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The proceedings of the conference were critically analyzed by Dick (London) and by Gard (Stockholm), in the form of summarizing statements. The conference was sponsored by the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness. The complete texts of the papers and the discussions will be published as a supplement to *Neurology* scheduled to appear in the beginning of 1968.

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Soil Geomorphology Field Conference: North Carolina

The Soil Science Society of America, in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and North Carolina State University, sponsored a 2-day field conference 4-5 November 1967, in the vicinity of Benson and Wilson, North Carolina, to observe geomorphic-soil interrelationships on the upper and middle Coastal Plain surfaces.

The field conference was designed to demonstrate relationships between geomorphic surfaces and soils as revealed by 8 years of field work begun in January 1960 in a cooperative project of the Soil Investigations Division of the Soil Conservation Service and the Soil Science Department of North Carolina State University, with additional support of National Science Foundation. Raymond B. Daniels (Soil Conservation Service), who has been in charge of the project since its inception, was the field conference leader.

Approximately 70 soil scientists, geologists, and physical geographers (55 of them from the District of Columbia and 12 states other than North Carolina) attended the conference, which was scheduled in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Soil Science Society of America the following week in Washington, D.C.

The detailed study divided the Coastal Plain into three subdivisions: the upper, middle, and lower areas, based on stratigraphic and geomorphic relations. In the study area the upper Coastal Plain was found to occur above the Coats scarp with a toe altitude of 275 feet; the middle area, between the Coats scarp and the Surry scarp, toe altitude

94 feet; and the lower area, between the Surry scarp and sea level.

Major changes in geomorphology, stratigraphy, and soils corresponded with the upper, middle, and lower subdivisions. Well- and moderately well-drained soils in medium and fine-textured sediments on the upper and middle Coastal Plain surfaces were found to be paleudults, whose generalized eastern boundary was the Surry scarp. The presence of plinthite characterized the soil profiles of the upper Coastal Plain; fragipans, the middle Coastal Plain.

Information obtained in this study will help explain the soil-geomorphic relationships elsewhere on the Coastal Plain in North Carolina and in the other Coastal Plain states. It is proving invaluable in establishing the new soil classification system on the Coastal Plain, in improving the accuracy and speed of mapping Coastal Plain soils, and in furnishing background information for research on fertilization and for managing the soils.

The North Carolina field conference was held in response to a request by a Soil Science Society of America soil-geomorphology committee for a field conference where graduate students and young scientists in the fields of geology, soil science, and geography could participate with their more experienced colleagues. It also aimed to foster an interdisciplinary approach among geology, soil science, and geography. Last, but certainly not least, the committee had requested the field conference be held in North Carolina to observe how an integrated use of soil morphology and geomorphology was used to determine and understand soil-landscape relationships.

In terms of planning and direction, the well-written 50-page guide book and road log, and the number of interested participants, it was an eminently successful conference.

The committee is considering the holding of a second field conference in the midwest in the fall of 1969. Should such a conference be held, sponsorship by the Geological Society of America and the Association of American Geographers in addition to the Soil Science Society of America, would be essential. Such an arrangement is more apt to accomplish the goal of the committee—the improvement of interdisciplinary relations.

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