



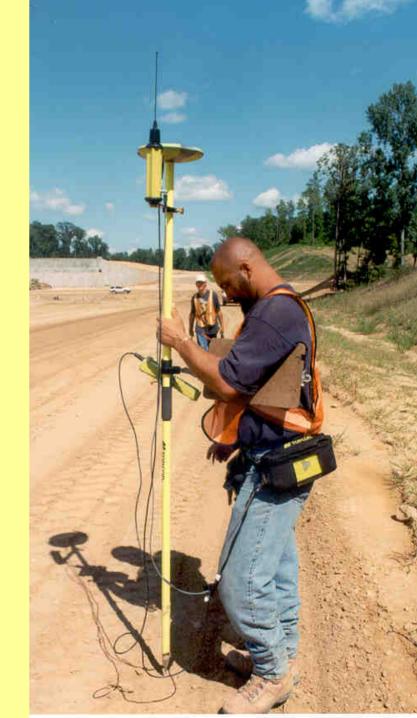




Survey Aspects of Automated Machine Control

The Changing Role of the

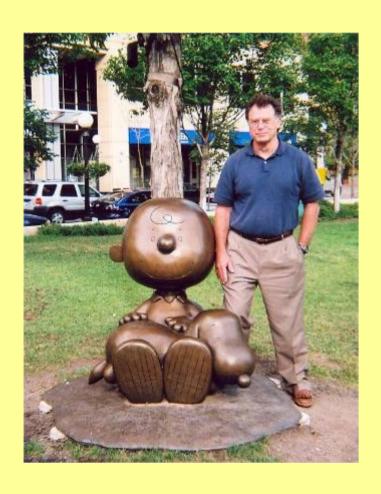
Construction
Surveyor /
Inspector/Grader











Charlie Brown, PE, PLS
NCDOT
State Location & Surveys
Engineer

AASHTO TIG – AMG Work Group







# The Way Things Were When They Were That Way









# The Way Things Were When They Were That Way



#### **The Location Surveyor:**

His job was to provide the initial survey of project for design

- Staked an alignment
- Cross sections
- Maybe Photogrammetry (in the deep grass and through the trees?)
- Set points that may not last







# The Way Things Were When They Were That Way



#### The Construction Surveyor:

His job was to interpret the design, and to provide the controls, set the stakes, and provide field information for the Contractor's crew.

The survey crew consisted of:

Party Chief

**Asst Party Chief** 

**Inst Operator** 

Rodman

**Stake Driver** 

Stake Writer/Carrier







# The Way Things Were When They Were That Way



#### **The Construction Surveyor:**

- Check or set up initial control
- •Staking...and re-staking...and...
- "Hurry Up" or "Wait"
- Nothing to do but nap in the carryall







# The Way Things Were When They Were That Way



#### **The Construction Inspector:**

His job was to interpret survey marks and plans

- Check the Contractor
- Verify Specs
- •Sometimes stand around while Contractor did or re-did.
- Keep records! Document Everything







# The Way Things Were When They Were That Way



#### The Construction Inspector:

Sometimes he measured, or called in the surveyor to measure









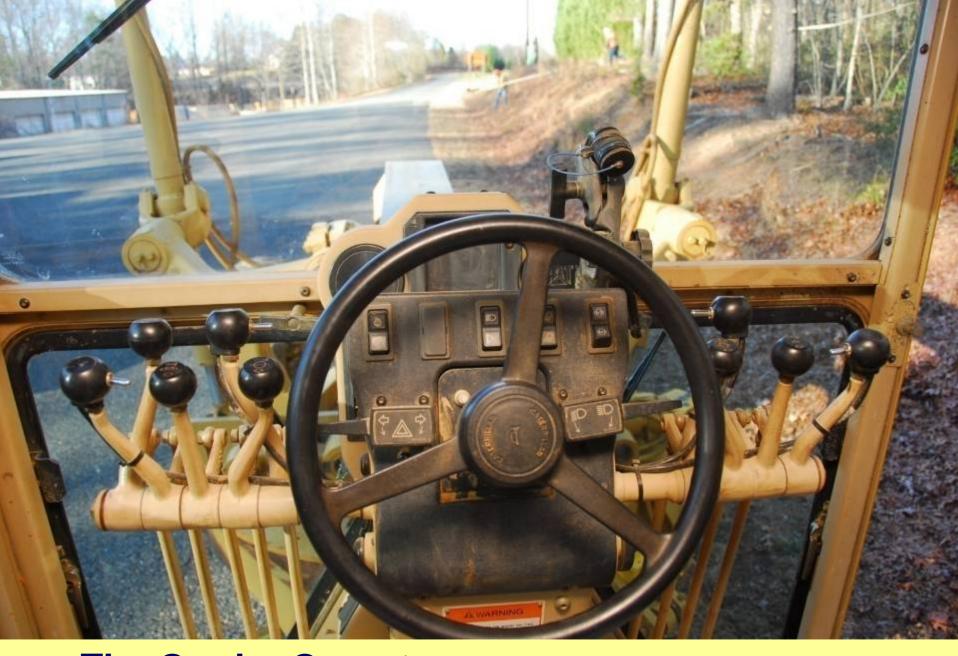
# The Way Things Were When They Were That Way



