THE NEW BOOK BY DR. HANS JENNY--
"E.W.HILGARD AND THE BIRTH OF
MODERN SOIL SCIENCE"

This two-dollar paper-back book (order directly from Farallon Publications, Box 564, Berkeley, Calif., U.S.A.; or Agrochimica, di Chimica Agraria dell'Universita, Pisa, Italy) is a scholarly, fascinating account of E.W.Hilgard (1833-1906), German immigrant, Illinois farm boy, Ph.D. in geology, mining and chemistry from Heidelberg, Germany at age 20, State Geologist of Mississippi, Professor of Geology and Natural History at Ann Arbor, Michigan, Dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of California. He preached the faith of soil conservationists when in 1860 he said, "...it is our right to use, but not to abuse, the inheritance which is ours, and to hand it down to our children as a blessing, not a barren, inert incubus...." He was able to talk to farmers, and convince them that scientific investigation was a good thing, an exciting thing. He produced ambitious publications on cotton soils, alkali soils, and the relations between soils and climate. His differences with Milton Whitney, of the old Soil Survey agencies of the U.S.D.A. were never resolved. It is unfortunate that the fine work of Dr. Hilgard was not given the attention and recognition it deserved throughout the United States during his lifetime. Dr. Jenny has done soil survey and soil science a great service by preparing this thorough and interesting account of our American founder of pedology.

F.D. Hole

SOIL SURVEYS
"HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS"

Reminiscences by
William DeYoung

With approaching retirement it seems appropriate or inevitable that the older folks approach this period with some backward glances to document where we've been. Perhaps this will assist us to appreciate the present status of the National Program. The following notes are some historical reflection of experiences of one individual.

The writer now wonders how many of our presently active soil scientists have had the background experience of using the "horse and buggy" as a mode of transportation in making a soil survey. How many of our presently active soil scientists have had the experience of making a "plane table" base map on which soil separations were delineated? Sounds like ancient historical activities, doesn't it? It is not ancient as it might seem, although far-reaching changes in operation and methods of field study have been made during the normal work span of an individual.

It was nearly 43 years ago that the writer, a neophyte from the Michigan Agricultural College, reported to Professor M.F. Miller at the University of Missouri for duty as a soil surveyor. Professor Miller promptly shipped the young man out to the Ozarks (Reynolds County). A part of the trip involved riding on a narrow-gauge lumber railroad from Leeper to Ellington, Missouri, where I was to report to Mr. W.I. Watkins of the Bureau of Soils. Prof. H.H. Krusekopf, who was to be my supervisor and trainer was at home at the time waiting for the arrival of the "Crown Prince" (son), which proved to be a "Princess".