

Lebanon Co.

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was built, Grumbine says there is ten times as much water pouring down between his barn and the McCorkle property. He added there was never a problem with the Muth diversion.

Grumbine recalled that in 1978, the township installed a culvert under Long Lane, the township road that runs in front of his and the McCorkle property. "I never dreamed they'd come and put a waterway there."

But, that's what happened. The development plans exits the water from the retention basin into a stone swale that dumps into the culvert on the McCorkle side of the road.

When the water leaves the pipe, it spreads out in the Grumbine meadow.

Sifting through the piles of correspondence and records of telephone conversations they have been recording since January of 1979, the Grumbines pull out two pictures of their farm.

The one photo, taken in 1970 when the adjacent property was owned by Lydia Muth, shows a well maintained, white board line fence between the two properties.

In the photo taken in 1979, this line fence has been partially torn away. According to Grumbine, McCorkle ripped out the line

fence originally built by the Muth's, and refuses to replace it.

"I'm afraid that when children move into the houses next door, they might wander into my barn cleaner which is 12 feet from the property line. Then they'll get hurt and it will be my fault."

Grumbine recalled an incident he had last summer with children from Mt. Zion. "They came into my meadow and built a tree house. I had a hundred steers in there at the time. They took one strand of electric wire and fenced an area around the tree off, and then teased the steers. They had one steer so mad, Pauline couldn't get near it."

"I left it go, because it's no use talking to their parents—they just get mad. We just picked up the hammer and nails they left behind."

"But, I want the fence back to keep the children away from my barn. The house owners don't want my cows in their yards, and I don't want their kids in my fields. I'm responsible for the damage my cows do if they get out, and it seems I'm responsible if children get into my pasture and get hurt."

Grumbine told of a recent incident where neighboring children were catching butterflies in his pasture and barley fields. "I found their jars of butterflies in the barley and their net in the pasture one time. Another time I found the kids in the pasture surrounded by snorting steers and bulls. Why they could have been killed and are too dumb to realize it."

"I paddled them and sent



The Grumbines fear the water from this retention basin, which outlets from a pipe set in a direct line with their barn, will wind up in their buildings rather than in the ditch.

them home. Then I got a call from their father and he was mad and threatened me if I paddled his kids again. I told him if I caught them in my fields again, I'd paddle them again."

When asked why they were willing to keep spending the thousands of dollars its costing him to fight the next-door development, the Grumbines both said they want to prove that if Lebanon County makes rules and regulations, everyone must abide by them.

"I'm that disgusted with the damn builders. If a farmer wants to put up a house for his children, the county makes him subdivide and gives him a hard time."

"The Lebanon County Planning Commission's Earl Myer told us that he's for development, and the farmers can farm what's left after the road frontage is built-up."

"Whv. the town people are

trying to drive us out of the area. We spent 30 years of hard labor trying to get a nice farm, and we're not going to buckle—it's time someone starts preserving farmland."

"People who have had problems with developments before are all for us, and those who have never had a run in with a development think we don't know what we're doing. But, we're far from finished fighting."

"Farmers need to stick together. It's going to get to a point where we won't have any food."

"But, it seems they're only interested when it hits them. Farmers have to learn to stand up for their rights instead of moving away from problems. We're not asking for more than equal rights."

Grumbine recalled a fight he had with the township officials last year when they tried to pass an ordinance

allowing homes to be built within 20 feet of the property line, but a dairy barn had to be 200 feet away. "I'll stay away 200 feet," Grumbine said, "but it has to be equal."

The Grumbines love farming, milking 36 Holsteins, raising 100-400 beef animals, and farming over 280 acres of land, and say they don't intend to retire until they are no longer able to do the work. And, in anything concerning their farm that they've worked since they were married, they're no quitters.

Although they said they were disappointed with the decision of the three township board members, who themselves grew up on farms, the Grumbines are not defeated and said they intend to spend thousands more if they have to in order to prove their point to the county and township officials.



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