

Joe

DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

In 1785 the Continental Congress directed that identification of land in the new republic should be undertaken on the standardized pattern of townships six miles square containing thirty six sections. That survey system is still being carried out to this day and W. R. (Roy) Bandy and his crew of fourteen Cadastral Engineers and seven office employees carry on the work in this Region. His highly specialized crews completed cadastral surveys on 1,339,880 acres during the past year in Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska.

Cadastral Engineering is the science of the precise and legal determination of land boundaries, and marking them so they may be readily identified.

One of the first Americans to be identified with the Cadastral Engineering profession is none other than the father of our country, George Washington. History tells us that when George was about twenty-one years of age he made forays into the wilderness with his compass and trusty axe and proceeded to survey out and mark the boundaries of land grants and early land holdings. He must have been very much attached to the hatchet or axe, for he seems to have kept an axe within easy reach at all times during his surveying years in spite of the fact that its younger cousin, the hatchet, got him in bad in the cherry orchard. Reports of later Cadastral Engineers who retraced some of surveyor Washington's lines state that the blazes he made on the trees were still visible many many years later. The reason they knew the blazes were made by Mr. Washington is that they were so high they must have been made from a saddle horse. George, they say, rode a saddle horse from station to