



## County Surveyors Office



M. E. BALDWIN  
*County Surveyor*

SINCE history began, man and communities have sought to safeguard their possessions by means of records, and probably no official or worker has been so instrumental in establishing rights, particularly those pertaining to land, as the surveyor.

Romance, war, the rigors of the explorer's life have all found a part in the lives of those men who "run lines" and place "monuments" where land areas touch or from where they are measured. All this has been the part of Oakland County's Surveyors in the early days when lines were run through dense forests and descriptions of bounds took cognizance of land marks such as paths cut through the timber by migrating Indian bands, unusually large trees, streams and game trails that would aid the settler in locating his boundaries. That is a far cry from the manner in which the work of the County Surveyor of today is done. And by the same token where those old land marks sufficed for monuments or markers, today there is demanded the most exacting measurements and the most enduring monuments.

Probably no county office requires the meticulous accuracy as that of the county surveyor. In this office are found records of properties which must be absolutely accurate in order to stand the acid test to which they are put in disputes over property lines. Correct boundaries and corners are vital matters where property is concerned.

The County Surveyor establishes farm boundaries, locates lot lines in cities, villages and towns, prepares subdivision plats and topographical surveys and makes assessors' and Supervisors' plats. His work is done frequently to establish lines in disputed property matters and in this connection it has been found that approximately one-third of the total surveys made each year are made as a means of preventing litigation or settling differences over locations of properties.

In the office of the County Surveyor, Maurice E. Baldwin, are found copies of some of the earliest public documents in the County. The first survey to be recorded was in Section 27 of Avon Township. This survey was recorded June 27, 1822, by Hervey Parke, United States Deputy Surveyor for Michigan Territory. These notes and records reveal the almost unbelievable changes in the county's character during the more than 100 years which have since passed.

Members of the staff, headed by the County Surveyor, include Richard J. Betzing, in charge of field work, and George H. Fisher, in charge of topographic surveys.

The Surveyor's office is equipped to make any class of survey which may be desired by the county or its property holders. The office is located at 103½ North Saginaw Street.

M. E. BALDWIN.