

# EVIDENCE

- Surveys that happened after the OGS
- Fence corners and fence lines
- Witness testimony
- Deeds
- Subdivision Plats
- Cemetery Plats
- Road Records

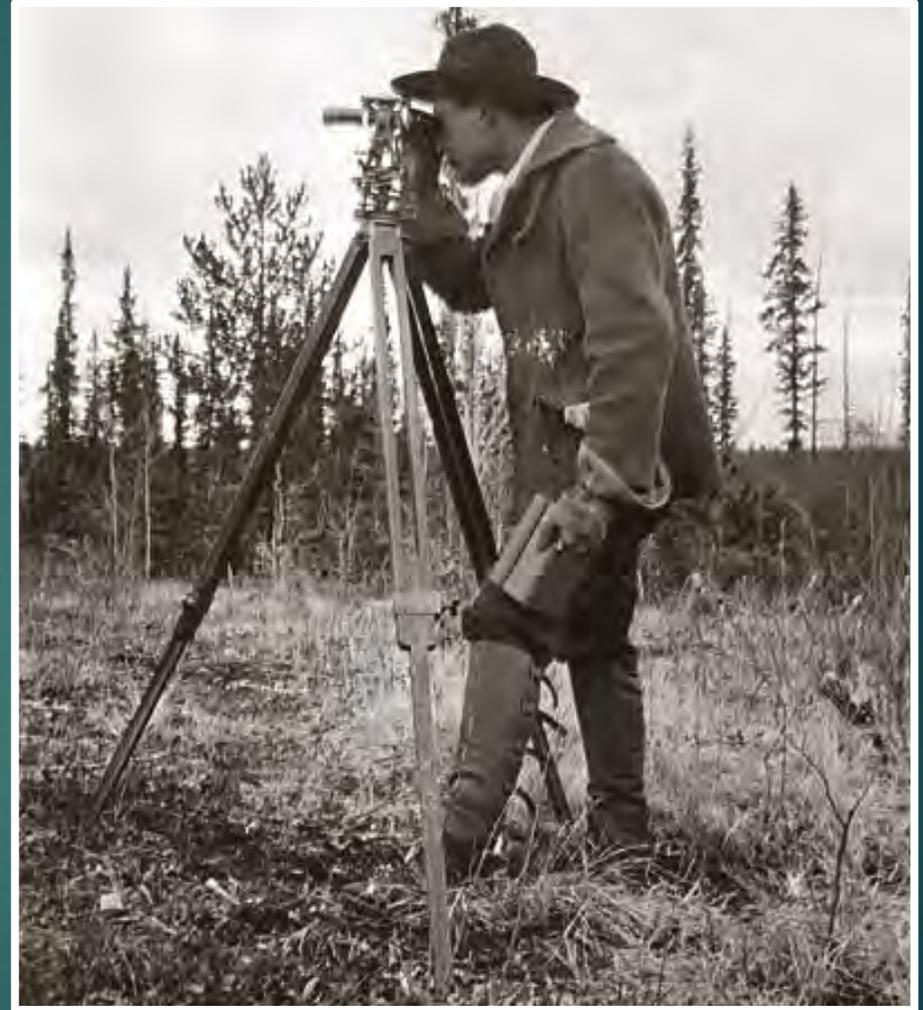
# Surveys Subsequent to the Original Government Survey



# Surveys Subsequent to the Original Government Survey



Surveyors (often a County Surveyor) utilized and perpetuated PLSS corners





# Sometimes they set "stuff"

Plow shares      Gun barrels      Railroad spikes

Pipes      Grader blades      Drag teeth      Stones

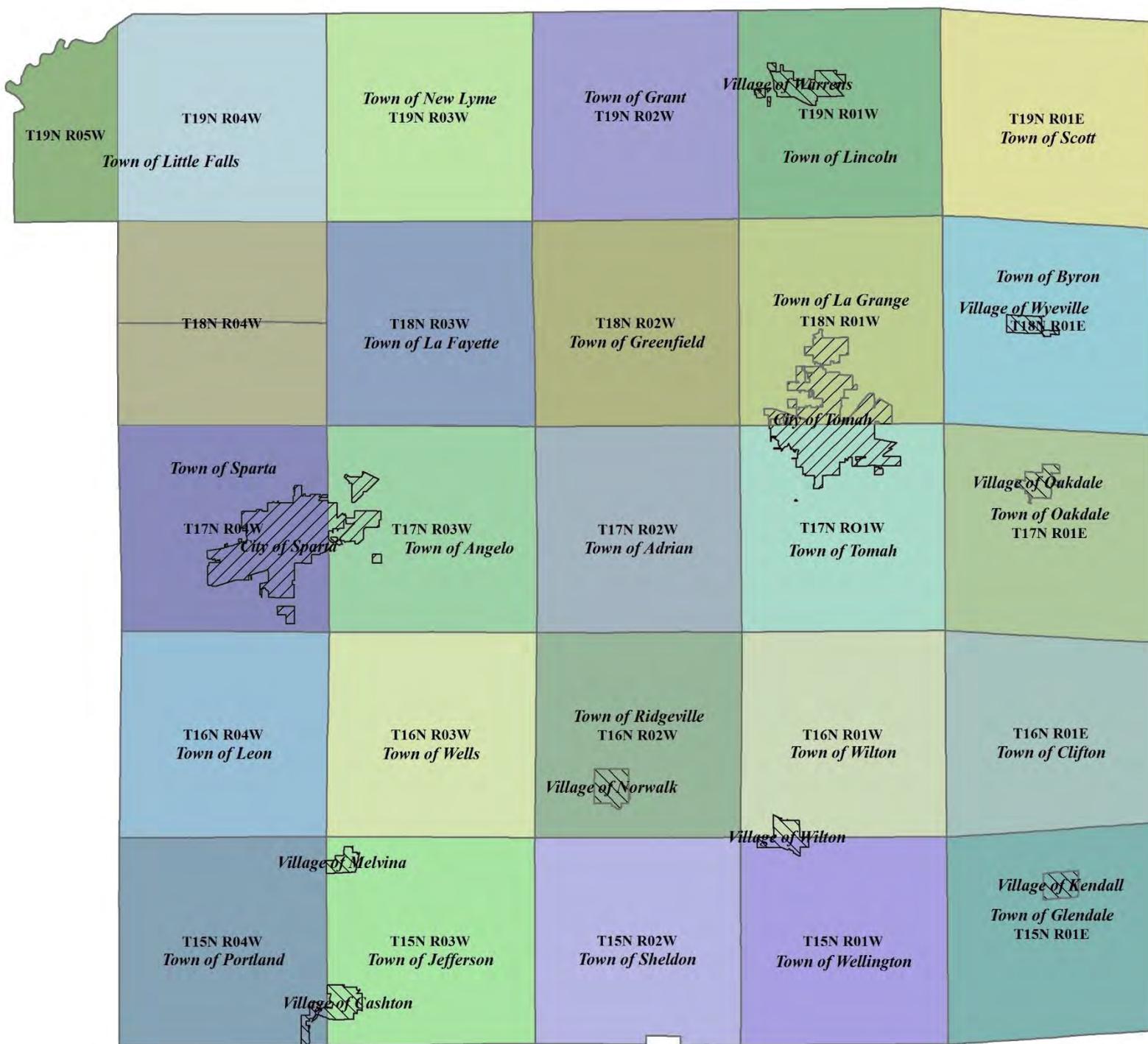
Buggy axels      Window Weights      Iron bars      Bricks



