

# Want Good Alfalfa?

(Continued from Page 1)

"The next time in rotation I'll probably ditch it out," he said of the nuisance. "Right now it is too time-consuming, and I don't want to disturb the crop."

A local fellow who needs haylage buys the alfalfa right out of the field. Weimer said he lets the farmer harvest the entire 130 acres himself.

Weimer's wife, Sue Saylor, and her sister, Majorie Saylor, a few years ago took over their parent's Chippewa Road dairy farm, located a short distance away. They use most of the 40 acres of corn that Weimer raises.

Weimer and Sue live on the scenic Weimer farmstead along Rt. 281. Locals know the place well. You have to take care driving across "Weimer Flats" and at the "Weimer Crossroads" if a storm is brewing.

When the Saylor sisters have stockpiled all the grain their livestock will need, Weimer finds another buyer for the remaining high-moisture corn.

Conservationist, Weimer, the youngest of seven children, is a dili-



The Indiantown Road winds through the valley as seen from the backside of the Joe Weimer place atop Weimer Flats. With his wife, Sue Saylor, Weimer is backdropped by a scene of several alfalfa fields.

gent caretaker of the topsoil where he is the fifth generation on the land.

"One of the main reasons I started raising alfalfa is it is a constant groundcover," he said.

With a good rotation, such as the corn he prefers, nitrogen is put back into the ground.

"You don't have to plow as much as with timothy and clover," he said.

Weimer avoids plowing as much

as possible, explaining that shallow-root crops such as timothy and clover require a lot of soil turning.

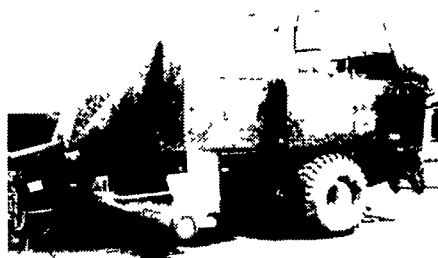
(Turn to Page 8)

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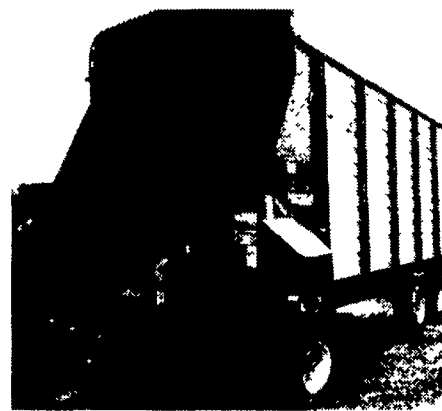
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