A fringe benefit of the soil survey is the natural history survey—while out mapping one can look for arrowheads, especially along the Minnesota River in the southern part of that state. There are Indian digs near Rattlesnake Peak in Dona Ana County, New Mexico that yield broken pottery with designs, portions of clay pipestems, animal bones, and bits of charcoal.

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FIELD TRIP FUN
(When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again)

With picks and packs we trudge along to the field, to the field.
Mosquitos buzzing right along, to the field, to the field.
Our throats grow dry, our clothes are torn,
We’re cut and bruised, we feel forlorn.

CHORUS: And out time is growing short only 3 more days to go.

Our ponchos fail to keep us dry in the field, in the field.
First we’re cold and then we fry in the field, in the field.
Along the rain-slicked cliffs we slip,
Trying to avoid a back-roll flip.

CHORUS: 2 days

Snakes grin at us from every ledge in the field, in the field.
Spider webs stretch from tree to hedge in the field, in the field.
Our wounds we quickly try to patch,
The poison ivy makes us scratch.

CHORUS: 1 day

Along the road we slowly trod from the field, from the field.
Anxious to rest our weary bods, from the field, from the field.
No chance to check our notes and quirks,
We only hope the fudging works.

And our time is now all gone,
We’ve survived in spite of all.

Soil Surveyor’s Songbook
Sue Mara
University of Wisconsin