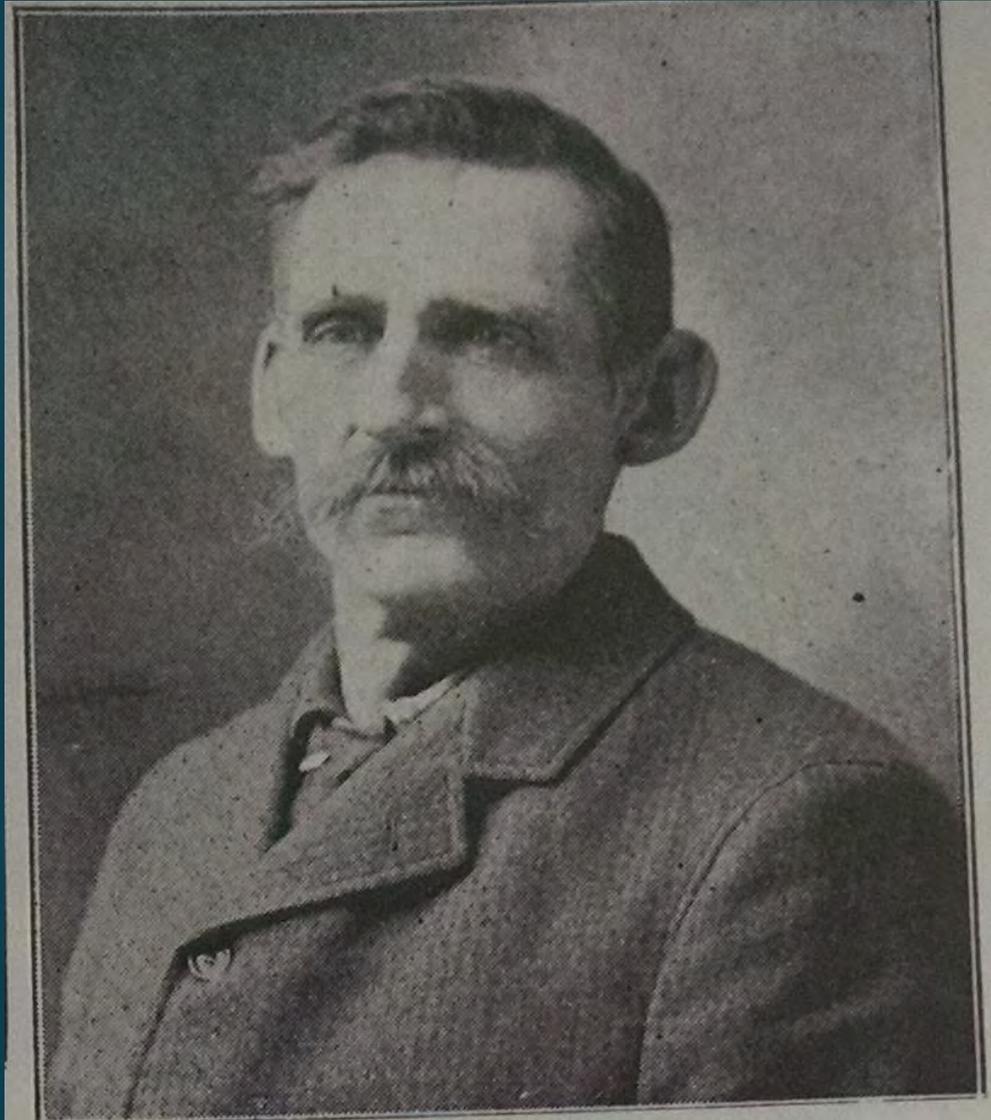
# Town of Bangor 1867

Henry Bliss – County Surveyor





Monroe County Surveyor  
Fred Holden 1900-1911



**PLAT AND CERTIFICATE OF SURVEY.**

Section *18* Town *19* Range *2 W*

Issued *by* *May 5<sup>th</sup>* 18*02*

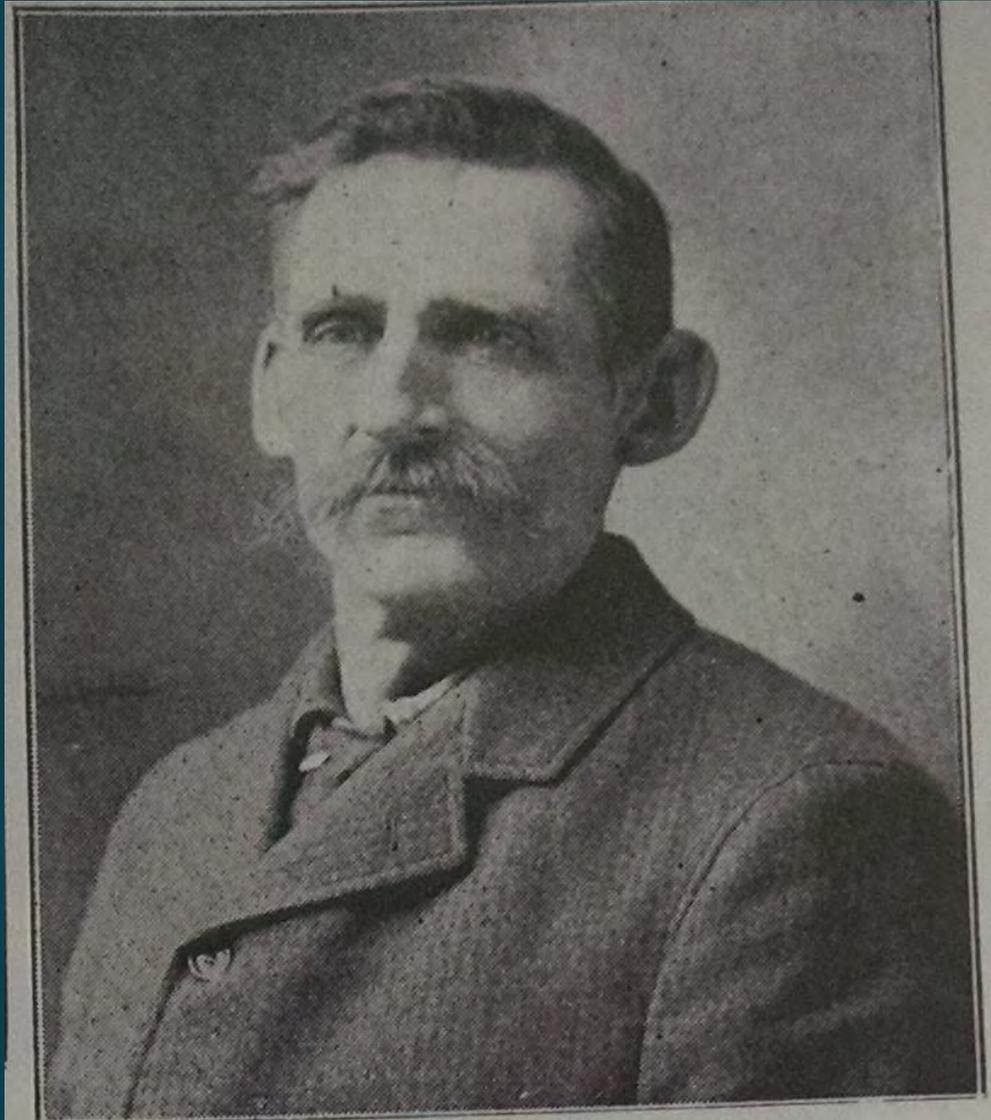
To *Warren Land Co*  
*Wm Garte*  
*Warren*

By *Paul A Holden*  
Surveyor.

*Monroe* County *Wis*

H. Niedecken Co., Stationers and Publishers, Milwaukee. 64,298

# Monroe County Surveyor Fred Holden 1900-1911



DESCRIPTION of Section, Quarter Section and Quarter quarter Section Corners of Section  
 13 Township 19 North, Range 2 East of 4th Principal Meridian.

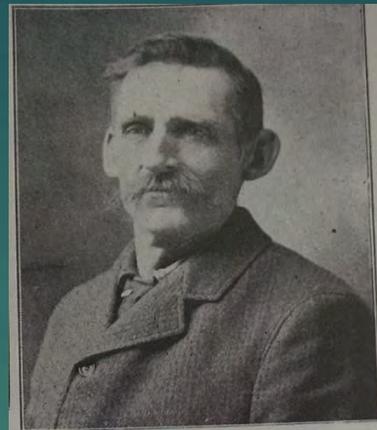
N. B.—The variation of needle adopted in establishing corners is.....

Government Corners.	Bearing Trees.	In. dia.	Courses they bear.	Links Distant	Bearing Trees.	In. dia.	Courses they bear.	Links Distant.
<i>Re-established</i> Original No. 1 N.W. Sec. cor. identified	wo	7	N 21 W	33 1/2	wo	5	S 50 1/2 E	33 1/2 Stone + mark
2 N. E. Sec. cor. identified	Red 0	8	N 5 W	57	wo	7	S 61 W	67
3 S. E. Sec. cor. identified								
4 S. W. Sec. cor. identified								
5 N. 1/4 Sec. cor. identified	Stone at corner + mark							
6 E. 1/4 Sec. cor. identified	wo	6	N 89 W	37	<i>otherwise gone</i>			
7 S. 1/4 Sec. cor. identified								
8 W. 1/4 Sec. cor. identified	Red 0	12	S 25 E	25	wo	13	N 68 1/2 W	35
<b>NO. SUBDIVISION CORNERS.</b>								
1 Center 1/4 Sec. cor.	wo	20	S 77 1/2 E	28	wo	14	N 68 W	24
2 North 1/4 N. W. qr.	wo	12	N 83 E	54	fo	6	N 57 W	79
3 East 1/4 N. W. qr.								
4 South 1/4 N. W. qr.								
5 West 1/4 N. W. qr.								
6 Center 1/4 N. W. qr.								
7 North 1/4 N. E. qr.								
8 East 1/4 N. E. qr.								
9 South 1/4 N. E. qr.								
10 Center 1/4 N. E. qr.	wo	10	East	14 1/2				Stone at corner + mark
11 East 1/4 S. E. qr.								
12 South 1/4 S. E. qr.								
13 West 1/4 S. E. qr.								
14 Center 1/4 S. E. qr.								
15 South 1/4 S. W. qr.								
16 West 1/4 S. W. qr.								
17 Center 1/4 S. W. qr.								
18								
19	wo	12	S 43 1/2 W	125				Stone at corner + mark
20	wo	12	N 5 1/2 W	106				Stone at corner + mark
21	fo	10	N 57 E	67 1/2				Stone + mark

NAMES OF SWORN ASSISTANTS.

CHAINMEN.	FLAGMEN.	AXMEN.
Wm Hall John Zarte	W Hills, John Graham	Leslie Organ Perry Sizemore
	G W Birkholz	Frank Ziff

# Monroe County Surveyor Fred Holden 1900-1911



DESCRIPTION of Section, Quarter Section and Quarter quarter Section Corners of Section  
*13* Township *19* North, Range *2* <sup>West</sup> East of *40th* Principal Meridian.

N. B.—The variation of needle adopted in establishing corners is.....

Government Corners.	Bearing Trees.	In. dia.	Courses they bear.	Links Distant	Bearing Trees.	In dia.	Courses they bear.	Links Distant,
<i>Re-established</i> No. <i>1</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>N 21 W</i>	<i>33 1/2</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>S 50 1/2 E</i>	<i>33 1/2</i> <i>Stone + mark</i>
<i>Original</i> <i>new</i> <i>2</i> N. W. Sec. cor. identified	<i>Red 0</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>N 5 W</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>S 61 W</i>	<i>67</i>
<i>3</i> N. E. Sec. cor. identified								
<i>4</i> S. E. Sec. cor. identified								
<i>5</i> S. W. Sec. cor. identified								
<i>6</i> N. 1/4 Sec. cor. identified	<i>Stone at corner + mark</i>							
<i>Original</i> <i>7</i> E. 1/4 Sec. cor. identified	<i>no</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>N 89 W</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>otherwise gone</i>			
<i>Original</i> <i>8</i> S. 1/4 Sec. cor. identified								
<i>Original</i> <i>8</i> W. 1/4 Sec. cor. identified	<i>Red 0</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>S 25 E</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>N 69 1/2 W</i>	<i>35</i>

North between Sections 13 & 14  
 Variation 7° 45' East  
 22.63 White Oak 17 inches in diameter  
 40.00 Set quarter Section post  
 Red Oak 12 S 25 E 25 links  
 White Oak 13 N 69 1/2 W 35 "  
 80.00 Set post corner to Sections  
 11. 12. 13 & 14

Original corner  
 John Davidson  
 1853

Set quarter section post  
 Red Oak 12 S25E 25 links  
 White Oak 13 N69½W 35 links

DESCRIPTION of Section, Quarter Section and Quarter quarter Section Corners of Section  
 13 Township 19 North, Range 2 East of 4th Principal Meridian.

