COPYING SOIL SURVEY MAPS

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In Indiana a copy of all soil surveys maps is desired in the interval preceding publication both for safety and for reference. It has been found desirable to construct the field sheets on a scale of two inches equals one mile yet these maps must be reduced to a scale of one inch equals one mile for publication. While reduction is best done photographically from uncolored maps the maps must be colored to insure mechanical accuracy. Making a tracing of a map is slow, costly and more or less inaccurate. Ordinary photographic copying involves expensive cameras, plates and enlarging apparatus.

The problem of attaining the various desired points is solved by making contact prints from uncolored field sheets and, from the paper negative thus secured, printing as many positive copies as desired. A positive copy is colored instead of the original and any mistake detected in the coloring is corrected on both original and colored copy simultaneously. The quality of the results depends much upon the observance of the following details.

1. Keep original field sheet clean and put no marks on its back. Paper should be of a uniformly translucent grade.

2. Make lines on the original heavy so they will make better contact prints and also be plain when reduced to the one inch scale.

3. Make soil boundaries solid lines, (not dotted) and make all symbols such as drainage, so that they can be recognized by form alone without aid of different colored ink.

4. On the original, use a dark blue (such as Carters blue India ink) which may be further fortified with a little black and red so that it will copy photographically.

5. Prepare a printing frame large enough to hold a field sheet. Use plate glass front and a thick felt pad under the back which you should be able to draw down tightly to insure good contact with the rough map paper.