Once upon a time in Hamilton County it was decided that it would be good to have a general soil map with interpretations. All went well until the District Conservationist was asked if the map was okay. Naturally the answer was no. Most of the map was fine, but there was another area he wanted separated. It was the heavy bottomlands in the northern part of the county.

Naturally I asked why. The following resulted.

D.C.: I don't really know why. They are just different.

S.S.: They are bottoms just like the others that are included with except for texture. They are wet, poorly drained and require surface drainage.

D.C.: I know but they drive differently. On the silty bottoms when they are wet the road just loses its body. The bottom drops out. On the heavy bottoms it balls up on the tires until you are stopped.

S.S.: Same effect either way. How would you handle them differently? They are described as an inclusion with the silty bottomlands. Besides the interpretations are nearly identical.

D.C.: Well we have a livestock problem on the heavy soils - especially with hogs. We don't have it with the silty bottoms.

S.S.: What's that?

D.C.: The hogs won't gain any weight on these soils.