N. B.—The variation of needle adopted in establishing corners is.....

Government Corners.	Bearing Trees.	In. dia.	Courses they bear.	Links Distant	Bearing Trees.	In dia.	Courses they bear.	Links Distant.
Re-established No. 1 N.W. Sec. cor. <sup>new</sup> identified	wo	7	N 21 W	33 1/2	wo	5	S 50 1/2 E	33 1/2 Stone + mark
Original No. 2 N. E. Sec. cor. identified	Red o	8	N 5 W	57	wo	7	S 61 W	67
No. 3 S. E. Sec. cor. identified								
No. 4 S. W. Sec. cor. identified								
Original No. 5 N. 1/4 Sec. cor. identified	Stone at corner + mark							
Original No. 6 E. 1/4 Sec. cor. identified	wo	6	N 89 W	37	other trees gone			
Original No. 7 S. 1/4 Sec. cor. identified								
Original No. 8 W. 1/4 Sec. cor. identified	Red o	12	S 25 E	25	wo	13	N 69 1/2 W	35

Fred Holden  
 County Surveyor  
 1902

NAMES OF SWORN ASSISTANTS.

CHAINMEN.

Hiram Hall  
John Zahrt

FLAGMEN.

Harry Hiles  
John Graham  
G H Birkholz

AXMEN.

Leslie Organ  
Perry Sisson

Hiram Hall  
John Zahrt

Harry Hiles  
John Graham  
G H Birkholz

Leslie Organ  
Perry Sisson

21902142000

I, Bryan H. Meyer, do hereby certify that on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1983, I found (evidence) ~~in evidence~~ of the West 1/4 corner of Section 13, T 19 N, R 2 W Fourth Principal Meridian, and I re-established said corner according to the Wisconsin Statutes as shown and described hereon.

History of corner establishment since Original Government Survey

Fred A. Holden was here in April of 1902.



Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 1983.

Bryan H. Meyer  
Deputy County Surveyor  
Title

Description of corner evidence found:  
I found a stone with a cross, 3'+ East of a 4-way fence corner. After further investigation, we found 2 flat stones lying on the South side of the corner stone. On these stones we found writing etched in them. One said "H. Hiles" "A.17". The other said "J. Zahrte" "E 1/4 S14" "Chainman". Courthouse records show that Harry Hiles and John Zahrte were both sworn assistants who helped Holden in his 1902 survey. It appears that the corner stone was set by Holden; therefore I accepted it as the corner.

Description of corner and witness monuments, references and accessories used to perpetuate the original or re-established location of this corner:

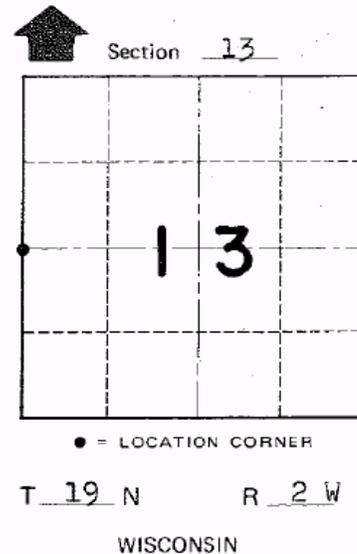
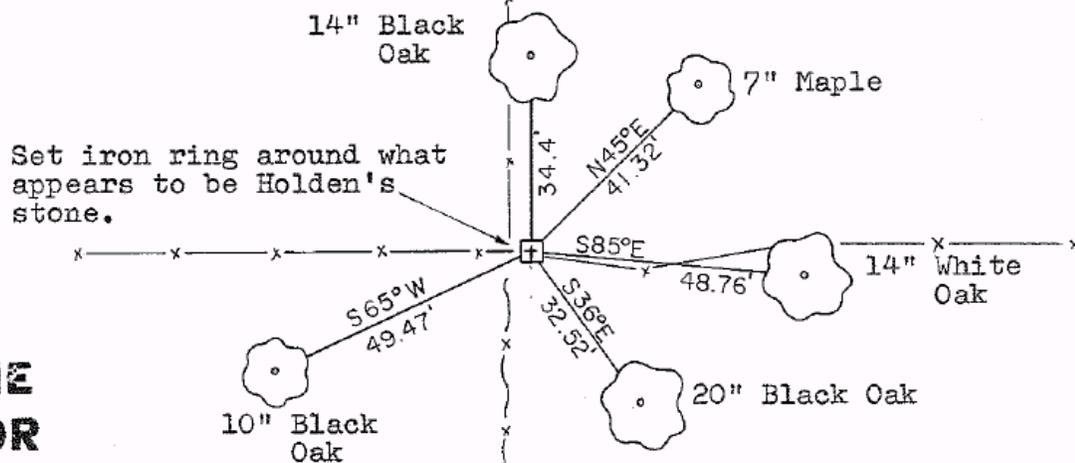
Date: July 7, 1983 - 11:00 A.M.  
Weather: Clear, Humid, 80°±.

Witnesses to corner location:

Bryan H. Meyer

Dallas Wilhite

scale: 1" = 30'±



Approved: **HARLEY A. SIME**  
**MONROE CO. SURVEYOR**

NOTE: The bearing trees shown are double blazed with the blazes facing the corner. Distances are to nails in hacks on the side of each tree.

WISCONSIN COORDINATE SYSTEM

SURVEY CONTROL ORDER

Horizontal \_\_\_\_\_

Vertical \_\_\_\_\_

Corner	East (X)	North (Y)	Elevation (Z)	Zone
Control Sta. Name				

~~City Village or~~ Town of Grant

County of Monroe

COUNTY SURVEYOR FORM NO. 1

Fred A. Holden was here in April of 1902.

Description of corner evidence found:

I found a stone with a cross, 3'+ East of a 4-way fence corner. After further investigation, we found 2 flat stones lying on the South side of the corner stone. On these stones we found writing etched in them. One said "H. Hiles" "A.17". The other said "J. Zahrte" "E~~X~~ S14" "Chainman". Courthouse records show that Harry Hiles and John Zahrte were both sworn assistants who helped Holden in his 1902 survey. It appears that the corner stone was set by Holden; therefore I accepted it as the corner.

