

# Heilman Moving

(Continued from Page 1) throughout the county — although his words have not always been heeded — in matters dealing with county parklands, farmlands, and on a more local level, expansion of Lititz' sewer treatment plant and

development of what is believed to be Lititz' watershed area.

Heilman and his wife have already started building plans for a joint studio in Buena Vista, which is about 80 miles west of Colorado Springs, and for a new

mountain home about five miles west of the town. "Our back yard will be a 14,000 foot mountain," he said.

In Colorado, he will be within a day's drive of the major farmlands of the nation, where he has been doing most of his photography work for a number of years now. He will be "on location" most of the time, but instead of spending days and weeks getting there, driving over congested highways he has come to hate, it will be more like a day's drive through the mountains and prairies that he loves.


"Just one small example," he smiled — on a recent drive he made from Buena Vista to Colorado Springs, "which is like going from Lancaster to Philadelphia," he passed only 10 cars in 50 minutes.


What Heilman calls the creeping metropolism of Lancaster County is the fact that, bit by bit, the county's farmland is being eaten up by industrial and residential development. It is the



Heilman photographs activities of bees around one of the hives he

keeps in the woods area behind his plant.





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demise of the farmland, he said.

He sees two problems that he doesn't think Lancaster County will be able to solve.

"I don't feel we will be able to save farmland because farmers understandably want to be able to sell their land where they can get the most money for it. I'm not degrading them — it's their right," he added.

"Developers are more ready to put money into farmland than anyone else. And in spite of some actions, like the Clean and Green Law, we won't be able to solve this," he said.

The only feasible solution, he went on, will be for communities to buy up farmland themselves, or buy up the development rights to these. This is being done now in New Jersey, but it's incredibly expensive, he said. "How many towns are ready

to put up this kind of money?"

The other area where the county is simply going to fail is being able to control the interest of industry coming in, "because I don't think we want to control it," he said.

Some think the more industry that comes in, the better, he continued. We're attracting more people now because of the low unemployment rate in Lancaster County. And we're perfectly situated from a marketing viewpoint.

"But I think the public is scared to shut off industrial growth," he went on. "We're making loans to businesses to come here and spending money to attract industry, when I think we should be making it tougher."

But, he said, unless you're involved in planning it's easy to straddle the fence and say we need new industry, but

let's keep the farmland. Obviously, you can't do both.

If the people want this — and many do, for the tax revenue it brings in — then there isn't much that can be done to prevent it, he said. Township supervisors are supposed to reflect the desires of the people, and if people want more development, then the supervisors actually are doing their job in this area, he said. But again he warned that controls are necessary.

"The demise of farmland is eating into our ability to produce food," he said. "We could live without our cities, but not without our farmlands," he said.

In a more philosophical vein, he added, "I feel that people who are forced to live without greenery around them are living a very

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