#### **The Grader Operator:**

His job was to interpret survey marks and plans and build the project

- Follow the Stakes
- Try to read those little stakes from the cab of the Grader
- •What happens between the 50' intervals?



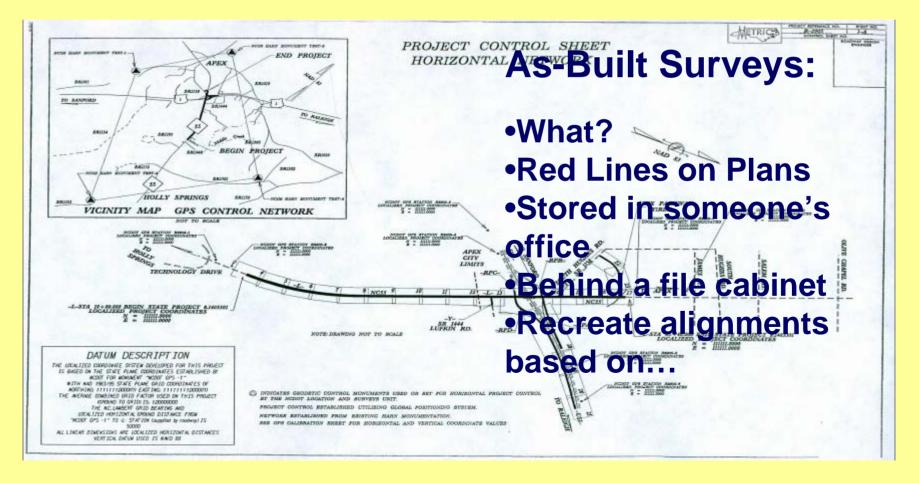
The Grader Operator: His View of the World







# The Way Things Were When They Were That Way





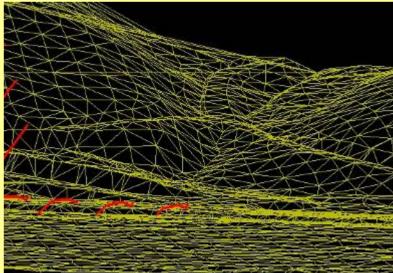




**Then Came Technology:** 

- •GPS
- Digital Terrain Models
- Robotic Total Stations
- Digital Levels
- Blue Tooth Technology
- Real Time GPS
- Computer-driven Hydraulics
- •GPS- Guided Navigation
- •3D Design (OK still working on that one)











### Put It All Together and We Get:

#### **Automated Machine Control:**

The applications of various technologies resulting in the assisted guidance of heavy equipment, using GPS and robotic total stations to accurately locate the equipment cutting surface with relation to a proposed 3 dimensional model, and using GPS- or remotely guided hydraulics (with human intervention) to correctly and accurately maneuver that cutting edge in the placement or removal of earth, asphalt, concrete, etc.







#### **Put It All Together and We Get:**

#### **Automated Machine Control:**











# Now Things Are the Way They Are: Who's Minding the Store?



#### **The Grader Operator:**

His job is still to interpret survey marks and plans and build the project. Only now those plans and marks are electronic.



