

Freeman barrels ² found in county

Drums containing burned out resin residue have been discovered in a Town of Port Washington disposal site used by Freeman Chemical Corp. in the 1960s. The site is on land owned by the Didier family and is located about three miles north of Port Washington off Highway KW.

The site was identified by Freeman Chemical Corp. along with one in the Town of Sherman in Sheboygan County.

It was not included in the report from the environmental protection agency (EPA) in last week's Ozaukee Press, because the site was used prior to the required reporting dates, an EPA official said this week.

Both the Ozaukee County and Sheboygan County sites were inspected Tuesday by officials of the Wisconsin department of natural resources (DNR) solid waste section and Russell Cerk of Freeman Chemical Corp.

An analysis of the materials contained in the burned drums will be made before any determination is made on disposal of the drums, Jim Rayburn of DNR said Wednesday.

The Ozaukee County site was used during the middle to late 1960s. The flammable materials were burned twice, once by accident and once in a fire set to reduce the fire hazard.

Once the materials had been burned, the site was not used again, Freeman officials and members of the Didier family said.

Sheboygan County officials said Tuesday that there had been no problems with the Sherman dump.

About 50 barrels of burned out materials were found at each of the sites.

George MacDonald, president of Freeman Chemical Corp., has described the materials dumped at the sites as similar to placing a fiberglass boat hull in a dump or cleaning paint brushes after painting a house.

"They are everyday household items," MacDonald said.

He did say that the wastes were flammable in a press conference Monday afternoon.

MacDonald also said that Freeman's policy was at no time in violation of any law in effect at the time and that at no time did the disposal endanger public health or safety.

"The materials we disposed of years ago were not classified toxic or hazardous on the basis of all existing knowledge. If any of these materials were ever found to be existing somewhere and classified as toxic or hazardous, we would remove them."

In the report at the press conference, MacDonald also said that Freeman had hauled incinerator ashes and containers to the Village of Saukville dump and Town of Port Washington dump from 1968 to 1970. These sites are not being checked, because they receive routine inspections throughout the year.

Prior to 1972 several Town of Saukville farmers hauled some waste from Freeman Chemical and burned the waste at their sites. This was done to obtain the barrels, one person said.

Freeman now incinerates most of its wastes.

MacDonald said that the firm is working to correct any lingering odor problem associated with incinerations at the Saukville plant.

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All applications will be accompanied by a deposit fee which will apply toward the first

200 letters indicating interest slip. The harbor will have 180 slips.

No² dump sites listed in county

Freeman Chemical Corp., Port Washington, did not dump wastes on Ozaukee County farm sites, according to Ed DiDomenico, hazard waste engineer with the federal environmental protection agency (EPA).

In a telephone interview Tuesday, DiDomenico said that his agency had worked closely with Freeman Chemical during the investigation of odor problems in well number two at Saukville.

Part of the investigation included a report from the chemical corporation on disposal sites. Although DiDomenico could not reveal all the information on the notarized report, he did say that there were no disposal sites in Ozaukee County, but the disposal site in the Town of Wayne in Washington County was identified.

It was the Wayne township site that started a controversy this week, because the Wisconsin department of natural resources and Freeman Chemical Corp. worked together to dispose of barrels found in a farmer's field. The report on the disposal site and removal of the barrels was not made public.

Since that time, Carroll Besadny, secretary of the DNR, has said that the DNR will develop guidelines to ensure that the news media and general public are notified in the future of significant discoveries of chemical wastes, even if they are determined not to be hazardous.

According to reports, the chemicals dumped in the Town of Wayne were not considered hazardous at this time. The

barrels have been placed in a landfill site in Germantown.

Tests indicated that the wastes, dumped on the farm site in 1958, would have been considered hazardous by today's standards. But a fire about five months after the barrels were deposited was said to have burned up the flammable chemicals and the rest had solidified or drained off.

The operation was kept secret because officials of Freeman Chemical and the DNR did not want the public to be alarmed, according to reports published last weekend.

DiDomenico said that he was aware of the Wayne township incident, but that there were no further Freeman wastes to be concerned about in dump sites.

The EPA did extensive testing because of the odor problem in the well, but found nothing.

He said that the report from Freeman Chemical Corp. showed that the firm had disposed of its wastes at the Saukville plant through incineration.

