

Chemical dump

(Continued from Page A28)

small grain, and runs a small herd of beef cattle. Rivulets and springs on his side of the hill eventually run into a larger stream that joins the South Branch of the Codorus at Seven Valleys and then flows into the watershed for the drinking reserves of the city of York.

"The potential property value damage to my farm was what got me initially involved in this," Marsh remembers. "But now the health and well-being of my family has become my prime concern."

A quote from the ABC television network documentary on chemical waste disposal problems, "The Killing Ground", sums up his opinion of the dump and has probably been something of an inspiration for Marsh's leadership in the fight.

"Hugh Kauffman, solid waste water assessment manager for the nation's Environmental Protection Agency, said on that program, 'At the present time, no government agency can adequately regulate the safety of these disposal sites'," Marsh quotes.

He added that Act 97, Pennsylvania's new legislation on hazardous waste control, is not likely to be of any immediate help.

While it has been passed by the state's legislative bodies, the method of implementing all the directives simply haven't been worked out yet. And, continues Marsh, a new federal Environmental Protection Agency Law regulating hazardous waste disposal is "in the same condition", with plans to issue interim permits until EPA gets its regulations drawn up.

"Under Public Law 241, the current state legislation, the old landfill was never inspected until numerous complaints had been

registered by neighboring property owners," Marsh commented during the August 28 public information. Sunny Farms had operated that landfill, suspended in 1975, by DER because of a lack of proper monitoring wells.

Edward Simmons, DER's regional solid waste coordinator, is the official who both closed down the old landfill and has issued the permit for the chemical waste disposal site. That fact has the farmers perturbed, too.

"If they couldn't properly operate a solid waste dump, then how can we expect them to any kind of job with something as dangerous as hazardous industrial waste?" one spokesman asked at the OUCH meeting.

"They can't prove to me that it's fail-safe", insists Nelson Brenneman. "It's a heavy watershed area and no one can prove that there will never be any leakage. Water, from above and below, is their worst enemy."

"I understand they can only 'vault' the wastes during the driest months of the year, possibly August through October. The rest of the time, those wastes would be stored in barrels on skids at the storage sheds, which is to be at the old cattle sheds near the top of the hill."

"We regularly get severe lightning across that hill, since it's an ironstone ridge and acts like a magnetic field."

The state of that ironstone ridge itself is just one more question that farmers hope to grill DER and company officials on if they can get a mid-month hearing they're requesting.

For some 30 years during the mid 1800's, iron ore was mined from the hills surrounding Green Valley and manufactured into products as a local industry. Farmers are worried that no

one seems to know exactly where those old mine shafts and veins run, or whether they are tied in with underground water flows.

Brenneman says he received a letter from DER stating there are no mine shafts on the property and that no municipality receives its water from this particular source. He, and his farm, neighbors, remain unconvinced.

Farm owners and township officials hope they've bought some time with the courts injunction, which prohibits any dumping of waste within 500 yards of an occupied building before January 1981. North Codorus township has no zoning regulations and some residents now question if a zoning program would have stopped the dump idea before it ever got started right.

"I believe the state will override any township ordinances," Brenneman figures, expressing doubts that zoning would have done much good in this case.

A lawsuit by Sunny Farms against the township over their solid waste landfill somewhat confirmed that likelihood. The local courts had ruled in the company's favor, saying that the Pennsylvania Solid Waste Management Act preempts a township ordinance.

According to state Senator Ralph Hess of Spring Grove, North Codorus township is not the first place Stabatrol has run into citizen opposition.

Hess is chairman of OUCH's government and

legal subcommittee, and advised the citizen's meeting that the firm has been driven out of Bradford County, is in a court battle in Susquehanna County and before the county zoning board in Fayette County.

