The past issues of SOIL SURVEY HORIZONS, including this one, recount in an informal way the tone of conversations, the jokes, the complaints, methods, glories and absurdities of the life and work of soil surveyors and their collaborators. In an age of marked turnover of personnel in employment, of shifting content of jobs, of change in employing institutions, changes in ownership of land, place of residence and strength of family ties, the dependable soil surveyor still works close to and in intimate contact with the soil. As he works, he tests latest concepts in his on-going effort to understand and to explain soil capabilities to operators and potential users of land.

For these issues of SOIL SURVEY HORIZONS we are indebted to a great many soil scientists and their co-workers, who took the time to send in something of significance; to faithful editors and typists; and to the subscribers who have kept this little non-profit, tax-deductible corporation solvent. This magazine is a labor of love on the part of a community of pedologists.


THE PURPOSE OF THIS INDEX VOLUME

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In the first issue of SOIL SURVEY HORIZONS in 1960 (I-I, p. 14), "communications" was declared to be the purpose of this professional quarterly. There followed a continuing exchange of news, ideas and motivations both between contemporaries and across the two gaps -- the generation gap and the gap between the field man and desk man. During the first two years the issues had 16 pages and reduced type. Thereafter we produced 24 pages with larger type. Margins are unjustified. Xerography is the printing process.