

Leaning silo of Wood Corner is straightened

EPHRATA — How do you straighten a leaning silo?

You jack it up, of course. That's what happened this week on the farm owned by Elam Zimmerman along Wood Corner Road west of Ephrata. The land is farmed by Paul Hursh.

Earlier this week, the silo was still leaning more than 7 inches off center. Now, thanks to the efforts of Madison Silos, of Ephrata, and an engineer, Bernie Anek, from the home office in Wisconsin, the concrete base silo is straight and true.

The problem started last fall when the newly erected silo was filled with corn silage. The 18 X 70-foot structure will hold about 800 tons of 55 percent silage. Empty it weighs 50 tons more.

Unknown to Zimmerman, when he poured the footer foundation, it was erected over a filled-in lime kiln. The footer went down four feet and the kiln was not entered until a five-foot depth.

With the added weight of the silage the silo started to lean. And it started to lean toward the barn.

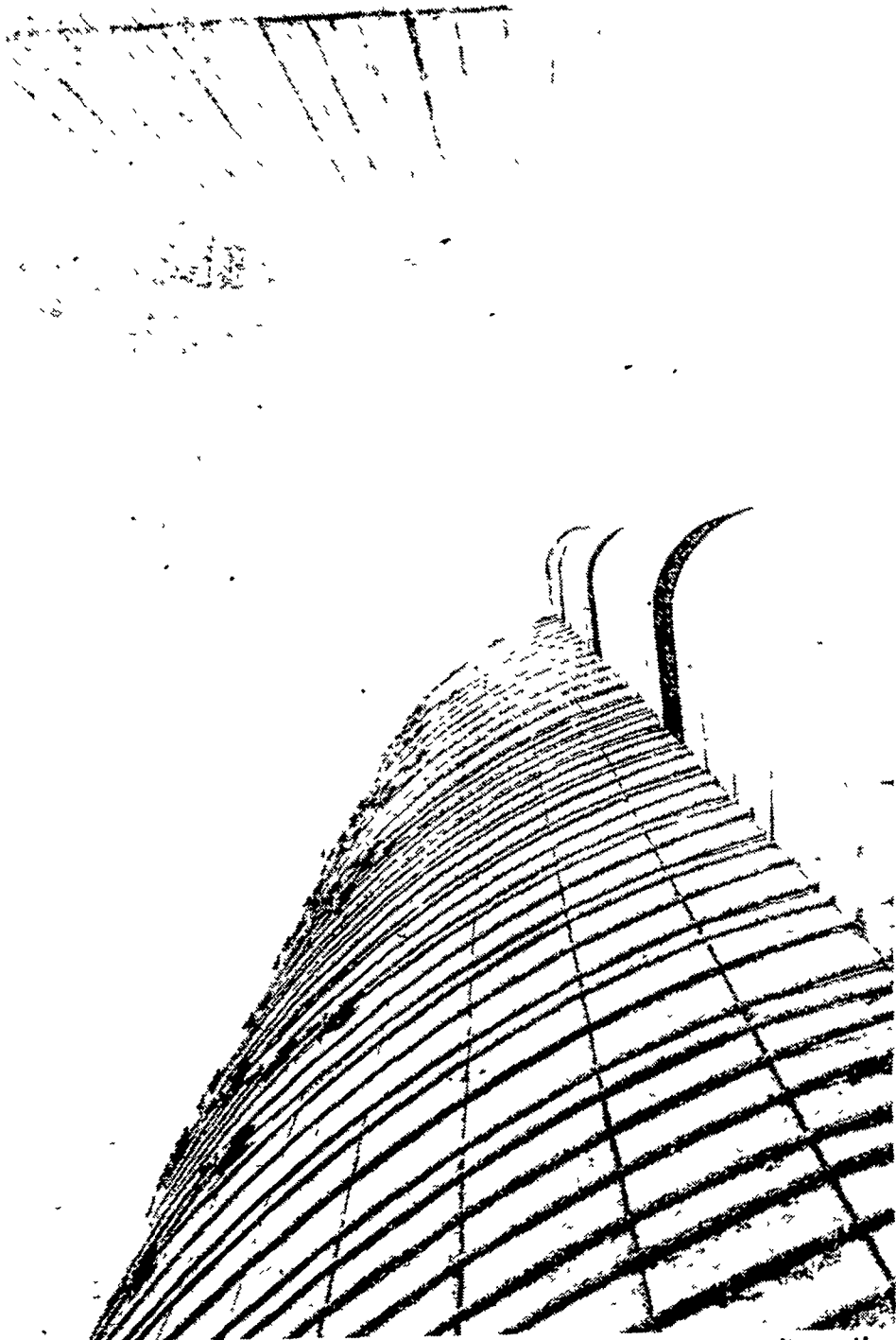
As a temporary measure, a nine-foot deep trench was dug containing some 30 rods of concrete which were poured last fall to halt the lean. To show the urgency, the silo leaned some five inches from the time the trenches were dug until the concrete was poured.

This week then, the final straightening took place.

First, sections were jacked out of every seventh rod at the base of the silo and approximately five-tenths of the structure. Seven holes were made on the leaning side of the silo.

Into each of these were placed 20-ton jacks shored with oak planking and heavy metal in-liner plates.

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Looking straight up the leaning silo of Wood Corner, you can see it was tipping toward the barn on Elam Zimmerman farm.



This is one of seven jacks that were used along the base of silo to raise it back into true upright position.

Surveyor's transit was used to determine when silo was straight. At this point, jacking has not begun and there's still a definite lean to the structure.

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