



SPRING 1988

NOW THERE IS SIGNET!

Virtually all jurisdictions can relate horror stories about the difficulty of finding the information they need quickly or conveniently:

- Data needed to issue a permit may take days to find.
- Searching out a deed is a multi-step process requiring hours of work.
- There may be 20 to 30 sources with duplicate information, but they're not interchangeable because graphics are drawn in different scales.
- An inspector needs to take information with him into the field, but it is locked in a large record book.

Clearly, there is a great need for a common body of graphics information which can be available instantly to all departments.

In 1978, Sidwell realized this need. The company has dedicated ten years and vast amounts of time, money, equipment and a wealth of experience and knowledge to develop a total information management system.

NOW THERE IS SIGNET!

With SIGNET (Sidwell Interactive Graphics Network), all departments have a common graphics data base. It is based on one unit - the individual piece of property.

With SIGNET, each department can create its own special layers of information to supplement the data base.

With SIGNET, information is available instantaneously.

With SIGNET, information is current.

With SIGNET, there is flexibility and intelligence of data.

With SIGNET, graphics are linked to their related data.

SIGNET is a total geographic information management system.

When a jurisdiction acquires a SIGNET system, Sidwell specialists analyze the entire governmental structure and its operation. They study the needs and wishes of each department.

After a great deal of research and consultation, Sidwell technicians work with the jurisdiction in designing a system to meet that body's particular needs. For instance, graphic systems can be designed to include topography, lot lines, utility lines, tax information and much more. They may include information for mapping, engineering, architectural and planning information plus all records pertaining to the graphic information. SIGNET systems can be designed to meet the needs of counties, townships, cities, fire departments, city parks, police departments, public works - any group which needs this information.

After the design is completed, Sidwell works with the jurisdiction to convert all of its land records into the data base which will be the basis of the SIGNET system. One data base is shared and maintained by all users, eliminating the duplication of information of multiple data bases. The result is vast amounts of information, all stored in one place, and easy to access.

At the same time, each department can create its own special layers of information and update the data on which it receives current information. Affordable terminals can be placed in almost any office. Personnel who have operated simple computers can quickly become comfortable with SIGNET.

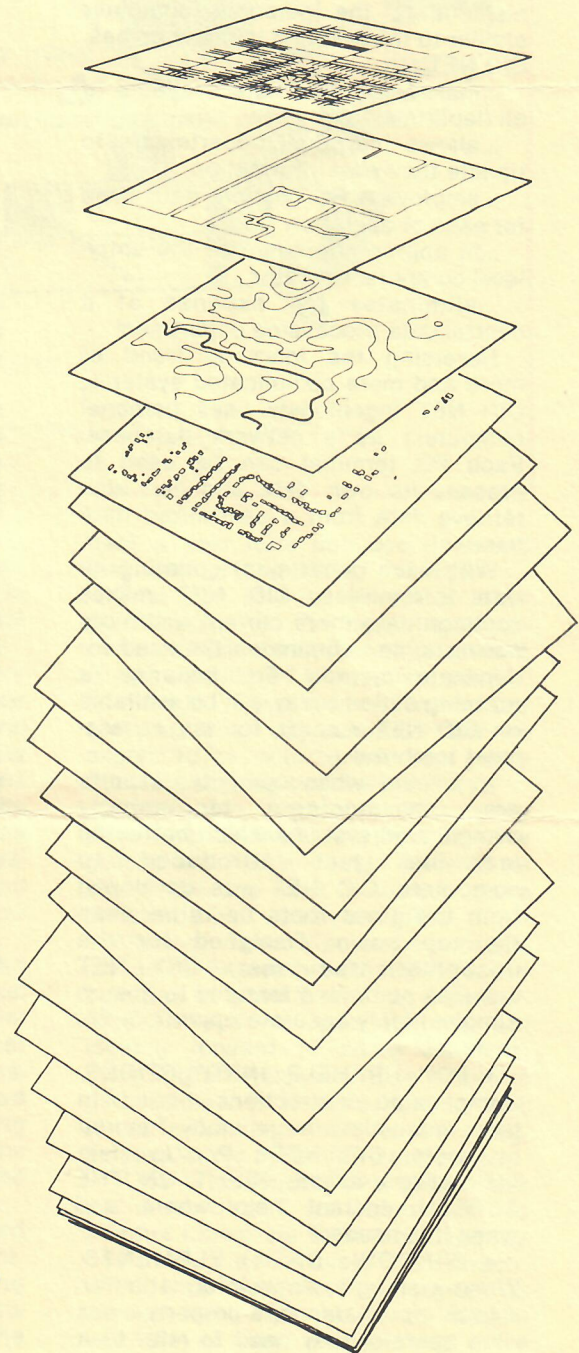
Information may be retrieved for a single piece of property or for an area covering many miles. One major benefit is the ability to link data records to graphic information. The user can look at a graphic element on a computer screen and simultaneously review a report about the property.