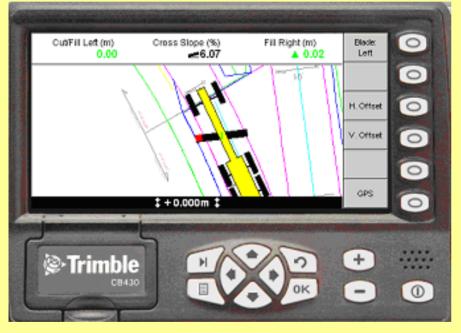
The Grader Operator: His View of the New World

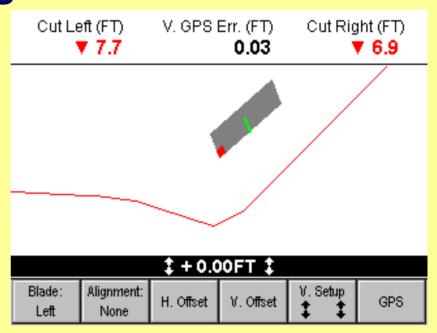






## Now Things Are the Way They Are: Who's Minding the Store?





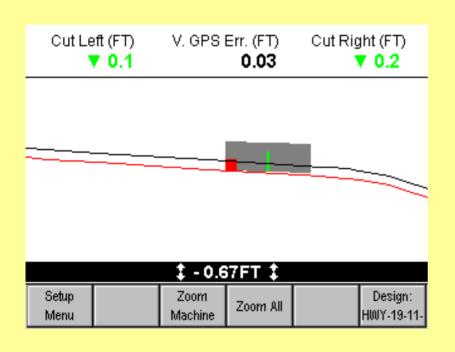
- Computer images tell him where to go or how deep to cut
- •In Real Time
- Everywhere on the project (not just at 50" sections







# Now Things Are the Way They Are: Who's Minding the Store?



#### **The Grader Operator:**

He's making decisions "on the fly" about grade and slope

But didn't he always do that?









# Are the Way They Are: Minding the Store?

#### The Construction Inspector:

His job is still to interpret survey marks and plans, and all the other things he used to do

But now using his own surface models and other software, he can do it electronically









