The landscape of Tazewell County includes several major features that are easily identifiable from the shaded relief map:

A. The divide, 1.5 miles (2.4 km) east of Farmington, is the line marking the eastern edge of the county.

B. The western part of the county is dominated by a high relief of the Wisconsinan till plain. Here the most recent glaciers eroded the relatively low relief of the Wisconsinan outwash plain, leaving a rugged terrain and deep gullies.

C. The eastern part of the county is dominated by the Wisconsinan till plain. Here the most recent glaciers eroded the relatively low relief of the Wisconsinan outwash plain, leaving a smooth, flat landscape.

D. The Mackinaw River is a classic "underfit stream". During the last glaciation, a much larger river channel was carved by glacial meltwater and sediment. This river, the Mackinaw valley, was incised by the modern Mackinaw and Illinois river channels.

E. In some areas, flat terrain rises above the flood of the Illinois River valley. These areas are subject to erosion by high local relief and are subject to further development.

F. Further development in the Illinois River valley will be subject to erosion by high local relief and will be subject to further development.

G. Sand dunes occur on the landscape in the southeastern portion of Tazewell County. These dunes were formed by the wind, as melting decreased and the floodplains dried out, the blowing water streams washed and eroded the sediment from the floodplain and spread it across the landscape.