SIGNET can print out a hard copy of information in about the time it takes to make a photo copy. Maps for any area can be drawn to any desired scale in a period of minutes.

As in all Sidwell services, training and education are major elements of the program. Sidwell personnel work on site to help people become acquainted with the philosophy of the system and its day to day operation. Consultation and service are part of SIGNET before design, during conversion, and after the system is completed.

A totally unique concept, SIGNET can:

- Solve problems of storing vast amounts of information



SIDWELL INTRODUCES CID NET

The problem has been around as long as computers have...how to implement an accurate in-depth information system when the idea of dealing with computers scares the daylight out of the very people who would have to operate them.

Now there's good news for governmental bodies who are struggling to come to terms with the complexities of the computer age. CID NET (Computer Integrated Data Network) is a state-of-the-art computer system for sharing information between departments of government. Its major element is the personal computer similar to those found in many homes. CID NET...

- ...makes common data available to all departments
- ...allows individual departments to update their own information
- ...employs a PC network data base for ease of operation
- ...is appropriate even for the entry-level computer operator

- ...eliminates the expense of a central data processing department

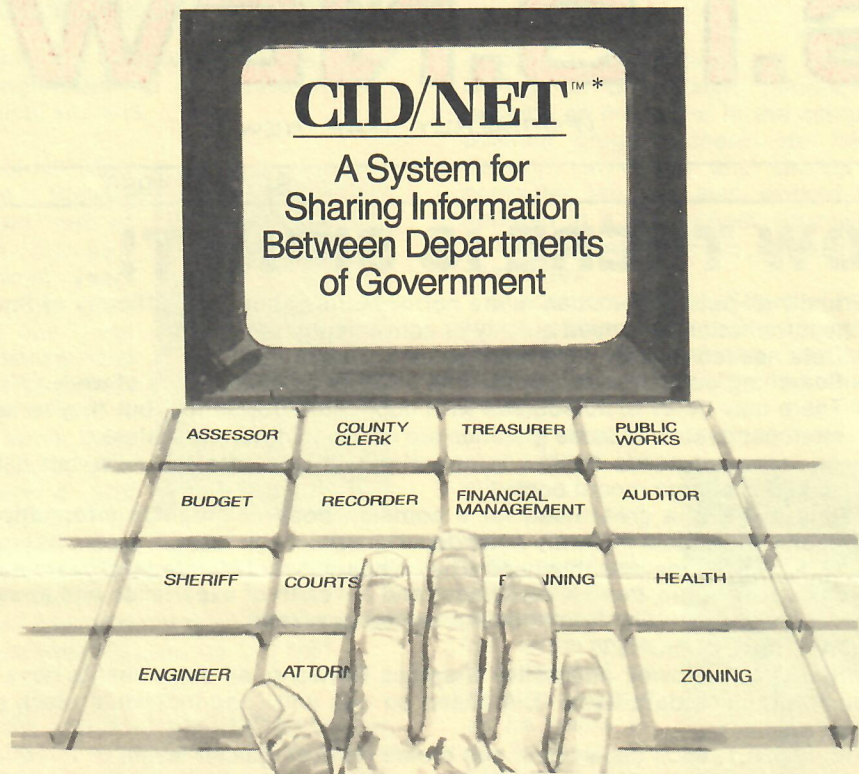
Reversing the longtime trend of more and more complicated systems, CID NET ingeniously uses personal computers as a network database. Each PC terminal can be used to process its own data and can also retrieve data from a centralized data base.

