

'The Living Filter' Recycling Study

(Continued from Page 16) than trees alone and help to maintain the desirable conditions produced by the sludge. Spoil banks might become garden spots and acidic runoff into streams — a major pollutant in the eastern United States — stopped at the source.

Two hundred and fifty tons of spoil were brought to The Living Filter area on the Penn State campus.

Dumped into huge planters, it was seeded with trees, grasses and legumes, then spray-irrigated with varying combinations of liquid digested sludge and sewage effluent.

The results, in two growing seasons, have been astonishing.

But creators of The Living Filter are by no means ready to wind up their research. New studies are under way to define the more subtle efforts of adding fifty to one hundred inches of wastewater, annually, to a specific natural environment. These include studies of wild-life, vegetation changes, and various plant, insect, mammal and microbial interactions.

"The technique is operational now," says one scientist, "both for farmlands and forested areas. But much more needs to be known."

"The Living Filter does provide the means for many cities to dispose of sewage without defouling the environment.

"But in the rush to make a spray-irrigation system operational many problems are going to arise. We at Penn State feel

My Neighbors



"I have to take mine home to have my wife sign it."

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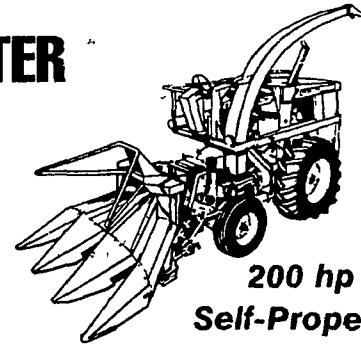
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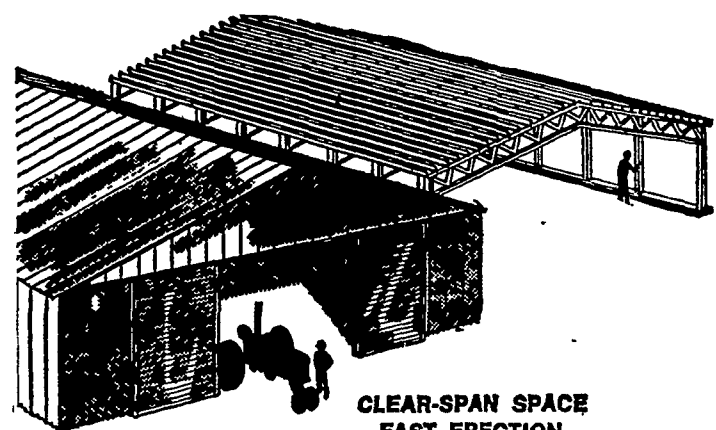
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