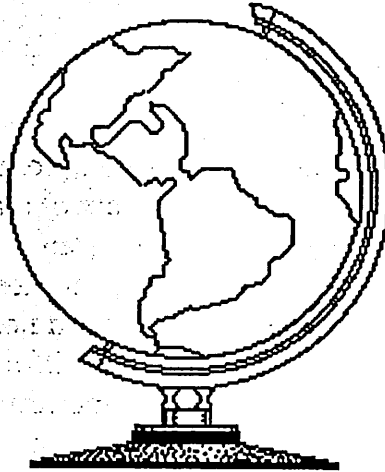
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University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131



Don't miss the next issue of *The Map Legend!*

Renew TODAY!

GIS Data Modeling References



In her talk at the Fall 1990 meeting of NMGIC, Nancy von Meyer referred to her list of GIS data modeling references. Here is that list.

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continued on page 7

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continued from page 6

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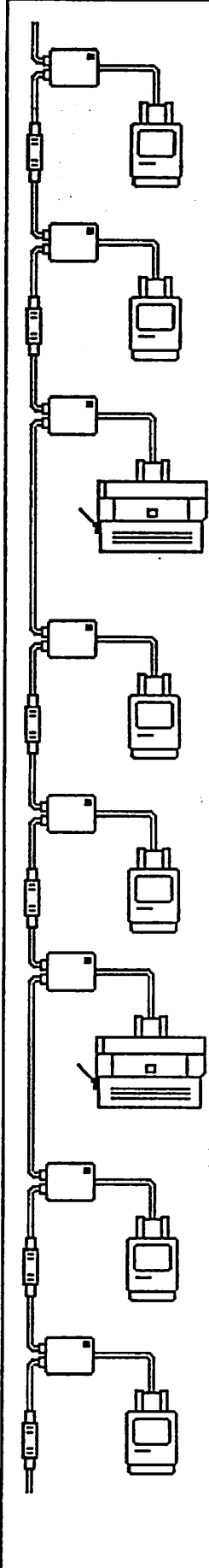
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continued on page 8



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More References

continued from page 7

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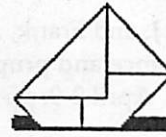
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NMGIC Elections This Spring



The NMGIC election for the Board of

Directors will be held in the Spring, 1991. To be eligible as a candidate or to vote, you must have a current membership card for 1991. Nominations may be sent to the Nominations Committee, c/o Technology Application Center, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131.



*Happy
New Year*

From The Map Legend

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to Our Corporate
Members

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