With each department updating its own information, CID NET makes common data more current and more accurate, and eliminates the need for duplicate records. For instance, a rezoning action today will be available on CID NET records for tax assessment tomorrow.

In an era when computer experts are developing increasingly complicated systems which baffle the individual just introduced to computers, CID NET was developed from the grass roots up rather than the top down. Designed for the unsophisticated user, CID NET includes numerous features to ensure simple, highly accurate operation. For instance:

- **POP UP HELP INSTRUCTIONS.** Complicated instructions buried in thick manuals are generally ignored by users. CID NET's Pop-Up Help Instructions appear **RIGHT ON THE SCREEN**. Instant help where and when it is needed!

- **WINDOW DATA ELEMENTS.** When wishing to enter information on a form - for instance, a property class - the operator may need to refer to a list of categories. By pressing a button, the operator calls up a list of



all property classes right on the screen and can simply select the correct one.

- **PULL-DOWN MENUS.** When moving from one menu to another, an operator can easily lose track of the preceding lists. CID NET holds the previous menu on the screen as the operator proceeds to the next, maintaining a complete audit trail right in view!

- **MEMO DATA DISPLAY.** No more losing notes on miscellaneous scraps of paper! CID NET's Memo Data Display is a 'scratch pad' right on the screen, allowing the operator to add specific comments, such as the tax area code or date of annexation of a particular property. Up to 99 lines are available on each screen.

The development of this unique system dates back to July, 1986 when Sidwell acquired E.D.P., Inc. a Seattle-based company which, for 14 years,

has developed software for county government. Ron McKeown, founder and president of E.D.P., has joined Sidwell as manager of Computer Integrated Data Systems.

"We've designed this network system," says McKeown, "to make maximum information available to all departmental users. The personal computer network system employs state-of-the-art technology to provide the most current, accurate, and instant information in the most comfortable way."

One very important aspect of CID NET is the on-line software support Sidwell personnel provide via phone lines. Sidwell has full capability to solve problems and perform software maintenance for a total system from Sidwell headquarters.

CID NET exemplifies The Sidwell Difference - High Quality, Service, Support!

NOW THERE IS SIGNET! *continued from page 1*

- Create an information link between graphics and related data
- Offer total security
- Enable the user to review any data or information in the system
- Make it simple to correct, change, and update data
- Eliminate duplication of maps and records
- Save great amounts of time searching out data
- Enable several people to access information at the same time
- Maintain all maps at a uniform and compatible scale
- Make available customized graphics in hard copy form as well as on screen

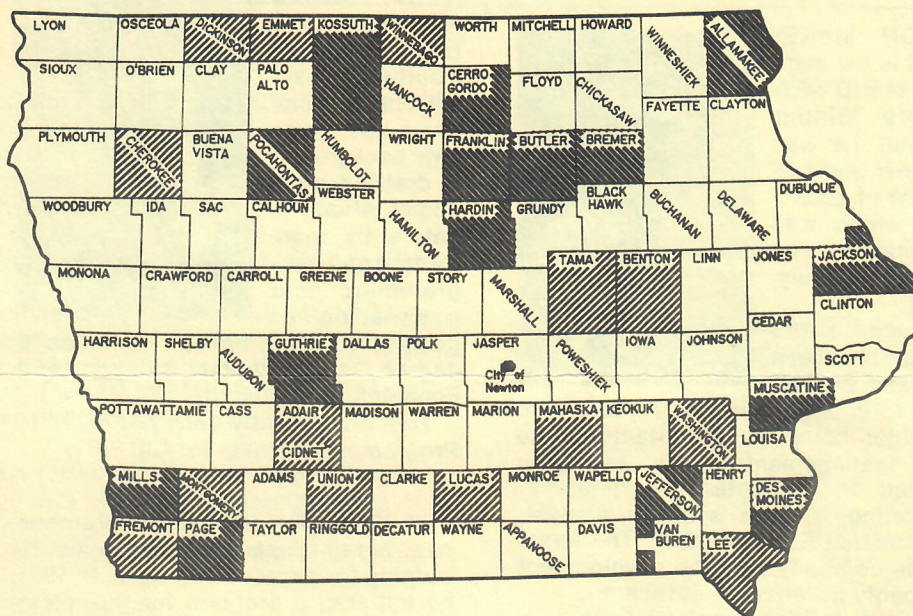
William Barg, President of The Sidwell Company, has observed, "Ten years ago, the computer graphics we had in mind - that our customers needed - were only a dream. We couldn't buy a system that was good enough. So we used our great expertise and experience to develop our own. We are now able to offer a totally unique system for total geographic information management. We are pleased to bring you SIGNET!"

