SUMMARY OF BIYEARLY NORTHCENTRAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE
OF THE COOPERATIVE SOIL SURVEY

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State and federal people concerned with the operation of the national soil survey in the Northcentral region at a regional and state level conferred April 8-12 at Osage Beach, Missouri. The meeting is held bi-annually. This year marked the return to Missouri where the conference was initiated in 1955. There were 65 registrants, 60 percent from the Soil Conservation Service and 40 percent from state organizations; the majority professors at Land Grant Institutions. Clarence Scrivner was presiding chairman. He kept the meeting lively with humor, scientific erudition, and occasional Truman-like tartness. Soil survey interpretations was the theme of the meetings. A stimulating innovation was the presence of several people who work in soil extension. They made the group more cognizant of incompleteness of solutions for problems that ignore the final application of the product by people.

Addresses were given by Elmer Kiehl, Dean of Agriculture, University of Missouri; Vernon Martin, Missouri State Conservationist; James Boillot, Commissioner, Missouri Department of Agriculture; Klaus Flach, Director, Soil Survey Investigations, SCS, Washington, D.C.; William Oschwald, Extension Service, University of Illinois; Maurice Stout, Regional Principal Soil Correlator, SCS; and Harry Galloway, Extension, Purdue University. A trend through parts of several of the presentations and the subject of Galloway's address was the question of how to both conserve the soil and meet the rapidly increasing needs for food production under economic conditions where conservation practices must be combined with large scale, labor-saving farming practices. Boillot stressed an important point -- that landuse policy decisions commonly are made with too little input from agriculture, a consequence in part of the specialists (such as the audience) defining their...