



THESE THREE MEN are charged with the responsibility of re-assessing Lancaster County. They are, left to right, Donald E. Clmenson, Landisville, chief assessor, E. C. Johnson, Somerset, resident consultant; and A. W. Clemson, 713 College Ave., Lancaster, assistant chief assessor. (LF Photo)

Assessors to Request Information from Farmer

If you are one of the more than 80,000 persons who own one of the 100,000 pieces of taxable property in Lancaster County, you are going to have visitors sometime during the next year.

Farmers will probably be visited first by a man asking them to point out their property lines on a map. Then will come a team to assess the farm.

These men will be visible evi-

dence of the re assessment program now being carried on by the county.

But much of the work of re-assessment will have been done long before you see these men. Right now the county is engaged in the task of making accurate tax

maps of the county. These maps will form a master record of the location of all real estate in Lancaster County.

To do this job, United States Geodetic Survey maps, air photos, developers plat maps and high-

way maps are being used. Mapping, while seemingly simple, is an exacting job and frequently errors crop up in what have been believed to be the most accurate maps.

But in the business of establishing property lines, much has to be done. One method would be to search out each deed and establish the property lines in this manner. This method, while accurate, is extremely expensive.

Therefore Donald E. Clmenson, Landisville, mapping supervisor and chief assessor, has decided that the easiest and least expensive method would be to ask each farmer to draw in his own property lines.

So it might be a good idea for you to take a look at your deed and re-determine, to your own satisfaction, just where your property lines are. The tax maps will have no legal standing other than locating the property for property record cards and the property owners index.

If there is doubt as to a property line, the determination of that line will rest with the land owner or with the courts if in dispute.

But if any "voids" show up on the map, property that has been left unclaimed by all landowners in a given area the assessors of fact will institute a search of deeds to determine the ownership of the property.

When you realize that there are 924 square miles of real estate in Lancaster County, you can readily see how some confusion might arise.

Climenson said that men from the mapping section probably will not be in the field until about the middle of spring.

The other team that will visit the farm will be to determine the true value of the property. This is the value that will be used by the assessors office and by the county commissioners in determining tax rates for the county.

And this phase of the re-assessment program is one that is greatly mis-understood and feared by many people in the county.

According to E. C. Johnson, Somerset, resident consultant, this is the way that farm values will be determined.

First of all a study will be made on the values of farm land in various parts of the county. Informed farmers, the county agent, real estate men, federal land bank appraisers and others in agricultural businesses and services will consult on what land values are in a given part of the county.

After this information has been obtained, a table of base values in a given farm area will be drawn up.

(Continued on page seven)



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