

'Farmer' Preservation Is Answer To Save Farmland

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increasing the farmers' problems. Barley said that he recognizes the need for farmers to have a more simplified system. Farmers don't mind complying with regulations, but if they go through all the preliminary planning they should be guaranteed the plans can receive approval and officials should not use what Wenger refers to as stall tactics.

"The pendulum has swung too far to the side of the regulator. It's time to swing back to the middle but not at the expense of good planning," Barley said.

Rohrer said that it is important for farmers to realize that builders and other industry people complain of too much regulation also.

Cathy Ascroft from New Hol-

land expressed dismay that elected officials supported new roads such as a Route 23 bypass and farmland preservation.

"How can new roads help farmers whose land will be taken for

roads?" she asked.

Wenger, Barley, and Kauffman see new roads as a necessity for farmers who are at risk transporting farm machinery on heavily traveled roads. They believe that studies are needed to find ways to solve the traffic problem by using as little farmland as necessary.

Rohrer said that he believes the county must consider using public transportation now because even if new roads are built, traffic will continue to increase.

Dan Garrett, a Warwick supervisor, expressed his concern that officials can with a stroke of the pen reduce a farmer's equity when they change residential areas into agricultural zones. He also challenged the effectiveness of land

preservation programs by pointing out the shortage of money available and the backlog in approving applicants for the program.

Panel participants explained the dilemma officials face in establishing property rights and regulatory legislation and of the need to find a way for all to share in the cost of

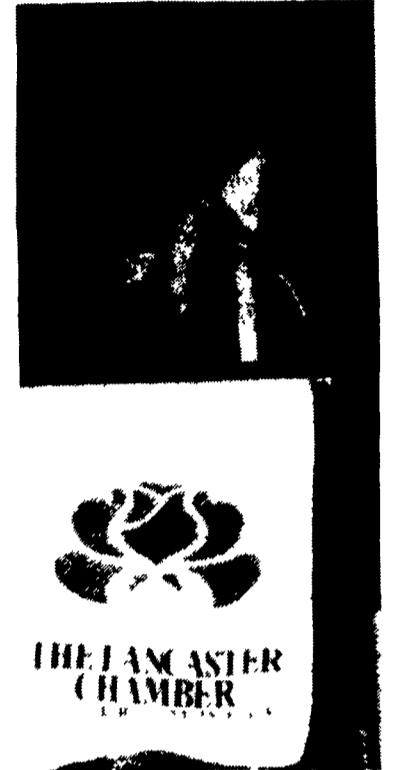
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... parking spaces for every car in the county are needed at all times or it is perceived that there is not enough parking.



Darvin Boyd of Corestates Bank maintains a positive outlook for farming despite the obstacles. He said, "Anything worthwhile is a challenge."

Musser - ... believes his tax dollars go to bring more tourists to the area who like it so much they decide to move to the county, thereby increasing the farmers' problems.



As the ag service manager for the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jim Shirk brought together people offering different perspectives on Lancaster agriculture.



About 150 people attend the meeting, which was advertised as "Lancaster County — the Next Los Angeles?"

ATTENTION

609 TOBACCO FARMERS

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Parker Tobacco made a lot of friends among the farmers. Bobby Oldham, H.M. Bowen, and Ron Bowen bought tobacco at receiving stations in the Lancaster/Quarryville area. We enjoyed working on a personal basis with each farmer.

In 1985, the farmers decided they wanted an auction. Parker Tobacco became Bobby Oldham Tobacco and we supported the auction. In 1986 we told all our customers we were going to support the auction. We placed ads in the Lancaster Farmer and visited our customers asking that they support the auction also.

For 10 years we have bought 95% of our tobacco at the auction. Our share of tobacco has slowly gone down over the last 10 years. We feel we are being treated unfairly.

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