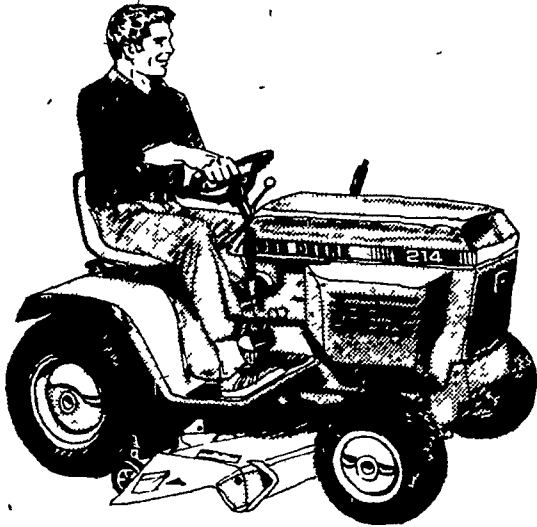
Any court decisions made in those cases could affect the North Codorus battle, since they would set a court precedent.

OUCH has printed a resolution to DER, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, EPA, and the York County Industrial Development Corporation stating that they are "appalled by the quiet, underhanded way in which Stabatrol Corp. (through Sunny Farms, Ltd.) was granted an industrial waste site permit in our township."

Some of the written reasons listed in the protest include Sunny Farm's improper landfill operation in the past, the proposed wastes that would be buried, the lack of guarantee of perpetual safety, the surrounding prime farmland, and public funding of "our own potential destruction through the York County Industrial Development Corporation."

The final paragraph summarizes why they have chosen to fight: "We, as citizens of North Codorus Township, can look forward to living in fear of the potential hazards (from simple soil and water pollution to the possibility of death) to animals, crops, ourselves, our children, our children's children until the end of time."

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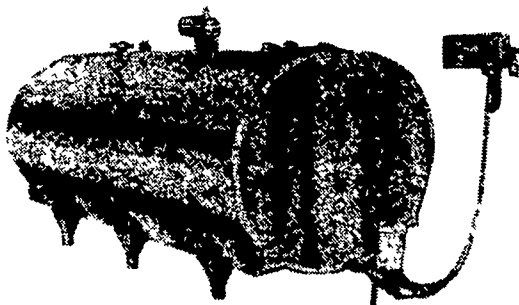
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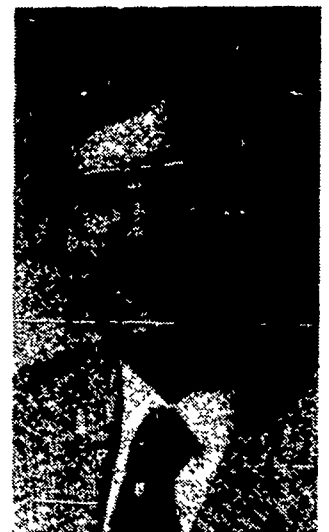
Association to meet Oct. 4

Barry L. Flinchbaugh, Assistant to the President and Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University, will be featured speaker at the annual meeting and banquet of the Pennsylvania Livestock Association at 6 p.m. Saturday, October 4 at Crossgates Inn, Mechanicsburg.

A native of York, Flinchbaugh holds degrees in animal science and agricultural economics from Penn State and a doctorate in agricultural economics from Purdue University.

Flinchbaugh joined Kansas State University, Manhattan, in 1971 as an extension economist in public affairs and before being named Assistant to the President in December, 1976, set up and conducted statewide public affairs educational programs in such areas as financing state and local government, food policy, and use value appraisal of Kansas farmland.

In addition to serving as staff person to the President, he has line responsibilities for the Office of Information



and the K-State Printing Service, and, in cooperation with others, helps coordinate all information and development programs at the University. He also serves as chairman of the Alfred M. Landon Lecture Series on Public Issues.

In 1973, Flinchbaugh was invited to Kansas Governor Robert B. Docking to participate in a Japanese Trade Mission, in 1977 he led a Kansas Agricultural People-to-People tour to the Soviet Union and European countries, and in 1979 led a similar tour to the South Pacific.

He receives approximately 100 speaking invitations per year and is the author of 50 plus publications.

Flinchbaugh is married to the former Catherine Scott, a 1969 KSU graduate originally from Washington, Kansas. They have two sons, David Lewis and James Truman.