We have pursued this matter as far as we can, DiDomenico said.

Officials of Freeman Chemical Corp. have not been available for comment.

In the meantime, DNR has reissued a Wisconsin pollutant discharge elimination system permit to Freeman Chemical which allows the firm to continue discharging cooling water from condenser cooling coils from the Saukville plant through an outfall and storm sewer into the Milwaukee River.

Besadny to probe chemical cleanup by DNR

Special to The Sentinel

Madison — Natural Resources Secretary Carroll Besadny said Sunday he will investigate whether the Department of Natural Resources acted improperly by secretly removing hazardous chemicals from a Washington County dairy farm.

Besadny said that he had been unaware of the 10-day cleanup, which began Nov. 12.

After the chemicals were discovered, the DNR reportedly accepted the chemical company's word that tests showed the chemicals posed no imminent hazard. The tests were not certified by the DNR or any independent laboratory.

The chemicals — polyesters left over from the manufacture of glass fiber for boat hulls — were removed by the DNR and the Freeman

Chemical Corp., the company that dumped the chemicals 22 years ago, it was reported.

Besadny said a staff member had confirmed that the DNR and chemical company officials had decided to keep the cleanup operation a secret because they feared that the press would report the matter inaccurately, cause public alarm and interfere with the cleanup.

"Although our hazardous waste section chief in Madison knew of this problem, and decided it was not critical and therefore no reason to make it public, it still should have been brought to my attention," Besadny said.

Besadny said it is DNR policy to alert the public to hazardous and toxic chemical cleanup operations. He said he will investigate why the public was not notified this time.

"Normally, it is our policy to put out a gener-

al news release so people don't get alarmed when they hear the news," he said. "It is important that we keep them informed."

The chemicals — in 80 drums — were discovered by the DNR on land belonging to Lloyd Martin, 8181 Highway W, Town of Wayne. The chemicals were removed for burial at a DNR-licensed landfill in Germantown.

Federal laws limiting disposal of potentially hazardous materials, since enacted, were not in effect when the chemicals were dumped.

"I think it was blown way, way out of proportion," Martin said Sunday.

He said the chemical drums were dumped on his property with his knowledge by a friend of his who had been hired by Freeman Chemical to dispose of them.

"Some of the barrels had trees and raspber-

ries growing out of them. Is that toxic?" Martin said.

"The DNR never said it was toxic," said Martin, who said the chemicals were paint components. "You've got paint on your walls, don't you?"

Sunday morning, he said, a television news crew from Milwaukee "trespassed on my property" to film the site.

At least one neighbor was not too worried Sunday. John T. Boland, who said he lives one-sixteenth of a mile from the dump site, said he heard a rumor about the site two to three months ago. He said he imagined people were making more of the situation than it was worth.

Boland said that as far as he knew the dumping of the drums over 20 years ago was done according to then-current regulations.

USSR
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Of the three economic effects, impact on Soviet livestock is most important, Aspin said. USSR slaughter rates rose in the first two months of 1980, he said.

The political impact of the embargo, while more abstract than the economic effect, still causes USSR much alarm, he said.

Although in good years the Soviet Union has grown more grain than the US, the big harvests have come consistently. The 1975 crop was almost devastated by bad weather and the 1979 crop was short, Aspin said.

"The screw turns more painfully in the winter season, when Russian herds are totally dependent on stored forage. It's going to be a long winter for the Soviet planning agencies, a short one for a lot of cattle hogs. This is no time to let up on pressure," Aspin said.

Opponents of the embargo say that it has forced Moscow to expand its trade and therefore improve political relations with alternative suppliers. They also maintain that use of food as a weapon paves the way to an era of commodity blackmail.

They say the embargo helps undermine the stable supplier relationships developed during the 1970s. Opponents also argue that the Soviet Union's poor weather, rather than the embargo, deserves credit for cutting Soviet grain supplies.

Private hutches for dairy calves pay off

By MAGGIE MENARD

Sentinel Staff Writer

Kaukauna — When Thomas and Margie Kussow put up 10 outdoor hutches for their dairy calves in 1972, their neighbors shook their heads and tried to be polite.

