The soil surveyor is a soil scientist who comes to know the hills and valleys more than "skin deep." He knows them soil-deep... three feet or more. The maps which he makes are of value not only to people who find maps fascinating in themselves, and to naturalists who explore the out-of-doors as an avocation, but also to farmers, real estate men, highway engineers, foresters, and gardeners, whose business is with the soil. All of these people appreciate an opportunity to talk about soils, to look at soil maps and to take soils field trips. Soil is definitely less changeable than the weather, but no less full of surprises. The more complex our society becomes, the more we require of the soil. The continual advance of soil science makes it possible for us to meet those requirements more advantageously each year. Communication about soil survey matters is important for exchange of knowledge, new and old, and for wise planning of our life on this planet. Communication is the purpose of this newsletter.

Francis D. Hole, Madison, Wisconsin

COMMENTS FROM FIELD MEN

Soil Surveyor Talks to the "Public"

Being very new to the field of soil survey, one problem I had to overcome was the difficulty of communicating to the farmer just what a soil survey is. It is difficult for me to explain this briefly and accurately to a farmer, and then walk away feeling confident that he knows and understands what I am doing on his farm.

Working with the party chief for several weeks gave me a chance to study his method of approach to farmers. He had a standard introduction that got to the point and explained the survey. He would choose a common problem of the area that would directly affect the farmer. Then he would proceed to explain how the survey could help solve this problem.

A field man does not feel that he can afford "passing the time of day" during work hours in the field. I at least try to guide the conversation with a farmer to the general topic of soils. Many times one can pick out something from his conversation about which you, as a soil surveyor, can be of real help. This will promote the program if you present this to him in terms of dollars saved.

Experience can be gained by talking about soil survey to a well-informed person. Last summer I met a local school teacher in the field, and started with my routine approach. Before I knew it I had me on the defensive, and I had stumbled pretty bad over several questions, but I learned in the process.

This contacting of the public is not new but it was a problem to me as a new soil surveyor. A friend in Ohio was spending his first day surveying with the party chief when they encountered one of the "difficult" individuals. At that time I suppose that my soil surveyor friend questioned his new choice of a career, but fortunately by the end of the summer, with no other such incidents, he felt quite differently. I have also encountered "difficult" persons and have found them a real challenge.

Promoting soil surveys is part of the job. I would rather feel that I had sold my product to someone than map an additional 50 acres that day.

Donald F. Post, Lafayette, Indiana

Glacial Till in Northeastern Illinois

Soil survey field and laboratory studies show that calcareous glacial till in northeastern Illinois varies in texture from loose gravel and cobbles to clay. Based on these studies six textural groups or classes of calcareous till were established that can be determined in the field and that have practical value. These six groups are: 1) loamy gravel, 2) sandy loam, 3) loam and silt loam, 4) silty clay loam, 5) silty clay, and 6) clay (Fig.1).

The differences in till texture determine many soil profiles as well as many soil and plant relationship differences. Varying profile characteristics are produced directly from the tills as soil parent materials and indirectly by the effect of the