**SIDWELL SERVES
31
IOWA AREAS**

Signing a contract with six new Iowa counties in the past year, Sidwell brought to 31 the number of jurisdictions it now serves in that state. The six counties include Des Moines, Jefferson, Cerro Gordo, Pocahontas, Kosuth, and Winnebago.

Sidwell signed its first contract for a mapping system in the State of Iowa in 1975. The company has concentrated much effort on building a record of achievement and solid accomplishment for its clients in Iowa, establishing systems which have become integral elements in the daily operations of these jurisdictions. Much of this growth is attributed to the endorsement of Sidwell's clients to public officials in other areas.

**THE SIDWELL COMPANY
IOWA MAPPING PROJECTS**



LEGEND

- Tax Map Projects with continuing Tax Map Maintenance Contracts
- Tax Map Projects
- CIDNET* Projects

LOUIE COULOMBE RETIRES



In his 44 years with Sidwell, Louie Coulombe watched the company grow from a small enterprise producing and maintaining county real estate atlases to a leader in its field utilizing state-of-the-art technology.

Coulombe joined the company in 1943. "At that time, there were just four other people," he recalls, "so everyone was able to do everything. We had to. We just pitched in and did

what had to be done."

He was introduced to drafting and enjoyed it so much he took classes in this field, later becoming head of Sidwell's Drafting Department.

Louie later became a Customer Engineer, furnishing support services to Sidwell clients with mapping and maintenance service contracts. "After I helped a customer with his problem, I would go back to our office to be sure our people understood exactly what the customer needed," he says. "My work involved education and training for our customers and also for our own people."

Many of the problems he was asked to solve posed major challenges. "Often people would need the answer yesterday, which put us under a great deal of pressure," Louie observes. Often, he consulted others who had faced similar problems. Knowing whom to consult was frequently the most important element in solving the problem.

Louie Coulombe always enjoyed working with Sidwell's customers, gaining real satisfaction from sitting down with an individual who had little or no knowledge of the field or the technology. "It was great to come

back a year later and see how well they were getting along," he says.

Coulombe saw the advent of aerial photography. "At the beginning, if you could recognize a house on the ground, it was considered a very clear photo," he reflects. "Since then our technology and skill have skyrocketed. Now we expect to be able to tell how many flues are coming out of a chimney."

Louie also remembers the early days when Sidwell was breaking new ground and had to design much of its equipment and have it custom made because it just wasn't available.

Although Louie Coulombe formally retired on September 30, 1987, he will continue to serve Sidwell as a consultant. He and his wife, Virginia, are looking forward to some traveling, including an Alaskan cruise. Louie is pleased he'll have more time for one of his favorite activities, woodworking; he specializes in furniture and toys.

"One of the questions people ask me most often," he comments, "is whether I miss the work. I enjoyed my work, but I don't miss it so much. What I do miss is the people I've worked with - the people at Sidwell and all of our clients who have become friends."

V.I.P.s ON SIDWELL'S CID NET STAFF

With the introduction of Sidwell's new Computer Integrated Data Network (CID NET), a number of highly-qualified people have joined the company or moved to this department.

