

Dark skies but in shadow of proposed hazardous dump site

mine and in the even deeper shadow of the dump for hazardous wastes proposed for the mine site in Eastern Lancaster County.

Eli Newswanger farms the land closest to the mine and has already been intimately involved in the preliminary jockeying by various interests in the dump proposal.

Eli, his father Aaron and brother Aaron Jr. form a three-man relay team to transfer the tobacco laths from the wagon bed up some 40 feet into the upper reaches of the large shed.

The elder Newswanger hefts the 35-pound laths from the wagon to Eli, perched on the second level of hanging rafters. Up, the tobacco is passed from Eli to the younger Aaron, who's balanced spread-eagle on the fourth tier of rafters. He places the laths just beneath the roof.

The agricultural acrobats walk the rafters as easily as they walk the furrows. Eli slides his feet forward and backward on the rafters to get into position. Young Aaron bends lower than his feet to grab the lath and then straightens to bring it over his head for hanging.

Eli's young son scampers bare-foot about the shed retrieving the

"How are we going to farm without water?"

loose leaves that sporadically flop down.

When it comes to discussing "that dump", Eli's silence is as meaningful as his words.

And his words, with the same

strong meaning, can come in two languages — English and his more comfortable Dutch.

"I'm flatly not in favor of it," Eli states in English for the benefit of a reporter who didn't have the foresight to take full advantage of learning his parent's second language.

"My spring is right against their line (the mine property).

"The spring is fed from farther up and in a short time the water would be ruined.

"It supplies the two houses and the barn.

"It has been holding up pretty good. Quite a few around here have dried up this year.

"If it (the wastes) gets into my water, naturally it's going to go farther and get the neighbors.

"How are we going to farm without water?"

"You can't afford to buy water for the stock and everything"

A brief respite is taken by the trio as the wagon is inched forward to fill another section of the shed.

Eli recalls his first indication of something being afoot just as if it happened yesterday.

"It was back in March," he said.

"A real estate guy walks in one day and asks if we want to sell the farm.

"He came all the way out from Lancaster and I thought it was kinda funny that he'd just walk in that way."

Then a week or so later, another piece of the puzzle fell into place.

"The mine guy came next and asked if we wanted to sell some land for a right-of-way to the mine," Eli explained.

"He said that maybe they wanted to mine some more clay."

(The Newswanger farm provides the only convenient access from Rt. 322 to the mine without crossing anyone else's property.)

"I wasn't going to sell any farmland," Eli said.

"But we have this swamp area

"I threw it right in his face...there's no grounds for any sale."

and I thought I might sell that, if a neighbor that owns an adjacent piece would also agree.

"But then we started to talk among ourselves.

"And we came up with this possible dump.

"When the mine guy came back, I threw it right in his face and he didn't want to hear anything about it.

"Then and there I said there's no grounds for any sale."

The company that actually wants to buy the mine and establish the proposed hazardous waste dump has never contacted Eli. It is keeping a similar low profile in its municipal contacts, too.

Finally, the last of the five-plant laths is hefted to the top of the shed.

The team is rehitched.

"Back, back," Eli commands.

And, it's back down the lane past the two houses dating to the early

19th century, up through a canyon of corn to spear another wagonload

of tobacco in the shadow of the hazardous waste dump site.



Members of the Eli Newswanger family proceed up farm lane to harvest another wagonload of tobacco in the shadow of the Narvon Mine - proposed site of a dump for hazardous wastes.

Comment time on fruit, vegetable marketing orders ends Sept. 1

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The public has been given more time to provide comments to a team reviewing federal marketing orders for fruits, vegetables and speciality crops.

The new deadline is Sept. 1. "Some people indicated they needed more time to formulate

their comments, so we've extended the earlier deadline by one month," said Richard Heifner, the team leader. Heifner is an economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service.

Review of the programs was called for by the President's Task Force on Regulatory Relief, with a

goal of eliminating any marketing order regulations that are not needed or that hamper productivity.

Comments should be sent to: Richard Heifner, AMS, 3063-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. A summary should accompany statements longer than 10 pages.

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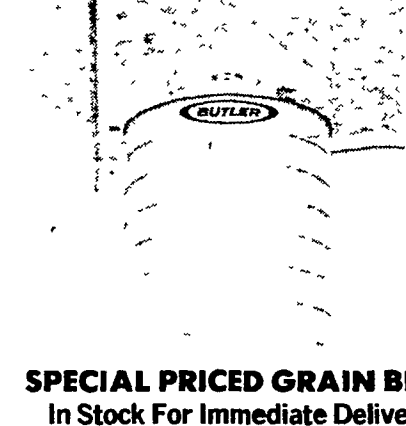
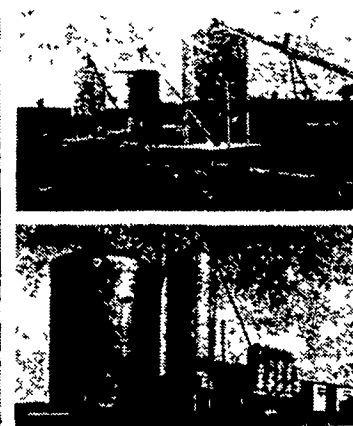
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