time-sensitive issue compels us to postpone the article on increasing your client base. The Idaho Society of Professional Land Surveyors (ISPLS), as well as societies of other states, in conjunction with their state boards, are in the process of drastically altering the profession of land boundary surveying. ISPLS reports that this is a nationwide movement and Idaho needs to alter its legislation to be in conformance.

In the September meeting of our local chapter the proposed new legislation was presented by a tag team from ISPLS, the state board, and Worrell Communications. The resulting seduction presented the advantages and hid the flaws, always accompanied by “Everyone else is doing it.” Well, everyone else might be doing it (which we very greatly doubt) but the action will cause a swelling that will be very hard to get rid of. The enlargement of the land boundary portion of the rules to include all measurements performed upon, above or below the earth, is another example of engineering cells invading surveyor cells. And we need to do this so we are like other states! Come on.

CHAD & LINDA ERICKSON
Here is the enlargement/dilution effect extracted from the proposed Idaho rules: 54-1202 (11) “Professional land surveying” means responsible charge of land surveying to determine the correct boundary description, to establish or reestablish land boundaries... services using such sciences as mathematics, geodesy, photogrammetry and involving both (i) the making of geometric measurements and gathering related information pertaining to the physical or legal features of the earth, improvement on the earth, the space above, on or below the earth and (ii) developing the same into... maps...; or to provide acts of consultation...”

The evisceration: Because any and all earth measuring activities will be included in the definition of Professional land surveying, four years of these activities will qualify the applicant to sit for the state survey exam. Voilà, an Idaho Professional Land Surveyor’s license can then be obtained with zero, zip, nada-nada-lemonada land boundary experience.

In the foregoing case BLM had ignored the very regular fences of a 1913 subdivision. Like the old grocer to the young candy snatcher, we say, “Put it back!”

To Keith Simila we say, “The ignorant don’t know they don’t know”.

And so it will come to pass, following the new legislation, that the licensed Land Surveyor will routinely fail to be qualified as an expert in Land Boundary Surveying for lack of experience.

**OPPOSING COUNSEL**

On cross-examination of expert witness:

“So, you went to college for four years and have a degree in Land Surveying. Since this
case involves boundary issues and you will be asked for your opinion, can you explain to me what the term “lot exception” means? “Fundamental law of original corners”? Senior/Junior rights? How many credits did you have in the study of land case law? None! Did any of your professors have a PHD in Land Surveying? No! What did they have their doctorates in? Math! What role does math play in Land Boundary Surveying? Did you read in the June 2014 issue of the American Surveyor where C. Barton Crattie said “Math to a Land Surveyor is like cocaine to a dopehead”? Isn’t math, like the ceiling lights in a surgery, merely illumination for the surgeon? And like the surgeon, doesn’t the surveyor have to use other tools such as old records, local testimony and road centerlines and fence corners in addition to math? Maybe even in preference to mathematical solutions? Do you read any of the professional survey magazines? Ever read the writings of Jeff Lucas? What makes you think you can testify as an expert in this court if you don’t understand the Fundamental Law of Original Corners? In getting your four year degree, how many hours did you operate survey instruments? Why so few? Would your professor allow you to take the instruments out of the building on your own? Why not? Not sure! He was Pakistani and couldn’t speak English? Any other qualifications? You say you have a license as a “Professional Land Surveyor”. What qualified you for that license, other than the degree in which you never operated survey instruments? Four years of experience? Chad says that he hasn’t seen anything as slick as the presentation at our September chapter meeting since he was a Mormon Missionary back in the dark ages. Well, dip ‘em and fry ‘em; who is orchestrating this high-powered, nationwide effort anyway? Any and all objections just rolled off their backs. “We don’t have time for a comment period”, they rebutted, while selecting the non-objectors to contact specific legislators using the provided lesson plan. Einstein said, speaking of the conflict between physicists and mathematicians, “Each period is dominated by a mood such that few can perceive the tyrant that rules over them”. Well, in orchestrating the new rules for Land Surveyors nationwide, our candy snatcher has shown himself? We see you. Now, put it back! ◾

*Note: This cross exam prep was vetted by our attorney. Chad Erickson is licensed in the States of Idaho and Arizona but it is difficult to tell who knows the most, Chad or Linda. Or who is in charge. Its a Lewis and Clark thing. ericksonlandsurveys@gmail.com

“ The danger is that the ignorant don’t know they don’t know.”