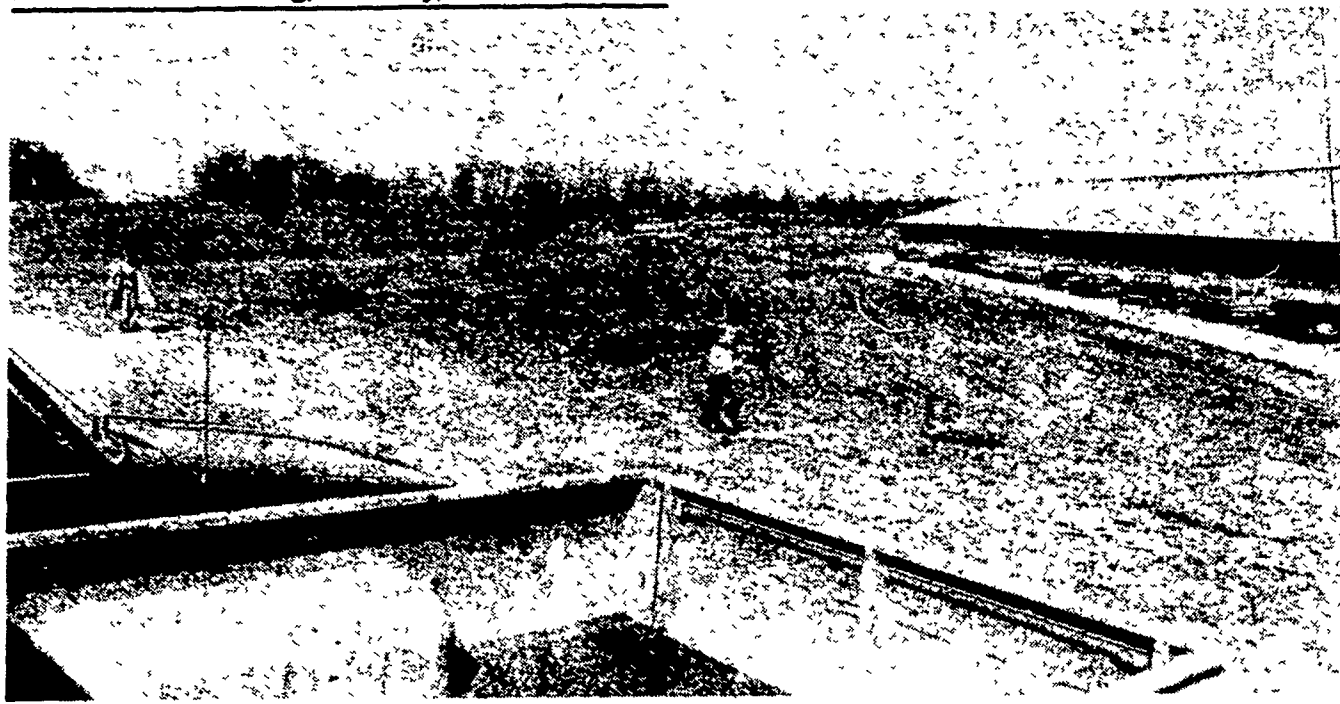


Farmers rally



If successful, the garbage dump for the Garden Spot will come right up into this area.



The driveway to the Barley farm was well travelled

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"It's time we grab the bull by the horns and put this sort of thing to a stop," he proclaimed. His committee currently working on a bill (H.B. 111) which will make the irresponsible taking of land illegal.

Of the 23 members on the House Ag Committee, 17 or 18 showed up at the Barley farm. Those absent had commitments with other committees that day and in all likelihood would have been here if that had not been the case. Secretary of Agriculture Kent Shelhamer was also unable to attend, sending a note of regret along with his aide, Neil Buss.

Buss told the group that Shelhamer has taken an intense interest in the matter, as has the entire House Ag Committee, and numerous farmer organization and agencies.

"The question is," began Buss, "have they (LARA) looked at any alternatives? The answer is fairly obvious. They have not. They are just looking at the cheapest way." To the surprise of nearly everyone there, it was pointed out that LARA officials have not yet talked with Louis Frame, owner of the Lancaster Landfill near Honey Brook. That site is considered to be an easy alternative and Frame himself has indicated he would welcome the additional refuse at his site.

Aside from the comments made by legislators, Lancaster County agricultural leaders also stepped up to the platform to express their opinions. Among them were

County Agent Max Smith and Associate County Agent Alan Bair.

Smith presented a short talk on Lancaster County agriculture, stressing the fact that if land such as the Barleys' is taken away, ag productivity is hurt dramatically. He pointed out that soil in this area is among the best in the world and that the County ranks first in the nation among non-irrigated counties. To illustrate his point using 1975 production figures, the 40-year veteran of the Lancaster County Extension Service said that the County's farmers provide 1.5 million people with dairy foods; 3.3 million people with poultry products, and more than 300,000 people with beef, pork, and potatoes.

Bair cited several problems which would come up if 58 acres of the Barley farm is taken for a landfill. Manure handling would become a real burden since an estimated 2000 tons of it would have to be moved for distances of five miles or more to find other land where it could be applied in compliance with DER standards. Then there's the question of milk quality since the activities of an adjacent landfill will most likely have an impact on sanitation efforts within the dairy operation itself.

Aside from the Barley Brothers, at least five other landowners are also involved in the controversy with LARA. One of them, Harry Graham, chose to speak. Visibly emotional as he related his situation to the public, he excused himself

What corn rootworm insecticide has been effective for 14 consecutive years?