Onset of the re-survey of McKenzie County 55 yr after field work of the initial survey was completed provides an opportunity to examine backgrounds for the two, compare approaches, and consider the applications of survey data that were made with those that are contemplated. Furthermore, the initial survey included elements unusual for its time which have since been widely incorporated into soil surveys. The field work for the initial soil survey was completed in 1933 (Edwards et al., 1942), whereas the re-survey was started in the spring of 1988. One of us (Simonson) was a member of the field crew for the initial survey and the other (Ulmer) has worked in the re-survey.

McKenzie County adjoins Montana on the west and is bounded by the Missouri River on the north and northeast. The total area is nearly 3,000 mi² (ca. 7,700 km²). As part of the Missouri Plateau section of the Great Plains Province, the county has modest rainfall. Growing season precipitation ranges from 14 in. (ca. 35 cm) along the eastern edge to 12 in. (ca. 30 cm) at the Montana border. Length of the frost-free season averages 125 days (Carter and Hamlin, 1987).

Soils of the county are chiefly Borolls in the undulating to rolling uplands of the northern and southeastern portions. In the southwestern part, the soils grade toward Orthids. Borolls in the northern part are formed in a thin mantle of glacial drift over soft sedimentary beds of Tertiary age, whereas elsewhere the drift is lacking.

Major areas of Badlands, mapped as Rough, broken land in the initial survey, border the Little Missouri River and to a lesser extent, the Missouri River. Collectively, this highly dissected unit and associated Entisols make up 12% of the county and include portions of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The Park provides camping, hiking, and scenic canoe trips early in the season (after June bring your own water).

**Backgrounds for the Soil Surveys**

The initial soil survey harks back to a law enacted in 1921 by the North Dakota State Legislature which authorized counties to appropriate funds for the classification of rural land for tax assessment (Kellogg, 1933). The law provided that assessments be based on the inherent quality of land exclusive of improvements. During the late 1920s, the Commissioners of McKenzie...