



CARTER COORDINATE SYSTEM
IN
TENNESSEE

0 10 20 30 MILES
SCALE

EXPLANATION OF CARTER COORDINATE SYSTEM

The Carter Coordinate System is patterned after the Township and Range system of land division. Township and range quadrangles are 6 miles square and are divided into 36 equal sections each 1 mile square. Carter coordinate quadrangles are 5-minute rectangles of latitude and longitude (approximately 7½ miles long by 5½ miles wide in Tennessee) and are divided into twenty-five 1-minute sections.

Certain modifications of the Carter Coordinate System as used in Kentucky are required in Tennessee. The Kentucky system starts at Long. 89° 30' W. and Lat. 36° 30' N. as a zero point. North of Lat. 36° 30' N., in northern Tennessee and throughout Kentucky, "townships" are designated A, B, C, etc. South of this latitude, "townships" are designated 1S, 2S, 3S, etc. Because Tennessee extends westward beyond the longitude of the zero point used in Kentucky, 89° 30' W., the system of designating "ranges" is slightly different in the two states. "Ranges" east of the zero point are designated 1, 2, 3, etc., in Kentucky and correspondingly 1E, 2E, 3E, etc., in Tennessee. For that portion of Tennessee west of the zero point, "range" numbers 1W, 2W, 3W, etc., have been assigned.

The area within each quadrangle is divided into twenty-five 1-minute sections. These sections are numbered starting with 1 in the northeast section and ending with 25 in the southwest section (see illustration).

Notice that locations are given in reverse order or from the smallest subdivision to the largest. For example, in the illustration the location of the well is in the NE quarter of the SE quarter of section 11 of grid A-54E. It is readily seen that to find a well when the location is given, it will be necessary to read the location in reverse, finding grid A-54E first, then section 11, and finally the quarter subdivisions, SE NE NE.

