This past year in California, we said goodbye to one of our pioneering soil scientists, Grant Kennedy, who began employment with the new Soil Conservation Service when the SCS was only 4 yr from its inception. Grant had a distinguished career in Nevada and then in California. He was a very capable soil scientist, friend to all, and excellent at teaching young soil scientists and promoting the profession of soil science.

Grant Kennedy was born in Reno, NV on October 10, 1916. Grant's parents operated a 160-acre ranch northwest of Lovelock, NV, where they grew alfalfa and wheat. Grant lived on the ranch; he learned to work and experienced ranch life that was hard at times in the twenties and thirties. He and his brother slept on a screened porch that was covered with a tarp in winter to keep out the snow and wind. When the weather got unusually cold, their mother would put warm bricks or hot water bottles in their beds to keep them warm. During the cold Nevada winters, the outhouse was many cold steps behind the house. The bathing facilities at the ranch house consisted of a tub off the kitchen wood stove where every Saturday night the boys had their weekly bath. On the ranch Grant learned to hunt and fish and gained knowledge about ranch life and animals that would last him a life time.

Grant entered the University of Nevada at Reno in the fall of 1934. He began studying engineering but changed to agriculture and graduated in 1938. After graduating, Grant heard from one of his professors about the start of a soil and vegetation reconnaissance survey of Elko County, Nevada with the Department of the Interior. He was hired and mapped soils on horseback, camped in canvas tents, and used some vehicles for transportation and maps. In 1939 he took the Civil Service Exam and was later called by the Soil Conservation Service. Grant was offered a job as a Junior Soil Surveyor. On May 10, 1939, Grant's 36-yr employment with the SCS began in Fort Worth, Texas. He mapped soils using early aerial photos on lands suffering excessive erosion. Grant was on the move now for several years as part of the Mobile Soil Survey. His journeys took him to Clarksburg, Georgia where he had the good fortune to meet his future wife Jewel, and they were married during the Christmas season of 1939. During this time Grant met Hugh Hammond Bennett, first Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, at a barbecue and lecture. Grant was still in Georgia about the time kudzu was introduced, and he remembered it covering really awful erosion scars. Soon after...