

# Struggle

[Continued from Page 17]

irmed that a silt-loam type of soil is best for a cover material. The Barley's fields have the right kind of material to a depth of 45 feet. If successful, LARA will order bulldozers and giant earthmovers to the property to scalp the area.

If LARA fails to obtain the Barley's acreage as a result of this controversy, there is reason to believe that they may go elsewhere. Linda McKee of the League of Women Voters asked about it, and Shirk responded with the following words: "If Creswell is not expanded, it has to go someplace else."

The most commonly suggested alternatives are the old abandoned ore pits in southern Lebanon County and the Lanchester Landfill between Goodville and Honey Brook. LARA claims both sites would be too costly. Hartman said "a tremendous amount of time was put into meeting with the Lebanon County authorities," but that no program was agreed upon. For Lancaster County to undertake the project on its own would be too expensive, LARA claims. The Authority also indicated it had studied very closely numerous refuse disposal plans in various parts of the country. It's thumbs down on all of them. One plan for which LARA was encouraged was the dumping of waste material into old strip mines. But without state help, LARA can't afford it.

"No matter where you put refuse, someone wants to put it elsewhere. It's a real, real problem," Hartman acknowledged.

LARA accountant Hershey Groff noted that it costs \$48 per ton to take garbage to the Creswell site, as opposed to \$80 per ton to go through the gates at Lanchester. In discussing the possibility of using the Lanchester site, Shirk indicated that talk of LARA never having contacted Louis Frame, owner of the Lanchester Landfill, is not true. He said LARA members met with Frame on May 7 of last year and added that "Lanchester would be given full consideration."

Another misunderstanding LARA saw fit to clear up is that "no tax money is going to LARA." Several people in the audience had hinted at that possibility.

Geologist Humphreville showed a number of slides, some of which were similar

to the aerial photograph accompanying this article. He noted that although 57.8 acres of land are in question, only 41.2 acres were actually being farmed. The balance is woodland. Russell McNair, representing Huth Engineering on behalf of LARA, gave details of the landfill's history and projections. The planning did not go as far in terms of financial concerns as it did with geological questions. Hartman commented "Projections cannot be made that far, we're not certain what will happen after 1985."

Concluding the case for the Refuse Authority, Hartman said they're only trying to "buy time," in search of finding the most economical way to dispose of wastes. The hope is that science will catch up with Lancaster County's landfill problems within the next few years and then LARA won't have to concern itself with the taking of prime farmland.

Summing up on behalf of the Barleys, Heiny asked for LARA to hear further testimony from concerned citizens and authoritative individuals who have no ties with LARA.

Among others who spoke out on behalf of the Barleys on Tuesday afternoon were: Amos Funk, fruit and vegetable farmer from Manor Township who is well-known for his conservation practices; Linda McKee, land use director of the League of Women Voters; Margaret Ha, president of the Lancaster Environmental Action Federation (LEAF); Aileen Young, concerned citizen and "friend of the Barleys;" and Richard Brown, science teacher at Manheim Township Middle School.

### COMMISSIONERS RESPOND

Lancaster County Commissioner Jean Mowery defended the actions of LARA at Tuesday's meeting, while making no apologies for the commissioners' failure to show at the rally the previous week which was held on the Barley farm. "We caught you know what for not being at that meeting," she said, soothing the listeners with the phrase "We're all on the same team and working on the same problems."

Since then, the chairman of the Lancaster County Commissioners, Jack F. Tracy, has been credited with characterizing the visiting state legislators to the Barley farm as "jackals."

The county commissioners, as elected officials, are responsible for

LARA's actions. LARA members are appointed by the commissioners.

John Barley noted the legislators were visiting his farm because of concern and interest. He also pointed out that the mail arriving at legislators' desks and city newspaper offices was overwhelmingly in favor of saving valuable farmland.

"The elected officials are supposed to act on behalf of their constituents," Barley said, "the legislators are doing that."

With that, the county commissioners appear to be off the track with their remarks.

Another public meeting on this controversy has been scheduled for March 23 (next

Wednesday) in the Lyte Auditorium of Millersville State College. Proceedings get underway at 7 p.m.

Anyone who feels that further encroachment by the Creswell landfill is detrimental on the environment and agriculture is asked to attend and be heard.



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