# Are the Way They Are: inding the Store?

#### **The Construction Inspector:**

He checks and verifies
He even measures



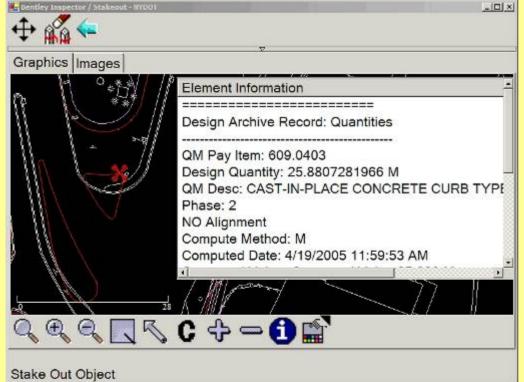




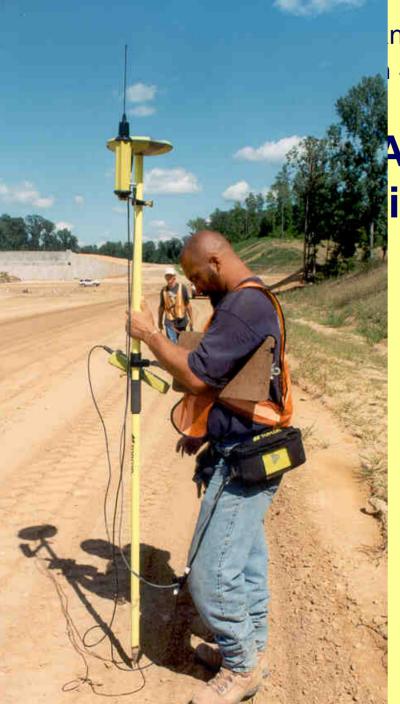


# Now Things Are the Way They Are: Who's Minding the Store?

**The Construction Inspector:** 



And his records can be automatically stored



nging Role of the Surveyor / Inspector





# Are the Way They Are: inding the Store?

#### **The Construction Surveyor:**

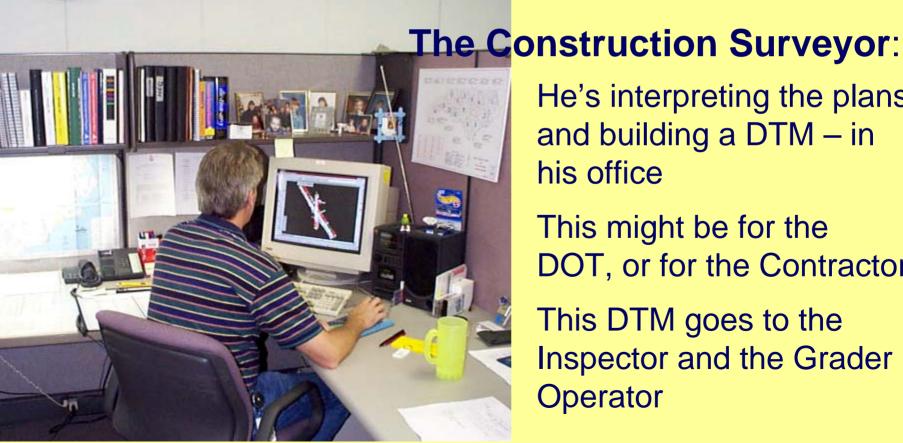
His job is still to interpret the design, and to provide the controls, set the stakes, and provide field information for the Contractor's crew.







### **Now Things Are the Way They Are:** Who's Minding the Store?



He's interpreting the plans and building a DTM - in his office

This might be for the DOT, or for the Contractor

This DTM goes to the Inspector and the Grader Operator







# Now Things Are the Way They Are: Who's Minding the Store?



#### The Construction Surveyor:

- He's verifying the accuracy of the plans
- Surveying bare earth for better tie-ins
- Verifying the accuracy of construction equipment (equipment calibration)









# re the Way They Are: nding the Store?

#### The Construction Surveyor:

He's still setting stakes for all of us reluctant DOT people

But at 1000' intervals rather than 50' intervals







# Now Things Are the Way They Are: Who's Minding the Store?



#### The Construction Surveyor:

- •4 Mile Project with 4 Grade Stakes at every 50' Section = ~ 1700 stakes
- •4 Mile Project with 4 Grade Stakes at every 1000' Section = ~ 90 stakes
- •Where's the greater chance of error?







# Now Things Are the Way They Are: Who's Minding the Store?



#### The Construction Surveyor:

- And he's tying everything back to original project control
- Establishing network control
- Setting up/monitoring base station or verifying RTK network
- Calibrating the project data
- Checking the datum

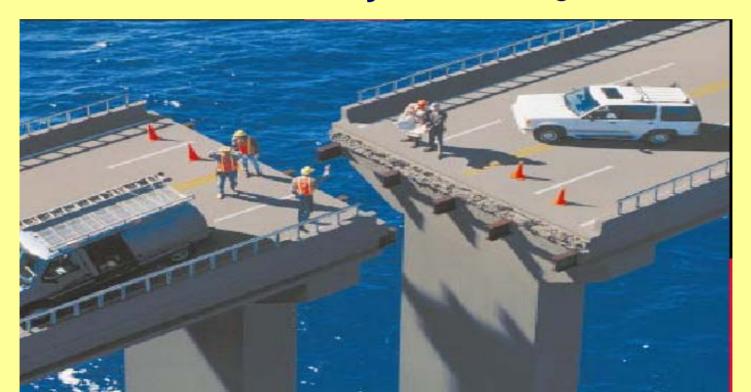






# Now Things Are the Way They Are: Who's Minding the Store?

The Construction Surveyor: Ensuring there's no bust









# Conclusion (Finally)

Roles have expanded, but we're all still doing a lot of what we did – only with bigger and better and more accurate tools. We're sharing data, and that leads to better communication, and that leads to a better product.









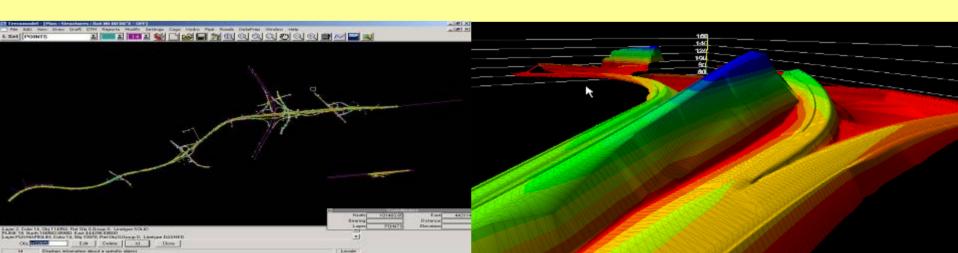
#### And that As-Built?

It's there – electronically – in CADD

Built by the Surveyor

Adjusted by the Contractor

Updated by the Inspector











#### **Questions?**









### **Thank You!**