

Farm women protest York County dump

BY JOYCE BUYP
Staff Correspondent
SEVEN VALLEYS —
“Would you drink the milk produced on farms around here? What about the chickens from the poultry operations? And will it even be safe to eat the food we produce in our gardens?”
Those questions were just a few of the worries voiced last week during a meeting

of a recently-formed group of farm and rural women in North Codorus Township. Calling themselves MAD, Mothers Against the Dump, the several dozen women have prodded and probed to gather information and publicize their fight against a proposed industrial waste burial facility in the midst of their farm community. Focus of the women's fight

is a permit held by Stabatrol, Inc., a firm that plans to process and bury neutralized industrial wastes, including heavy metal compounds and possibly toxic chemicals. The facility is to be located atop a steep ridge that splits two prime farmland valleys. Stabatrol recently purchased the corporate structure of Sunny Farms, Ltd., which formerly operated a sanitary solid waste landfill on the property. That landfill has been temporarily suspended from operations in 1976 by the Department of Environmental Resources for not fulfilling regulatory requirements. The current permit for the industrial waste disposal originally was granted to Sunn

Farms, and the issue now lies with the legality of transferring that permit, along with the corporate assets, to Stabatrol. Another waste processing firm, Liqwacon, also has plans to use part of the old Sunny Farms acreage for industrial disposal. Liqwacon specializes in mostly liquid wastes, while Stabatrol's processes deal with more solids. About 50 women from the area, plus a handful of men, met last Thursday in the chicken coop converted to tractor shed and utility building at the Robert Paules home, Spring Grove R1. Hostess Ella Paules, whose family's home looks across a bare quarter-mile of browning cornfields to the

dumping acreage boundaries, is one of the key organizers of MAD. From outside appearances at the former poultry house, the gathering could have been any afternoon meeting of a group of rural women. A half-dozen youngsters scattered colored wooden blocks across the grass and banged the door as they ran in and out. But matters were more serious for the irate mothers inside, who grilled 93rd District legislator A. Carville Foster at length on tactics and the legal angles of fighting the unwanted industrial waste neighbors. At the heart of MAD's concern is potential contamination of the area's abundant water supplies,

both from above and below ground pollution. The dump site hillside is blamed by residents for already causing considerable washing during heavy rainstorms, carrying stones and mud into the creeks and across public roads. Natives of the area also insist that iron ore mining a century ago left the high ridge riddled with old mine shafts that were closed because the water filled them in. MAD, and its parent citizens' group OUCH, Opposing Unnecessary Chemical Hazards, adamantly stick to their argument that hazardous pollutants may someday filter down through the old
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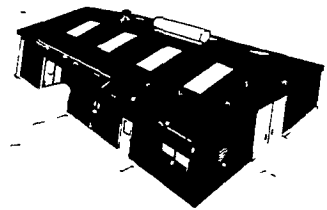
Abandoning housecleaning and garden chores, MAD women planned dump protest strategy in the converted chicken house of hostess Ella Paules, standing. Special guest for the session was 93rd district legislator, A. Carville Foster, seated at the table.



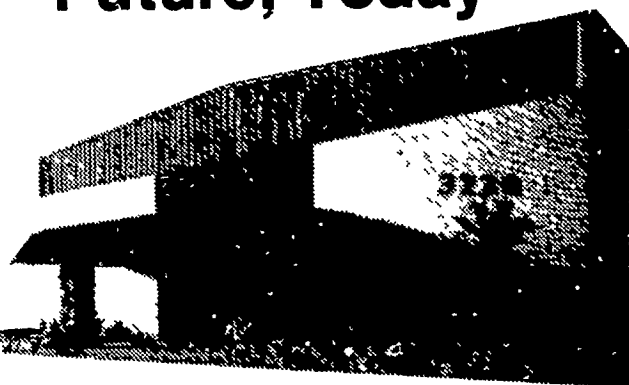
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