

The Map

Showing the approximate "100 year flood line" through the borough of Marietta and the Historic District

Last spring the Marietta Council, prodded by the state government, passed a declaration of the Marietta floodplain—but they were too optimistic. They declared that it was on the other side of the tracks, far short of the "100 year flood line" that the U.S. is demanding as the border for floodplains.

The "100 year flood" line that now slits Marietta lengthwise was drawn by Century Engineering based on an analysis by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. Using hydrologic, geologic, meteorologic, and other sorts of logic, they based the line on such diverse things as the variance in the annual rainfall in the entire Susquehanna River watershed, the average roughness parameter of the river bottom, and the river's

channel depth.

The 100 year flood line is calculated to be the line at which the water will stop during the worst flood of an average century. In other words, if you lived in Marietta for one century, you could expect the water to get that high at least once.

Of course, this is just an average. Agnes sent water over the engineer's 100 year line. She didn't flood over the 500 year line, however, which is also shown on the government maps. The 500 year line is being recommended by some bureaucrats as the floodplain definition line, but the law only requires use of the 100 year line.

The report which the borough received along with the map said that Agnes caused \$4,256,000 damage.

Marietta Restorationists concerned

They are planning a meeting to meet the legal threat

The Marietta Restoration Associates met last week, and spent several hours talking about the new flood law.

All of those present were very concerned about the matter, and a couple of the Restorationists made bitter or sarcastic remarks about the regulations.

They discussed various strategies for dealing with what they see as a threat to the continued restoration of Marietta. Some of the ideas that came up included contacting Congressman Bob Walker and getting people to attend the January 9th Marietta Borough Council meeting.

The discussion occupied

several hours.

The group is gathering more information now, and, if they get enough, they hope to hold a town meeting on the matter. This meeting, hopefully attended by Bob Walker and many Mariettians, is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. The *Susquehanna Times* will carry an announcement of the meeting in next week's issue, should the meeting be scheduled.

(The *Times* can be obtained on Tuesday evenings at Herr's Fruit Market or at Appley's store downtown.)

