The first issue of *Soil Survey Horizons* was published in the spring of 1960. The publishing organization was the "North Central Soil Survey Newsletter Committee of the North Central Regional Workshop of the Cooperative Soil Survey, 203 Soils Building, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, Wisconsin," the office of Dr. Francis Hole. In that publication a summary of the workshop meeting held at Purdue University in January 1960 lists nine committees that reported at the workshop, but there is no mention of a newsletter committee. Apparently the North Central Soil Survey Newsletter Committee was formed at that meeting. The first issue, under the heading "THANKS TO SUPPORTERS" states, "This first issue of SOIL SURVEY HORIZONS was made possible by the decision of the North Central Regional Workshop of the Cooperative Soil Survey to put up a 'trial balloon' and also to financial contributions made by the following persons, to whom thanks is due for this vote of confidence in the profession of Soil Survey." The article then lists 41 contributors. Editors included Francis D. Hole, Chairman, and O.C. Rogers and Donald F. Post. The Secretary-Treasurer, pro-tem was Francis D. Hole. George Buntley prepared the cover picture.

During that spring I was completing Ph.D. studies and routinely ate lunch in Dr. Hole's office with Francis, G.B. Lee, and various other students and faculty. Francis frequently brought up the subject of *Soil Survey Horizons*. To the best of my recollection there were two primary concerns at the time that prompted the initiation of the publication. One was the growing editorial policies of the Soil Science Society of America that discouraged publication of field observations and required more "scientific rigor" and in effect precluded the opportunity for "field men" to publish their observations. Second was a growing effort on the part of the Soil Conservation Service to standardize soil survey reports and eliminate lengthy presentations of field observations that some reports contained. I recall Francis lamenting that observations would be lost if not shared among the individuals that regularly viewed and studied soils in their natural setting. He was also concerned that field soil scientists had a need to feel part of a community of like individuals, even though they were spatially dispersed throughout the country and world.

The second issue in the summer of 1960 contained an article by Hugh H. Bennett on concerns about erosion and several articles describing soil survey activities in the Midwest states. Francis Hole wrote a paragraph describing the *Soil Survey Horizons* venture as an "Act of Faith" and introduced the first of many songs and cartoons that were common fare in SSH for many years.

The subscription rate was $2.00 per year, $1.00 for students in the USA and possessions, Canada, and Mexico, with an extra 50 cents for other foreign subscribers. At the time the first volume was published there were only two subscribers, but that number had grown to 50 by the time the second issue was published in the summer of 1960. Income from subscriptions and contributions at that time totaled $155.00, and estimated cost of printing and mailing for one year, four issues, was $180.00, so in the summer issue Francis made a plea for more subscriptions.

Financially the first volume, four issues, ended in the black with approximately 140 subscribers and a balance as of November 1, 1960 of $136.40. It was reported that 500 copies of Issue #3 were sent out at a cost of $55.20, and the balance on hand would cover the winter issue. *Soil Survey Horizons* was on its way.