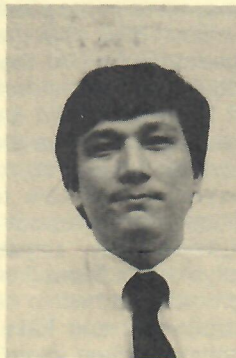
RON McKEOWN is the manager of CID NET. Before joining Sidwell, he was founder and president of E.D.P., Inc. which was purchased by Sidwell in July, 1986.



Ron's entire career has been focused on service to counties. In his 17 years with a major computer manufacturer, he had management duties and also worked in computer programming, marketing, and as systems analyst. He founded E.D.P. in 1972. The focus of the company was the development of county government software.

Already making a major contribution to Sidwell and its clients, Ron McKeown is currently modifying the existing package to fit Sidwell's clients needs. He is also developing new software to conform with local statutes in the midwest.

MIKE SMITH brought eight years of programming and data processing experience to Sidwell when he joined the company a year ago. His background includes work in the mini-computer field with local area networking.



Also a former member of E.D.P., Inc. organization, Mike has been deeply involved in county government work including designing systems for a tax cycle and financial management.

As Analyst/Supervisor of CID NET, Mike will be custom designing

systems for Sidwell's clients and helping them to understand the technical aspects.

TOM NICOSKI joined Sidwell straight out of high school. Fourteen years with the company has given him background in drafting, soils computation, data entry, management programming and generation of geographic data bases. He holds a degree in Computer Science and Economics.



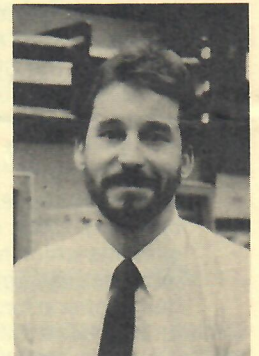
Tom has recently been promoted to Programmer/Installer for CID NET.

JEFF SMITH, Installer/Programmer, has broad experience in computer training for people of all ages. In 1981, he initiated a program for the micro-

computer department at Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois, and became an instructor in the computer science program there. He helped develop curriculum and set up the computer lab. He also worked with children in a unit school, introducing 3, 4 and 5-year-olds to the world of computers.

In addition, Jeff developed software for a custom computing company, developing applications for small businesses and initiating systems to fit individual needs. He has done programming on everything from mini-computers to micros.

Jeff's experience working with people who have little or no previous computer experience is expected to be a great asset as he trains individuals in Sidwell's systems.



SIDWELL CLIENTS GET TOGETHER

Highlights of each year for Sidwell people include the Users' Meetings when clients are invited to join Sidwell personnel for education, training, and exchange of information and ideas.

This year, Users' Meetings were held in Des Moines, Iowa and Normal, Illinois. Sidwell's technical personnel furnished information on such topics as interpretation of aerial photos, locating legals on maps, CID NET review, advances in technology and setting up a mapping department.

Tim Hopkins, who is responsible for all mapping production at Sidwell, organized the meetings. He observes, "One might think it's taking a bit of a chance to gather a whole group of your clients in the same room. But it's always been a very positive experience. We enjoy it, and it seems to be helpful to our clients."

This is the third Users Meeting Sharon Dubbels has attended. She is the Assessor for Mahaska County,

Iowa which has just received the final maps in its project and is now entering the maintenance phase.

"The first time I went, it helped me understand a lot," Sharon declares. "The second time, I understood even more. And this time it was really helpful! Every presentation has applications you can pass on when you go back home."

The Mahaska County auditor accompanied Sharon to the Users Meeting. "We looked for different things on the map, and learned practical applications," she relates. "Now we're able to pick out information we didn't even know was there."

"It's really beneficial to meet the people we've just talked to on the phone, especially as we're completing our project and going into maintenance. Now we're not dealing with voices; we're dealing with real people. It's really a plus."

SIGNET is a registered trademark of The Sidwell Company.
CID NET has been submitted for registration by The Sidwell Company.



THE SIDWELL COMPANY

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY SIDWELL SERVICES ...

Write to The Sidwell Company, 28W240 North Avenue, West Chicago, IL 60185 or phone (312) 231-0206

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