Spring 1975

Joe Fehrenbacher, University of Illinois, and Earl Voss, SCS State Soil Scientist.

During the tour, participants saw soils, geology and some of the land use problems associated with urban development. On the first stop the group met Dr. Thomas D. Hinsley, Department of Agronomy, University of Illinois. He gave an explanation of the interdisciplinary wastewater and sludge application experiments and facilities and reported crop yield responses to various rates of applications. He indicated that future studies would be involved with the heavy metal constituents of sludge. At the second stop, Milford soil was examined.

The third stop was a living example of the pressure on soil resources. The Warsaw soil described and analyzed for the tour had already been excavated for gravel. The soil profile actually used had an interesting organic carbon distribution profile.

After lunch at the Argonne National Laboratory, D. R. Mapes, Party Chief of the Cook-DuPage Counties Soil Survey, discussed some of the problems and progress of their urban soil survey.

Following this was a tour of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. The laboratory personnel gave an interesting slide lecture on their research techniques in high energy physics. What was equally fascinating were the plans of the laboratory to limit their effect on the environment. These plans showed what could be done when environmental concerns have a priority.

The tour was an interesting experience and dealt with some of the current problems and concerns in soils.

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Articles

RIDGED FIELDS IN BRITISH HONDURAS

G. W. Olson, A. H. Siemens, D. E. Puleston, G. Cal, and D. Jenkins

Recent discovery of ridged fields in backwater areas along rivers in British Honduras indicate that intensive farming techniques were used by Maya populations more than 1,000 years ago. About 100 km² of these fields have already been mapped. These areas exploited natural channels and interfluvues, but soils were artificially shaped and modified to better fit the

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1Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; colleagues in environmental investigations in British Honduras.