the defense on why he was selected as an expert witness. His reply, "I'm the only one that was living during the time of the Indians." (He was accepted without further questions.) Later, in the same hearing, a witness was a 6’8” Indian. Grandad's comment, "This is evidence of the fertility of the land in question," gave everyone a needed laughter break.

He told my mother once—dirt is just misplaced soil. A littler dirt on your hands is better for them than hand lotion.

There is one other memory that has always kept me from being bored. As a young boy we were resting under a tree in the woods. He used a stick to scrape away about a square foot of forest turf, and then explained some of the multiplicity of animal and plant life actions that were occurring in that small area. I didn't understand it all, but the opportunity for learning seemed to be everywhere.

I guess the reason we got along so well was because we were both students. Learning is gaining in appreciation of all things.

Whatever degree I may be fortunate to earn, BS, DVM, MS, PhD, I'll add a suffix of "H.H.K." in appreciation of my "great" grandad. I just lived with him for three-hundreds of a century, but hope I can view the future with a part of his optimistic vision.

The Blacklands of Washington County, North Carolina

Robert E. Horton and S. W. Buol

Most of Washington County, North Carolina is less than 25 feet above sea level east of the Suffolk scarp. Locally, most of the area is known as the blacklands. The original surveys referred to the soils as marsh, swamp, or peat. For the first time in the modern soil survey, the organic and related mineral soils with histic epipedons that are common to this area have been described, classified, and correlated. Field work began in early 1976 under party leader James Ware's direction and was completed in late 1978 under the direction of party leader Phil Tant.

It was evident from the survey's early days that a number of new soil series would need to be proposed and processed to accurately identify and classify the unnamed black soils. Jim was aware that he was literally breaking some new ground and had to move fast to stay up with the needs. He was soon flooding the North Carolina State University laboratory with soil samples for just about every kind of characterization.

North Carolina State University has made graduate study assignments in the blacklands during the past 10 years or so, and considerable

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