To observe and study the famed Russian chernozem is the wish of the pedologist. Probably no soil anywhere is so well known or so fascinating as the "king of all soils", as Kubiena has so aptly described it. The temptation, thus, was too great to suppress when the opportunity to tour Russia and the Ukraine arose in connection with the meetings of the 8th International Congress of Soil Science at Bucharest, Rumania, in September, 1964. When would there be another occasion to observe the soils from Moscow to Kursk, Kharkov, Zaporozye, Askania Nova, and Kherson under the able direction of so many prominent Soviet soil scientists?

A large number of persons must have felt the same as I because 115 soil scientists plus 15 wives from 29 countries assembled at the 30-floor Ukraine Hotel in Moscow on Sunday, August 16th, for the express purpose of seeing the Soviet soils. American tour members were: M. B. Russell, G. L. Terman, Robert A. Olson, Robert Fox, William Jackson, William Patrick, L. D. Baver, Perry Stout, A. P. Mazurak, Sterling Taylor, Peter Janitsky, Nile Brady, Mr. and Mrs. John Giesekeing, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Storie, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bradfield, and the writer.

Moscow

We spent four days in Moscow, the center of Soviet government, business, education, transport, communication, art and music. Here are 80 institutions of higher learning, including the famed Lomonosov Moscow University, and more than 150 museums, including the Vil'yams soil museum.