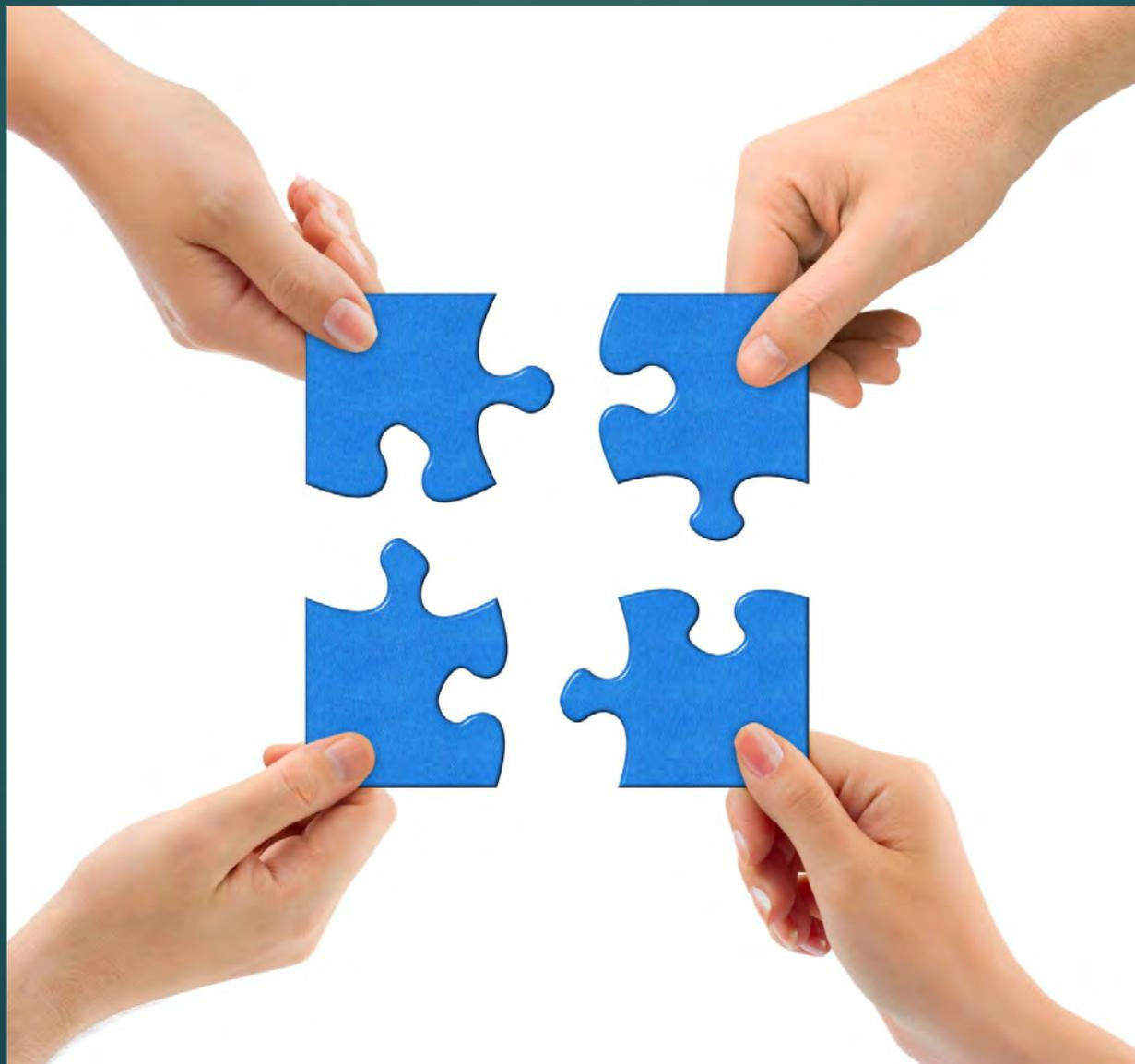






**Many times however, we aren't so fortunate**  
when it comes to finding direct evidence

Sometimes we need to look further



# EVIDENCE AND MEASUREMENTS



Fence lines

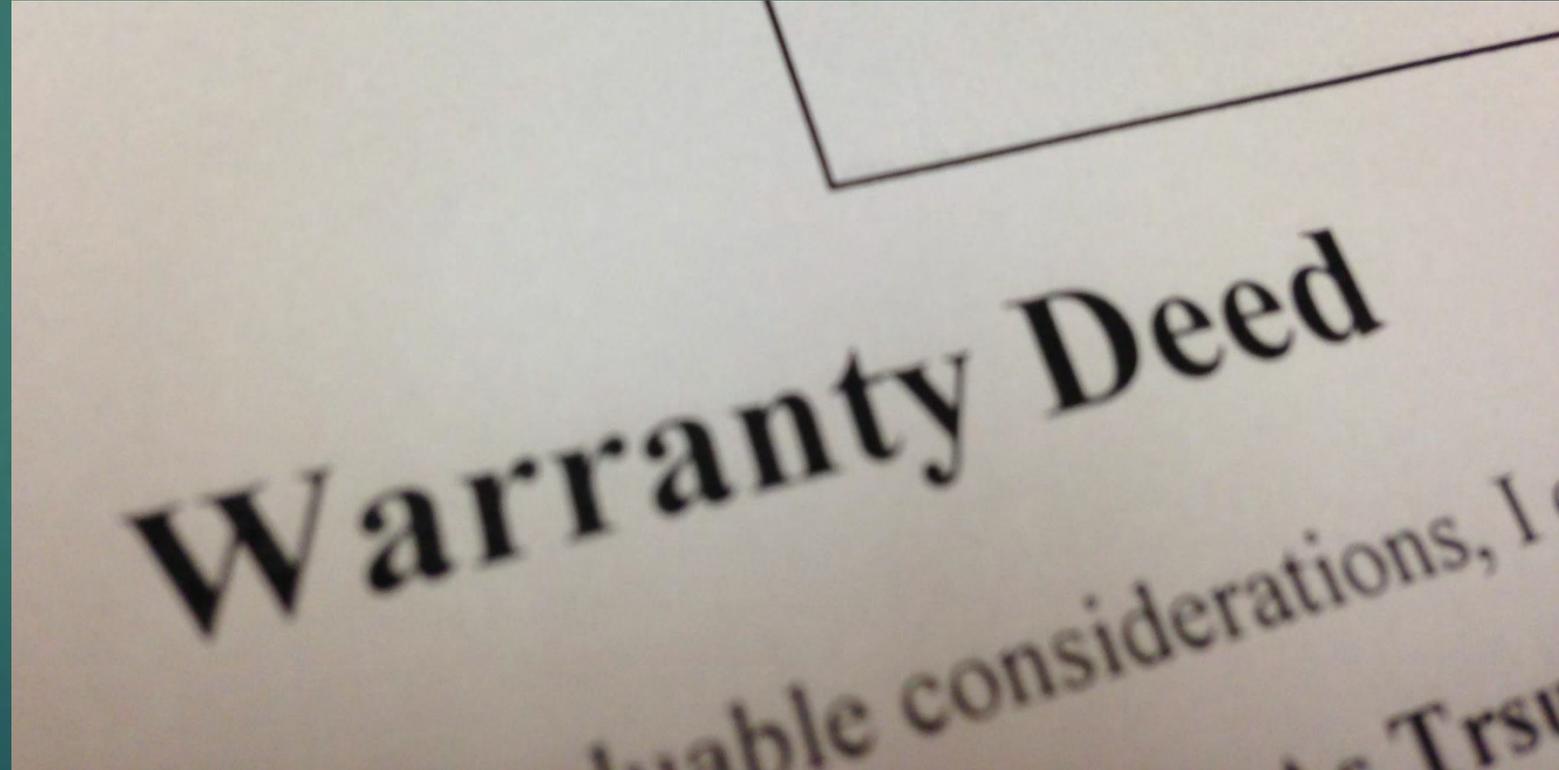
Fence corners



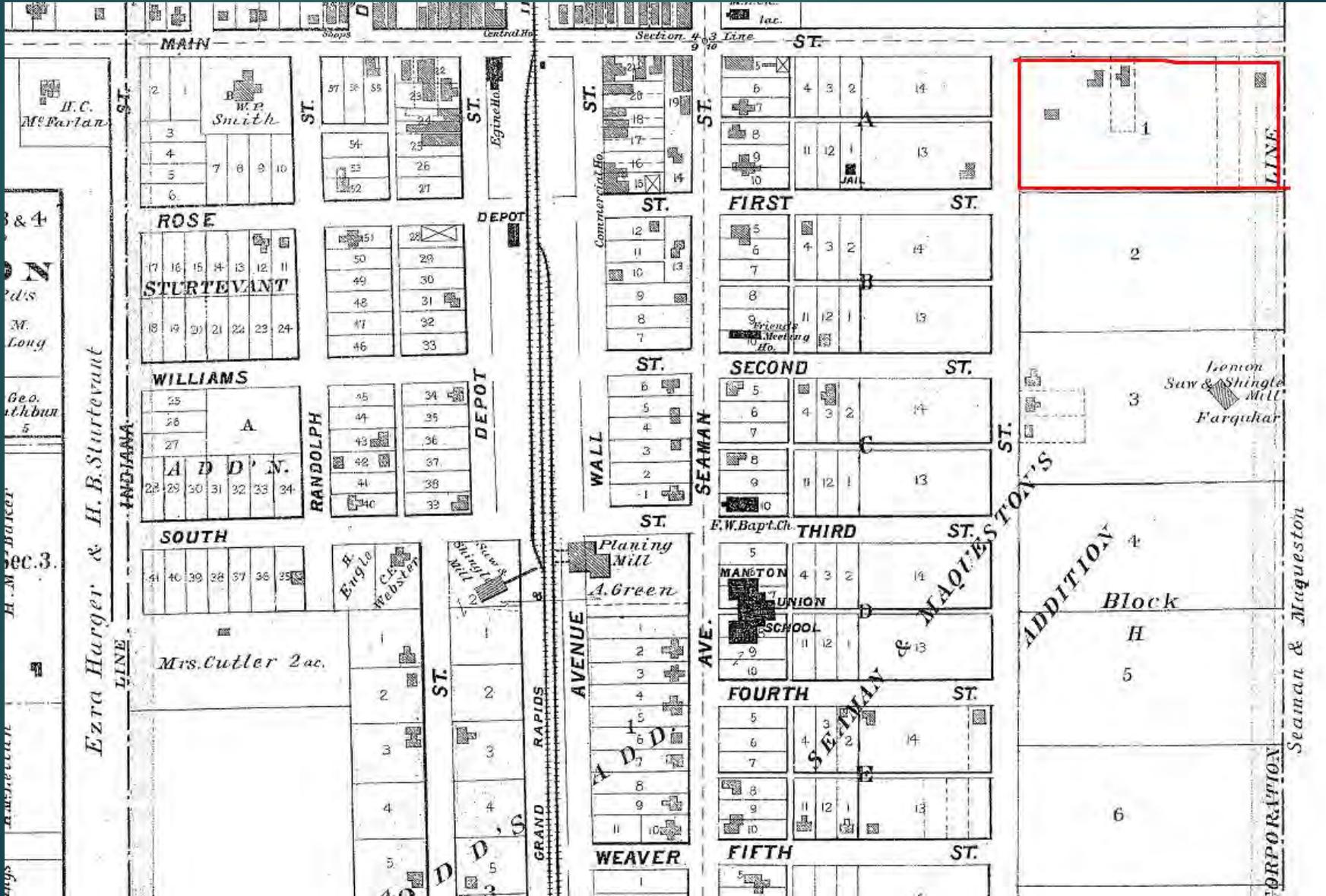
# Witness Testimony



# Deeds



# Subdivision Plats



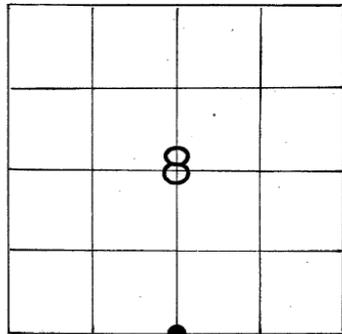
# Cemeteries and Cemetery Plats



U. S. PUBLIC LAND SURVEY MONUMENT RECORD

SECTION 8 T 15 N, R 5 W, TOWN OF Washington

LA CROSSE COUNTY



WISCONSIN COORDINATE SYSTEM	
North	
East	
Theta Angle	
Horiz. Order	
Vert. Order	
TYPE OF LANDMARK	
2" x 3/4" iron pipe, 2 3/8" x 37"	
BEARINGS ARE REFERENCED TO	
Assumed North	

LOCATION OF LANDMARK

Crew: William C. Jung  
Peter Follansbee  
Date: 10/2/89

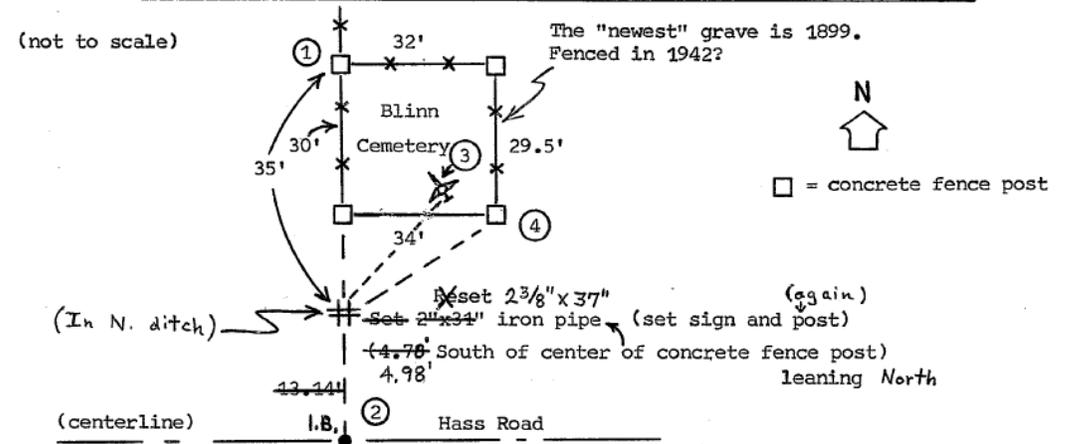
Crew: William C. Jung  
Peter Follansbee  
Date: 5/2/00 8/6/08

Describe any record evidence, monument evidence, testimonial evidence or any other material evidence you considered and whether the monument was found or restored through acceptance of an obliterated evidence location.

