

# Chemical Waste Dump Control Big Headache

By PATRICK TRAUB

"We are building and living on a time bomb."

Millions of gallons of hazardous chemical wastes are buried, dumped, thrown, burned or scattered on thousands of acres throughout Indiana.

They have common and exotic names like cyanide, cadmium, acrylonitrile, benzene, vinyl acetate, trichloroethylene and the notorious polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs).

The wastes are produced from seemingly innocent and harmless industrial operations — paint stripping, metal cleaning, plastics manufacturing and electrical part construction.

These chemicals are the products of a highly mechanized, miniaturized industrial complex that continues to hunt for the cheapest and best production process.

**THEY ARE** considered, according to different lists, toxic, poisonous, dangerous, hazardous or, as one state official moans, "just scary."

Indiana, as one of the nation's leading heavy industrial states, ranks 10th in the nation in the production of hazardous wastes. According to the National Wildlife Federation, the state is the eighth worst at storing hazardous wastes.

What makes a bad situation worse is that Indiana "probably" stores more

hazardous materials a year than it produces itself.

"Probably" is the biggest word when discussing hazardous wastes — because no one knows exactly what chemical is buried where and what that chemical might do, or when it might do it. And no current law — county, state, or federal — even attempts to control what was buried before 1972.

**INDIANA'S EFFORTS** to control what is dumped today are handled by five staffers of the State Board of Health. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says the state needs 25 people to meet the volume of waste buried or stored each year.

Officials admit they can do nothing about dumping that occurred 10, 15 or 30 years ago — a period when maybe the gravest chemical errors were made. They hope they can dent the dumping and storing that goes on today.

Outbreaks of chemical poisoning in other areas of the country have been simple news items in Indiana. So far, except for PCB contamination of the Bloomington sewage system, disposed wastes have yet to create a health hazard that has been identified in humans. Train wrecks have caused potentially serious chemical spills and disposal problems.

**CHEMICAL HEALTH** hazards, of course, are as impossible to predict or

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state obtained an arrest warrant for the former owner of the dump.

**Conservation Chemical Co., Gary.** — A fire in 1977 shut down operations at this former landfill which stored 20,000 drums and 500,000 gallons in bulk storage, according to EPA documents. Known to have been spilled at the site were cyanide, hexavalent chromium, spent sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid and several other toxics.

Although the cyanide is gone, the landfill remains in violation of state law and the EPA reports the ground around the landfill is deteriorating, causing a potential threat to Lake County water supplies.

**Calumet Containers-Steel Corp., Hammond.** — The stream pollution control board charged the company with improperly depositing 49 known chemicals at its site after testing nearby ground water. Included in the list of poisons are arsenic, benzene, cadmium, chromium, cyanides, mercury and PCBs.

The city of Hammond has joined with the state seeking a clean-up of the operation.

*Charlevoix*  
**Old New Albany City Dump.** — State officials appear quite worried about what might have been placed in the open dump, built right on the Ohio River, prior to its closing. The site, used almost exclusively by industry in the 1950s and 1960s, has yet to be checked by officials for contents.

Officials warn there are no five worst or five best dumps in the state. "This week's five worst are not next week's," one official said.

The EPA identified six sites in the state in a list of 151 potential trouble landfills and dumps throughout the nation in June. The one dump added by the EPA in June is described as a proper operation by the state. A House subcommittee has listed 70 locations in the state as possible sites for hazardous waste pollution.

**WHILE THE** State of New York recently issued a report detailing what companies produce hazardous wastes and where they are dumped, Doyle said Indiana has no such program and none is planned until funding and more inspectors are available.

The EPA, through a hastily formed Hazardous Waste Task Force, is attempting to define the problem nationwide. One Chicago-based investigator is attempting, with some state assistance, to catalogue the worst locations.

Those locations are turned over to the EPA enforcement division, which attempts through monthly telephone conference calls with state officials to coordinate enforcement activity. One of the conference calls lasts two hours and includes more than 15 people at three locations.

**DOYLE IS A** firm believer in not creating more 55-gallon depth charges by admittedly "being arbitrary and capricious in granting permits."