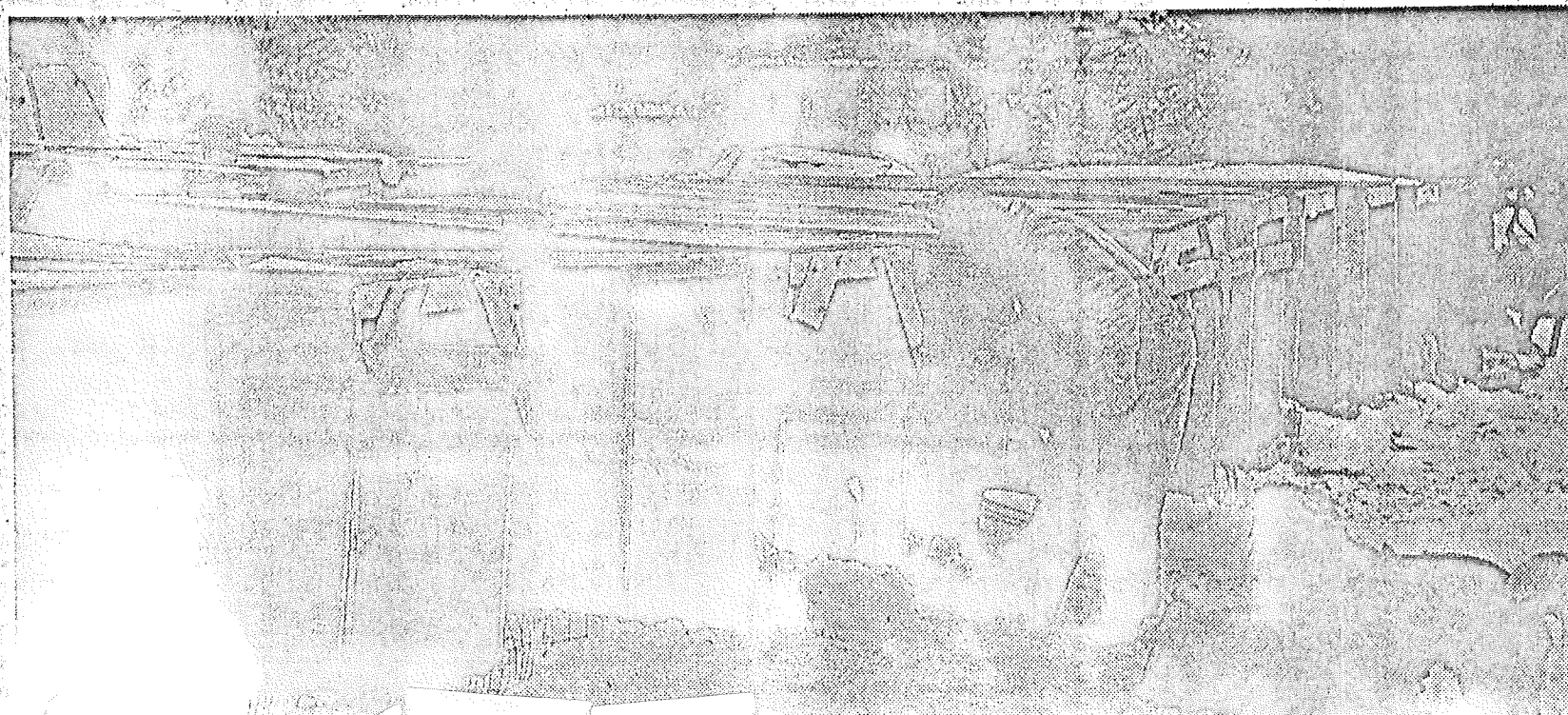
"They wondered how the calves could be outdoors in the cold and in the rain and such," recalled Mrs. Kussow.

"Now you see more and more of them," Kussow said.

Kussow's statement certainly is true on his family's farm north of here on Highway UU.

Kussow now has 60 of the structures, which resemble large homemade doghouses with wire mesh over the wide openings.

The hutches, which measure 4 feet by 8 feet and are 4 feet tall, are used by the Kussows to raise dairy bull calves for beef.



Officials in U.S. plan discussion of man's death

Special to The Sentinel

Iron Mountain, Mich. — Dickinson County Sheriff's Department officials said they planned to discuss Monday with state investiga-