To the North is the old Blinn family cemetery. In 1904 Fred Blinn deeded his farm to Hundt (as described in Volume 106 Deeds, Page 53) except for a 35 ft. square parcel in the Southwest corner of the SW-SE. This parcel was reserved for burial purposes. Using this 1904 description, I set the corner by lining in with the old fence to the North and measuring 35 feet South from the NW corner of the cemetery. The cemetery fences are very old. I would assume that the location of the corner was known when the fences were built. The South fence is probably off to the North because of the highway cut. Describe or show any material discrepancy between the location of the restored corner and that of the corner previously restored or reestablished.

RECORD OF DURABLE WITNESS MONUMENTS

NO	DESCRIPTION	BEARING	DISTANCE
1	Concrete post at the NW corner of cemetery	North±	35'
2	Set new I.B. <del>and cap</del> <del>Existing P.K. nail in Hass Road centerline</del>	South±	<del>43.00</del> <del>43.44'</del> 13'
3	To <del>P.K.</del> <del>nail</del> <del>in</del> <del>unblazed</del> <del>24"</del> <del>tamarack</del> , 27"	-----	<del>21.65</del> <del>21.67'</del> 21.74'
4	To center of concrete fence post	-----	34.35'



PLAN VIEW DRAWING OF REFERENCE TIES

MAP SHOWING DISTANCE AND DIRECTION TO OTHER PUBLIC LAND SURVEY CORNERS USED FOR REESTABLISHING THE CORNER

Describe any record evidence, monument evidence, testimonial evidence or any other material evidence you considered and whether the monument was found or restored through acceptance of an obliterated evidence location.

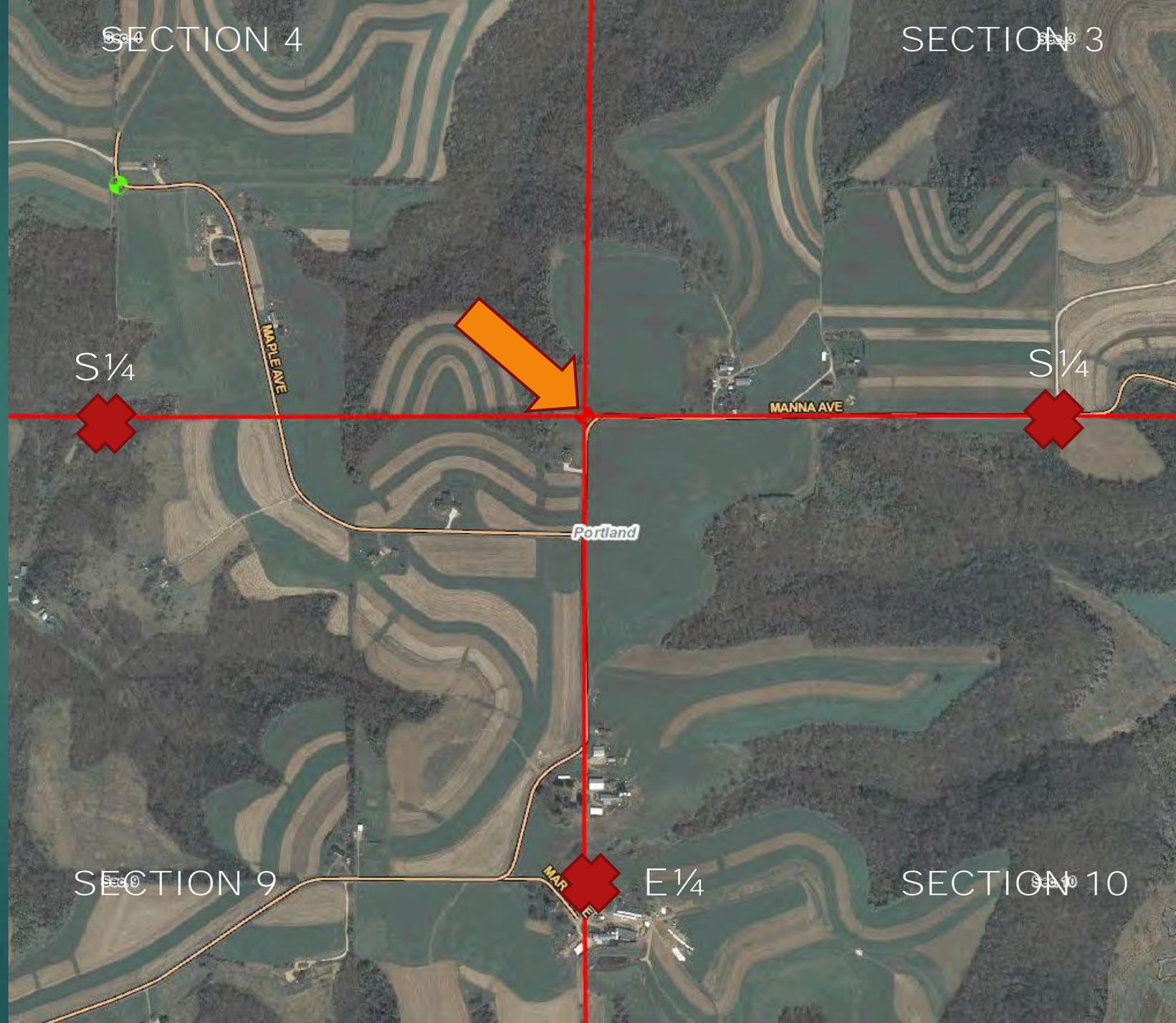
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# Town Road Records



Southeast corner of  
Section 4,  
T15N, R4W,  
Town of Portland,  
Monroe County,  
Wisconsin.





Manna Avenue

Maple Avenue



The Town Board of said Town did meet pursuant to such notice, at the time and place specified, and did thereupon adjourn the time of deciding upon such application until the 2d day of June 1916, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, notice of said adjournment being publicly given, and forthwith filed in the office of the Town Clerk of such Town, and that upon such adjourned day, the said Town Board did again meet at the time and place specified, and after personally duly examining and viewing such highway, as required by law, did make the following order, to-wit:

### HIGHWAY ORDER.

Maguore COUNTY, }  
Town of Parlboro ss.

Whereas, upon application of 12 freeholders and          applicants for homesteads, under the laws of the United States, occupying the same, residing in said Town of Parlboro for the relocating of a highway, which said proposed relocation is set forth and described in said application as follows: Beginning ~~at~~ at the center of the highway running N & S along the east line of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec 9 Town 15 R 4 W, at a point 4 rods south of the NE corner of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , said Sec. Town and range; thence North 89° West across the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Section to a point 39 rods south of the NE corner of before said NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ ; thence north 63° West 24 rods, 4 links; thence north 17  $\frac{1}{2}$ ° West 76 rods 20 links to the north line of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE  $\frac{1}{2}$  said Sec, Town and range; thence north 17  $\frac{1}{2}$ ° West 68 rods to the center of highway in the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec 4 Town and range before said.

The Town Board of said Town did meet pursuant to such notice, at the time and place specified, and did thereupon adjourn the time of deciding upon such application until the 3d day of June 1916, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, notice of said adjournment being publicly given, and forthwith filed in the office of the Town Clerk of such Town, and that upon such adjourned day, the said Town Board did again meet at the time and place specified, and after personally duly examining and viewing such highway, as required by law, did make the following order, to-wit:

## HIGHWAY ORDER.

Wayne COUNTY, }  
Town of Parland } ss.

Whereas, upon application of 13 freeholders and                      applicants for homesteads, under the laws of the United States, occupying the same, residing in said Town of Parland for the relocating of a highway, which said proposed relocation is set forth and described in said application as follows: Beginning ~~at~~ at the center of the highway running N & S along the east line of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec 9 Town 15 R 4 W, at a point 4 rods south of the NE corner of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , said Sec. Town and range, then



**MANNA AVENUE**

*Portland*

**41 rods = 676.50'**

**MAPLE AVENUE**



CERTIFICATE

I, Bryan H. Meyer, do hereby certify that on the 12th day of December 1989, I found (evidence) ~~no evidence~~ of the Northeast corner of Section 9, T 15 N, R 4 W Fourth Principal Meridian, and I re-established said corner according to the Wisconsin Statutes as shown and described hereon.

Dated this 15th day of Dec. 1989.

Bryan H. Meyer

Deputy County Surveyor

CERTIFIED LAND CORNER

History of corner establishment since Original Government Survey

Portland town road records call for this corner to be 41 rods North of the intersection of 2 Town Roads. It does not appear that the Town Road described in said records was laid out by a surveyor, although said records do make calls for bearings and distances. Said records are dated June 3, 1916. Description of corner evidence found:

I searched in an area 676.50 feet (41 rods) North of the road intersection and at a proportionate distance between the North  $\frac{1}{4}$  corner of section 9 and the North  $\frac{1}{4}$  corner of Section 10. Found a stone with a cross on top, down 12". This stone fits the distance to said road intersection and said proportionate distance **AMAZINGLY** well! There is no record of this stone. I accepted the stone as the corner.

