



THE SIDWELL COMPANY

# map news



Director of Public Works, Ron Naylor, checks project details using a Topo-Plan map.

## DEKALB SAVES WITH NEW MAPPING SYSTEM

*"I never tried to put a price tag on it, but the savings in time alone have been tremendous using our new maps."*

This statement from Mr. Ron Naylor, Director of Public Works for the City of DeKalb, Illinois, reveals only one of the advantages DeKalb has gained by using a new comprehensive mapping system. The aerial based topographic mapping system, known as Topo-Plan, was provided by The Sidwell Company and covers twenty-six square miles of the city and surrounding area.

### Severe Demands on City Services

Like many growing cities, DeKalb was experiencing severe demands on city-provided sewer and water services. This meant increased time and expense for field surveys to plan new construction. In addition, the number of subdivision developments was rapidly increasing. As developers submitted site plans, it became difficult to assess how new areas would match existing streets, topography and utilities. Expensive field surveys were limited to small areas, thus making it difficult to develop an overall map base for planning and design.

### Sidwell Maps Reduce Need for Field Surveys

Mr. Naylor found the solution in Sidwell's Topo-Plan Mapping System. New precision aerial photography was obtained for developing two-foot contour maps. The contour information is overlaid on an orthographic photo base to produce reproducible mylar sheets showing complete photo detail and accurate contour information. In addition to drastically reducing the number of field surveys, the new maps provide an accurate base on which all city projects can be planned.

Consultants save time by obtaining copies of the map prior to the design of new projects. Developers also find the maps useful for developing site plans that accurately show the effects on surrounding areas. This speeds the review process.

### Projects Can Now Proceed Without Delays

The city now has a common engineering base for all municipal projects. City water, sewer and utility systems can be overlaid on the Topo-Plan maps to show existing houses, streets and elevation differences. This saves the time and ex-

pense of purchasing individual project maps and means planning can proceed without waiting for field surveys or good weather.

### Maps Easy to Update

An important feature of the Topo-Plan system is the ease of updating the maps. In fact, the city plans to have new aerial photography taken this spring of several recently developed areas. The photography will be used to prepare new orthographic photo base maps to replace the outdated ones.

Mr. Naylor reports that the combination of the aerial photo with contours makes the maps valuable for municipal engineering, federal work such as flood insurance studies and as a visual aid when discussing city projects with citizens or city commissioners.

## SIDWELL REPRESENTED AT STATE AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Officials interested in learning more about modern assessment records will have the opportunity to meet and talk with Sidwell representatives at conventions scheduled during the next several months.

These include the Ohio Auditor's Conference, Indiana Township Assessor's Meeting, National Association of Counties' Convention, National Association of Tax Administrator's Conference, the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurer's Conference, Iowa Assessors and County Officials Meetings, Minnesota Assessor's Convention and the Missouri Assessor's Conference.



Martha Nunley



Carole Karr

## PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED

Sidwell's Mapping Services Manager has announced the promotions of Martha Nunley and Carole Karr.

Mrs. Nunley is now the Tax Map Maintenance Supervisor involved with tax map maintenance and computer-assisted appraisal projects.

Mrs. Karr has taken over the duties of Graphic Illustration Supervisor responsible for tax map projects and soil computation services.

## JERRY JOHNSON SPEAKS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCES



Sidwell Tax Map Sales Manager, Jerry Johnson, was one of the featured speakers at several national meetings in recent months.

First on the list was the national meeting of the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers. Following that, he addressed the National Association of Counties' Conference in Kansas City. Then in August, it was back to Kansas City for the National Association of Tax Administrator's Convention.

Jerry's presentation dealt with aerial tax mapping and parcel number identifiers and featured a color slide/tape program.



## NO GAS SHORTAGE SEEN

Those of us who drive cars may have to contemplate gas shortages and rationing, but for the private airplane owner it's still clear sailing.

According to Aerial Services Manager, Bob Meiborg, the supply of aviation gas has remained steady, although prices are rising.

Sidwell uses three airplanes for its aerial photography work; and even though they burn an average of 14 gallons per hour, Bob feels our mapping projects will not be affected by gas supply.

As Bob points out, "A 727 jetliner going from Chicago to Los Angeles burns more fuel than we do all year."

## NEW ATLASES AVAILABLE

Realtors, banks, lawyers and others needing up-to-date property information can now obtain the 1979 edition of the Kane County and St. Clair County Illinois tax map atlases.

The atlases contain reduced size copies of the official county tax maps and show complete property information including parcel boundaries, dimensions, subdivision names and permanent parcel numbers.

For more information, contact Mr. Harris, c/o The Sidwell Company.



## MAP MAINTENANCE—PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENT

**Martha Nunley, Tax Map Maintenance Supervisor, checks a tax map being updated.**

*"All types of assessment records soon become out of date and much of the original value and investment is lost unless all changes and corrections are made at least once a year."*

This quotation from the Illinois Appraisal Manual points out one of the constant problems confronting assessment officials. In order to accurately locate, inventory, and appraise property and improvements, it's essential that assessment records, especially tax maps, be updated on a regular basis.

### Maps Locate "Missing" Properties and Improvement

Many county officials find aerial based tax maps a tremendous help in locating property and improvements. A new mapping and parcel numbering program, like those Sidwell has designed for over 62 counties and townships, can locate "missing" properties and improvements, correct parcel descriptions and provide a numbering system for efficient property identification.

### Map Maintenance Important

Although the new maps generally represent the first complete inventory of real property in the county, their value can only be protected by careful maintenance.

Counties without trained mapping personnel find the best solution is to let

Sidwell begin map maintenance as soon as the mapping project is completed.

Under a maintenance agreement, the Mylar master maps are kept by Sidwell for updating. The county periodically sends Sidwell information such as deeds, plats, dedications and other documents relating to property changes. Sidwell's trained personnel then make corrections on the original Mylar maps and send the county new paper copies.

The map maintenance process follows the same detailed steps that went into preparing the original set of tax maps. Parcels are split and consolidated, subdivisions are added, and even new 1" = 100' scale maps are created for developing areas.

### Every Map Change Documented

Each change made on the maps is documented by using a Change Record Form. This gives assessment officials information such as old and newly assigned parcel numbers, new abbreviated legal descriptions and other pertinent information. The new parcel numbers are also recorded in a Parcel Number Control Book to avoid duplication.

Presently, twenty-four counties are using Sidwell's map maintenance service. They know their mapping investment is well protected. They also get the extra benefit of having current and accurate map information.



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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY SIDWELL MAPPING SERVICES . . .**

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