No. 27

21504040000



H. A. Sime and Associates  
P. O. Box 705, Tomah, WI  
Phone: (608)-372-5392

COUNTY SURVEYOR FORM NO. 1

Description of corner and witness monuments, references and accessories used to perpetuate the original or re-established location of this corner:

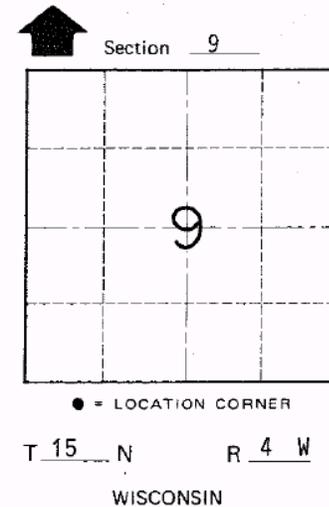
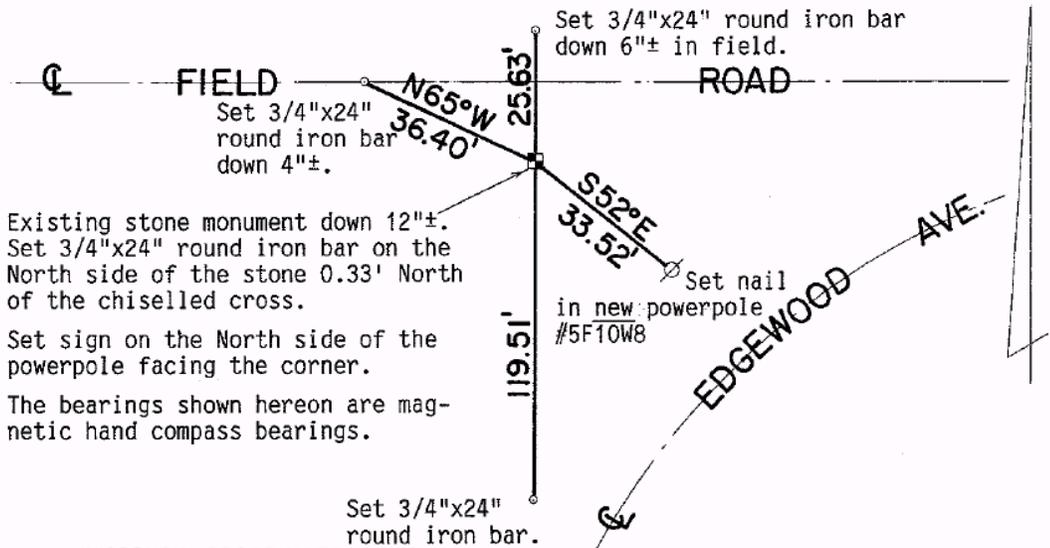
Crew: Meyer, Forsythe, Kenworthy  
Date: December 12, 1989

Witnesses to corner location:

John Kenworthy

Brian Forsythe

Bryan H. Meyer



SURVEY CONTROL ORDER

Horizontal	_____
Vertical	_____

WISCONSIN COORDINATE SYSTEM

Corner	East (X)	North (Y)	Elevation (Z)	Zone
Control Sta. Name				

~~City/Village~~ Town of Portland

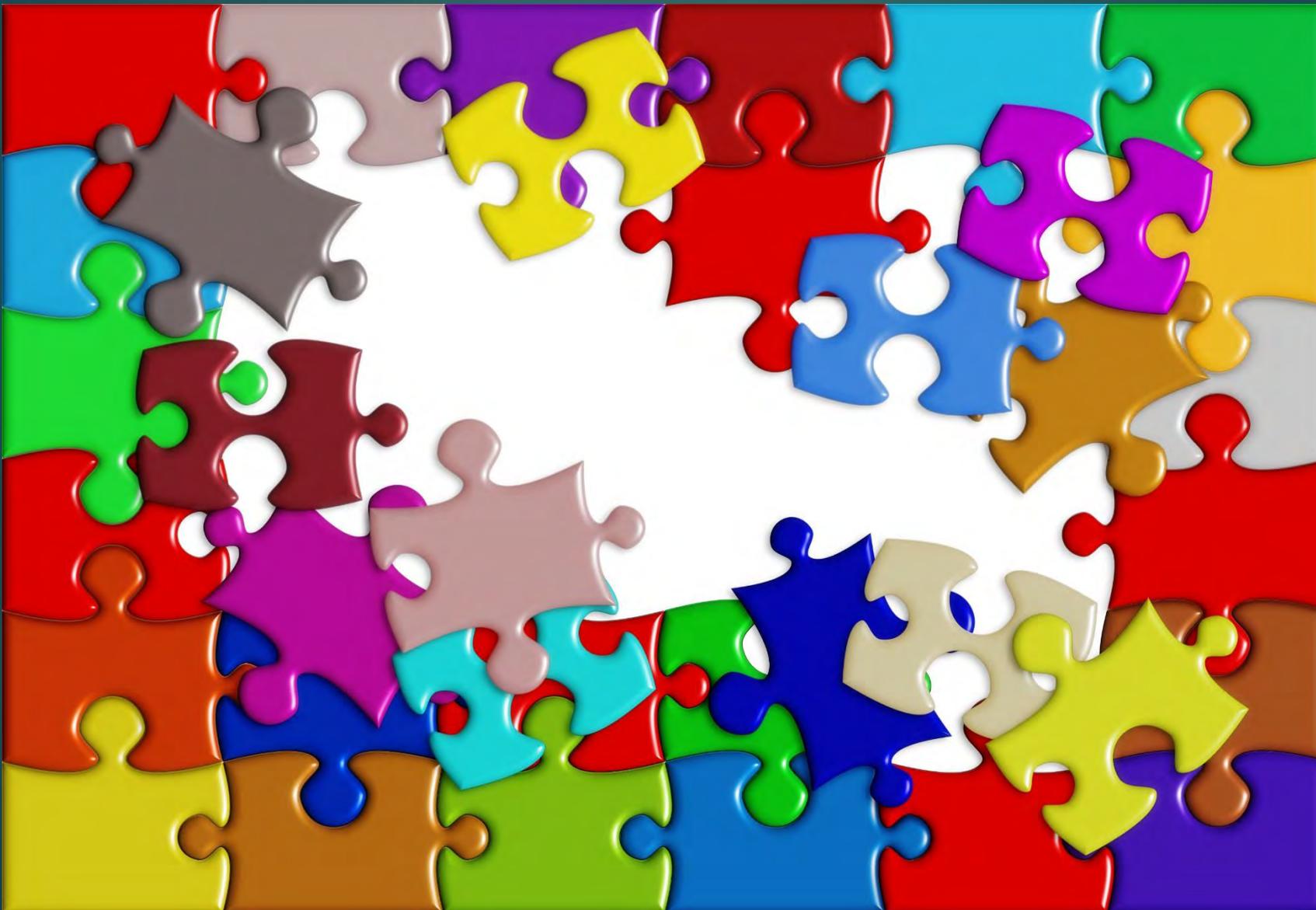
County of Monroe

### History of corner establishment since Original Government Survey

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# Measurements to evidence





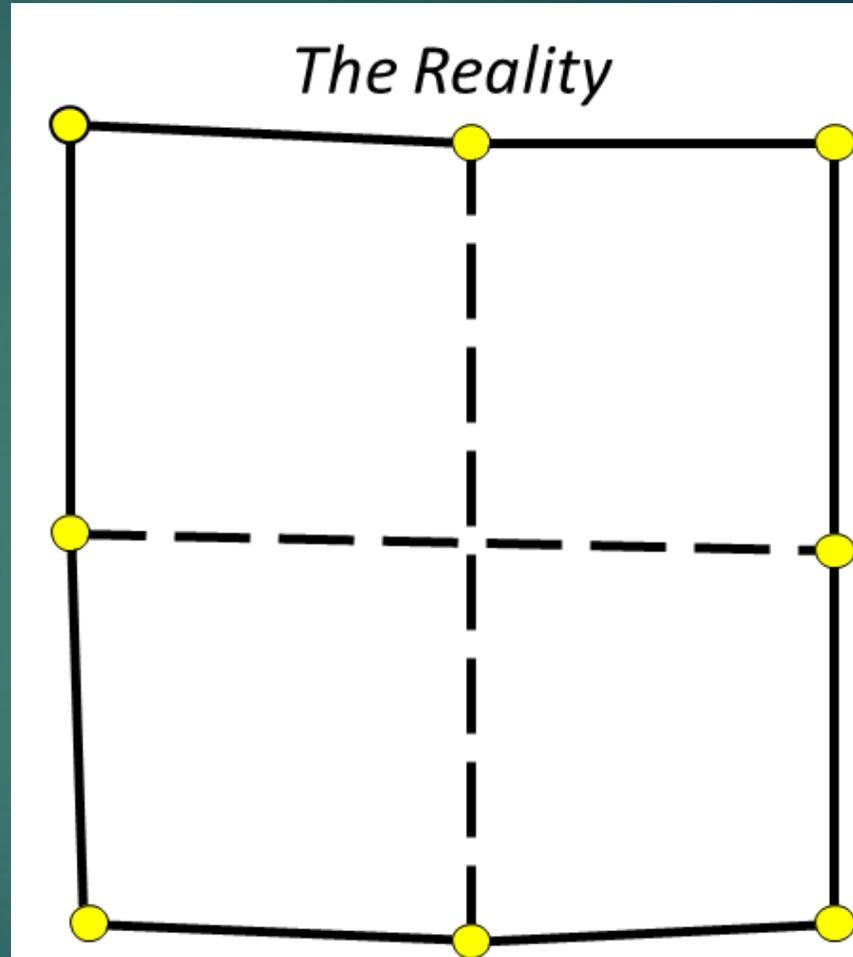
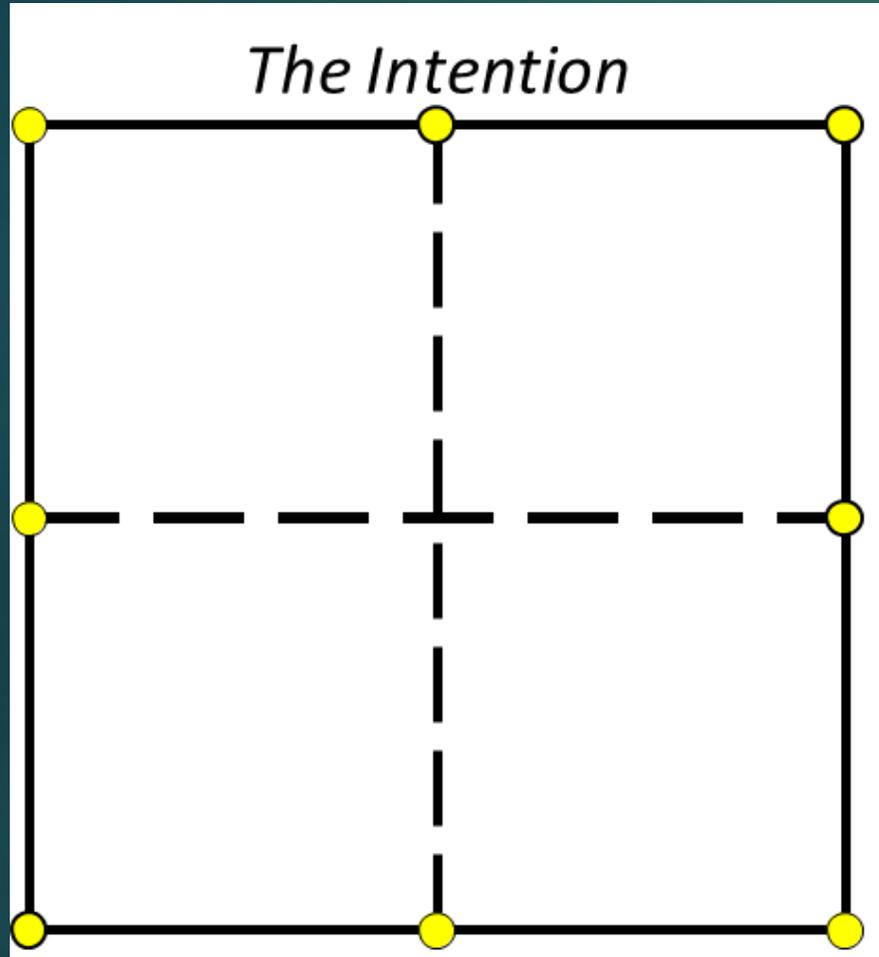
This network of corners – our infrastructure  
is *vital*ly important to land  
ownership, taxation, easements, etc.

NW 1/4		NW 1/4 NE 1/4		NE 1/4 NE 1/4	
		SW 1/4 NE 1/4		SE 1/4 NE 1/4	
W 1/2 SW 1/4	E 1/2 SW 1/4	N 1/2 NW 1/4 SE 1/4		NW 1/4 NE 1/4 SE 1/4	NE 1/4 NE 1/4 SE 1/4
		S 1/2 NW 1/4 SE 1/4		SW 1/4 NE 1/4 SE 1/4	SE 1/4 NE 1/4 SE 1/4
		W 1/2 SW 1/4 SE 1/4	E 1/2 SW 1/4 SE 1/4		

Typical Section Subdivisions

T.22 N. ELLINGTON R.16E.

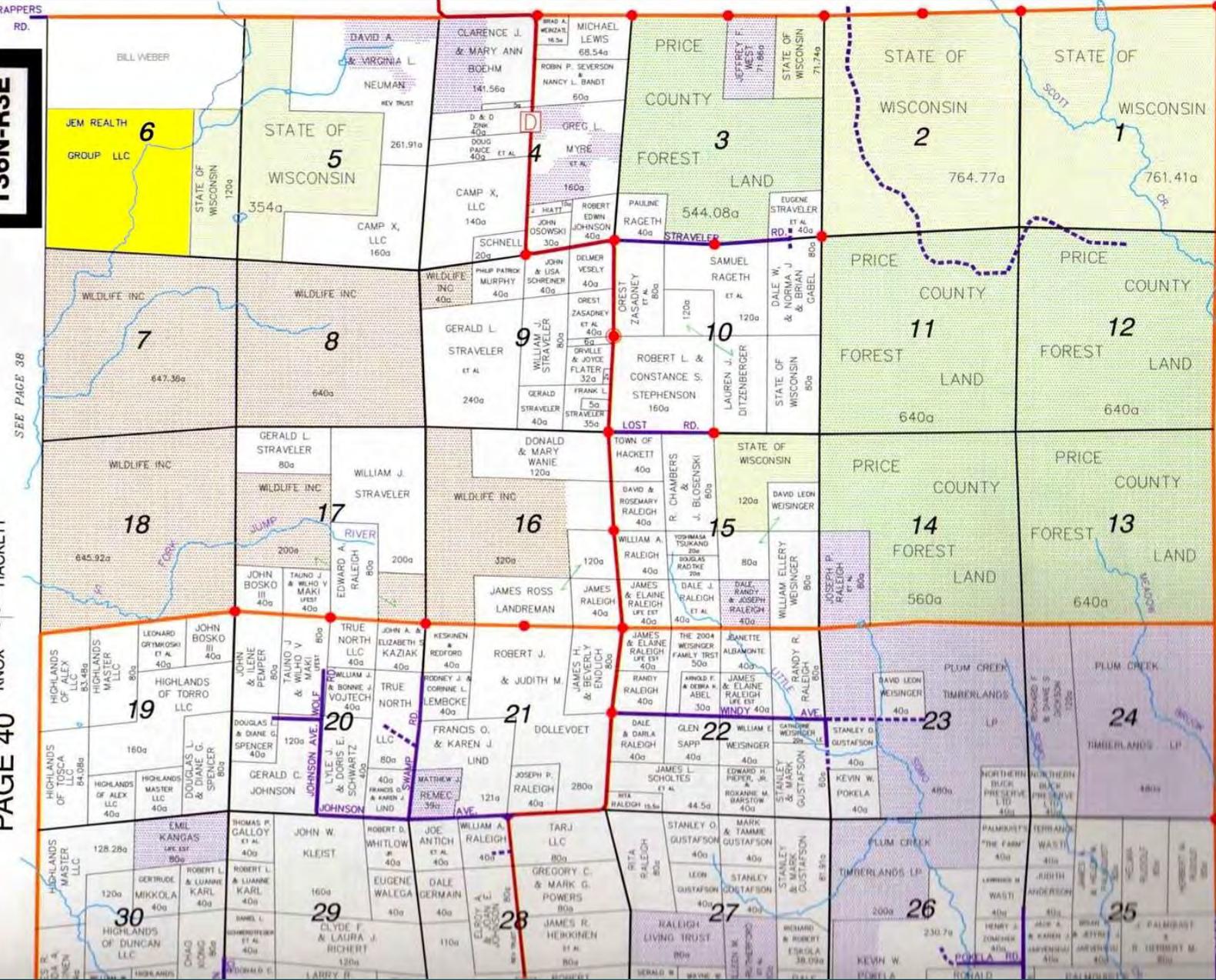




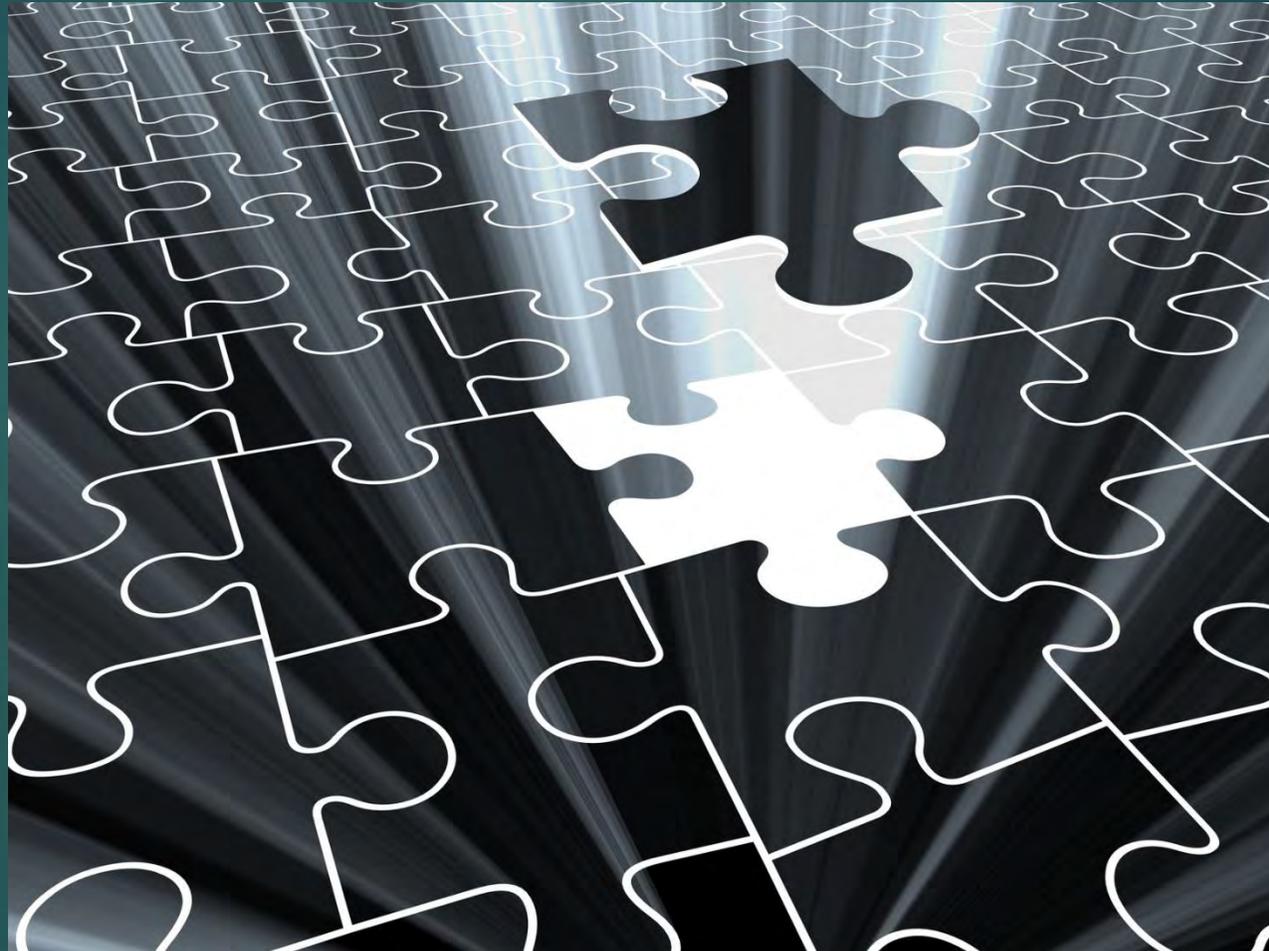
TRAPPERS RD.

T36N-R3E

PAGE 40 KNOX HACKETT



**Once we get all the corners in the ground....**



**we're not done yet**

# Corner Maintenance



# Corner Maintenance



1. Check the condition of the marker
2. Check the ties
3. Set a warning sign

Please help us  
protect these  
important corner  
locations

**PLEASE  
PROTECT  
NEARBY  
SURVEY  
MARKER**

IF LOCATION OF THIS MARK  
IS ENDANGERED  
PLEASE CONTACT  
COUNTY SURVEYOR'S OFFICE

LaCrosse Sign Co.



If you know of a survey marker that is endangered, let a surveyor know!

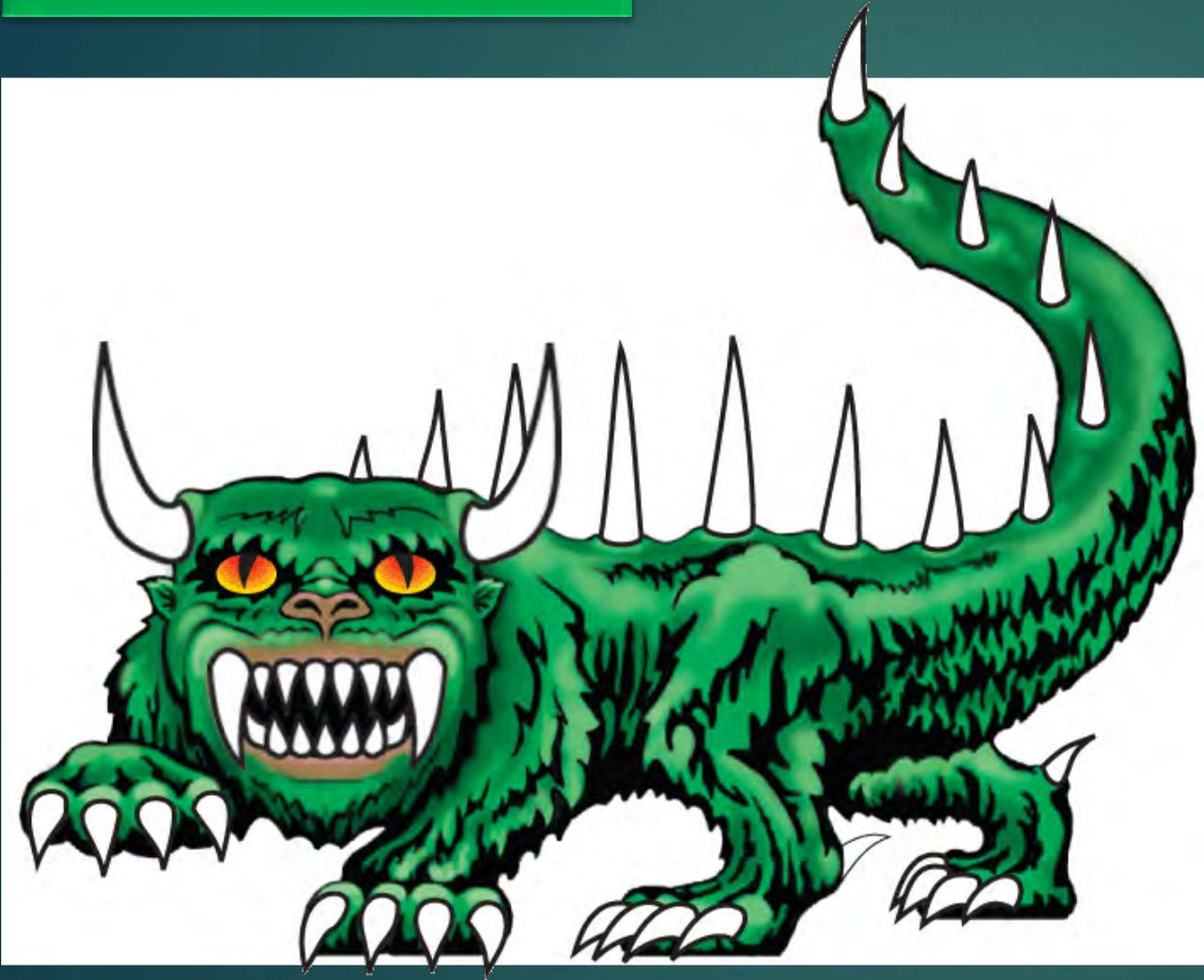


**These corners don't** belong to the County Surveyor, they belong to every Wisconsin property owner.



**“Hey Bryan, do you have any “fun facts”  
about the PLSS in Wisconsin?”**

PLSS HUMOR



## Eugene Shepard

well-known Wisconsin land surveyor,  
timber cruiser and prankster

Captured a specimen in Section 37  
in a Township near Rhinelander

Did you know?





Yes, I am a geek!

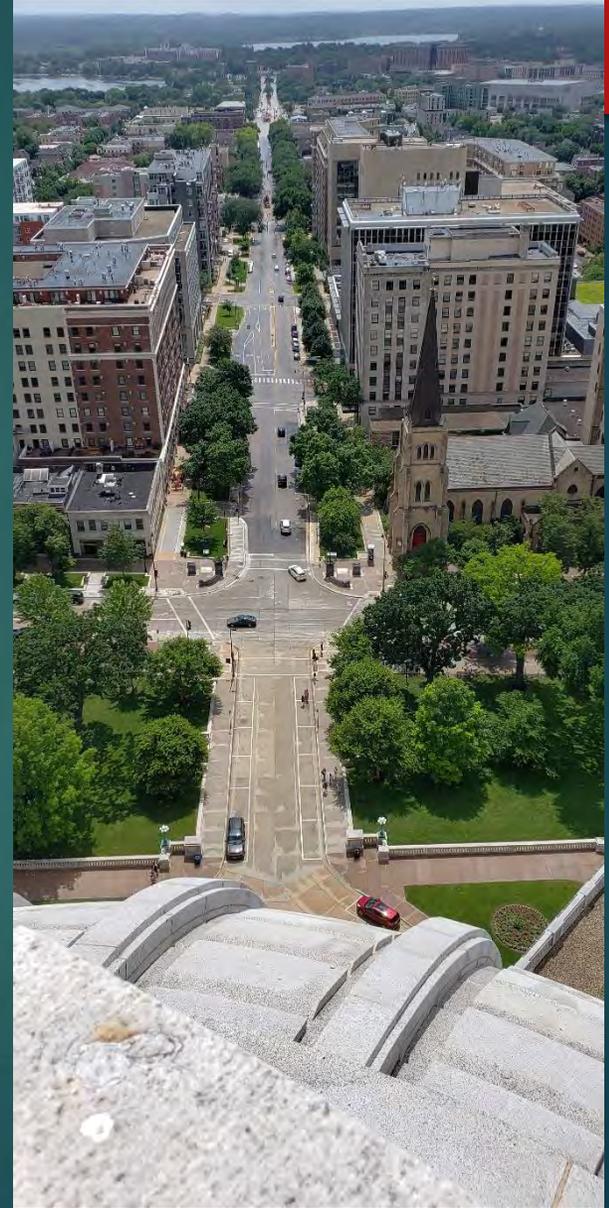
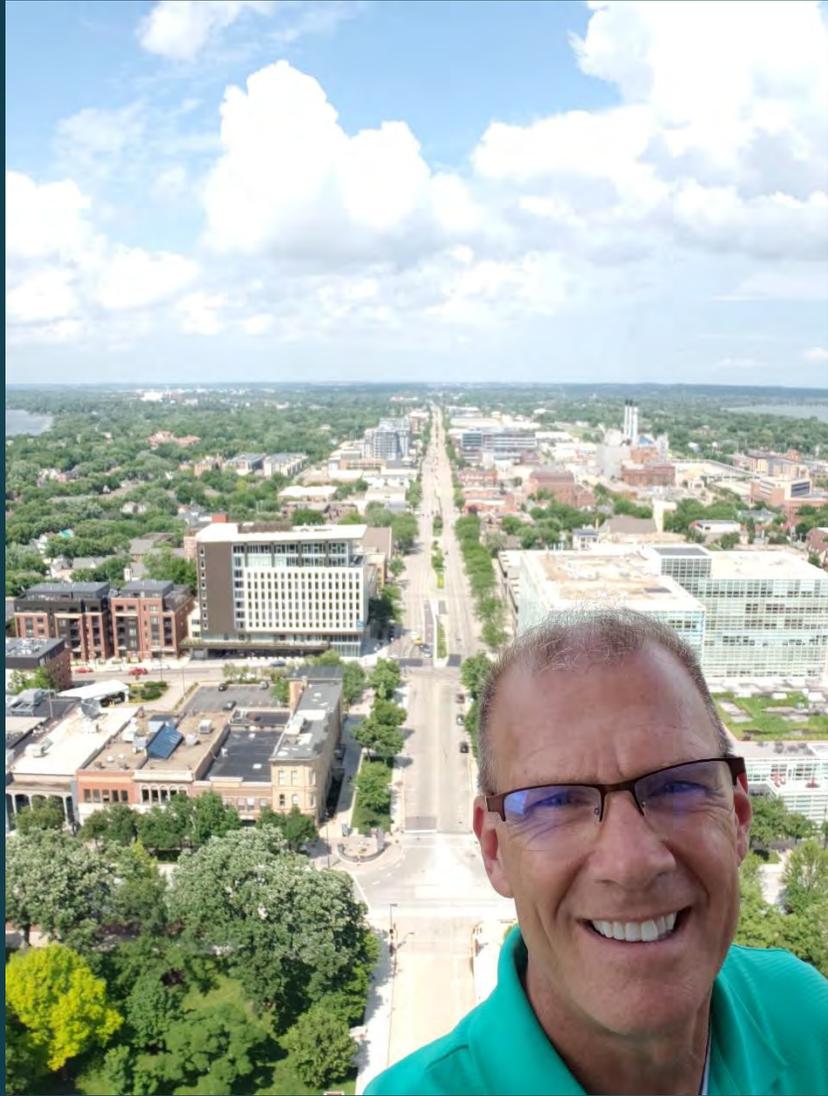
And sometimes being a geek  
can get you places!











**All because I'm a PLSS geek!**

# Wisconsin County Surveyors Association

## 2019 Board of Directors



President: Bryan Meyer – La Crosse County

Vice-President: Ryan Duckart – Brown County

Secretary: Brenda Hemstead – **State Cartographer's office**

Treasurer: Steve Geiger – Polk County

Director: Laurence Johns III – Vernon County

Director: Wade Pettit – Clark County

Director: Rob Merry – Kenosha, Milwaukee,  
Walworth & Waukesha Counties

Meet four times each year in Neillsville





# Questions?

Bryan Meyer  
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