"If it doesn't have to be buried, we don't let it," Doyle said. Looking at a list of chemicals reported buried in Michigan dumps, Doyle said each of the potentially fatal chemicals could have been disposed of in another manner — incineration or other chemical treatment.

No flammables, cyanides, untreated plating waste or extremely acidic industrial waste can be buried in Indiana, Doyle said.

# Waste

## \* Continued From Page 1

foresee as the determination of what causes cancer. As each day brings a newly identified, or suspected, carcinogen, so each day brings new scientific knowledge of what that chemical in the ground can or might do.

"We are building and living on a time bomb" is a recurring comment of every person familiar with Indiana's dumping.

One bomb went off. Continual dumping of PCBs into the Bloomington sewage system by Westinghouse Inc. finally shut down the city's sewage-treatment facility. Three years later, the PCBs still exist in the six miles of sewer pipe that carried the chemicals for more than 20 years.

**WHAT PCBs CAN** do to humans still is not definitely known. It is known they are harmful to life forms. PCB-contamination has become so widespread in farm animals that each Hoosier has some level of PCB in him or her.

The concentration of PCBs is so high downstream from Bloomington that health officials still warn citizens not to eat more than three or four fish a week caught from waters with PCB contamination.

Westinghouse used the chemical in the construction of electrical capacitors. Other companies have used the chemical as a lubricant or as a base for paint.

**FOLLOWING THE** Bloomington revelations, farmers learned the insides of their concrete feed grain silos had been lined with PCB-based paint. The General Assembly passed emergency reimbursement legislation to pay farmers for the loss of the animals that died from PCB poisoning.

More recently, a train wreck at Inwood in Marshall County dumped 35,000 gallons of ethyl acrylate onto the ground. Although no water supplies were threatened, it is estimated that 5,000 55-gallon drums will be needed to haul away the chemically soaked dirt and debris.

As crews began to haul the dirt to one of two state-approved landfills in Fulton County, six nearby residents reportedly became ill. State health officials admit their knowledge of ethyl acrylate is based on 5-year-old studies which checked the short-term concentrated effects of the chemical, not the long-term, dissipated effects.

**THE FULTON COUNTY** commissioners ordered the dumping stopped. The landfill owners are going to build their own road to a state highway so no county roads can be used.

Three years ago, a tanker filled with acrylonitrile was punctured near Guilford. The area near the crash had a high water table, and the plastic-producing chemical quickly soaked through the earth, fouling the underground water.

Conrail quickly designed, built and constructed a water filtration system to control the poisoning. The quick response

by state emergency crews and Conrail kept the potentially murderous chemical out of all but one well.

**FOLLOWING NATIONALLY** publicized chemical eruptions in New York and Kentucky, federal and state officials stepped up enforcement efforts. They were armed with new federal legislation, the 1976 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and Indiana statutes enacted in 1971 and 1974, which somewhat controlled the hauling and disposal of hazardous materials.

Further control on dumping is handled through the Indiana Stream and Air Pollution Control boards and the state Environmental Management Group. In fact, most, if not all, direct enforcement is through the stream and air pollution control boards.

Those boards use the staff of the state Board of Health for their technical assistance and on-site investigation. At present, the staff admits all it can do is guess about the present danger.

"**WE CAN ONLY** hope to control in the future the dumping and disposal of hazardous waste," said Guinn Doyle, supervisor of the hazardous waste program. When asked about the current status, or what happened in the past, Doyle can do no more than shrug his shoulders.

Permits must be issued through Doyle's office for the hauling of "hazardous materials," a process that takes about a month. It is an attempt to determine and regulate which companies are producing what kinds of waste and where the companies and their contract carriers hope to dispose of the waste.

David Lamm, chief of the solid waste management section of the State Board of Health, admits "a significant percentage of the hazardous wastes generated in the state of Indiana falls outside the regulatory scheme."

**IN 1978**, permits were issued for 138.3 million gallons of industrial waste to be disposed of in Indiana. More than 3 million gallons were imported, Lamm's staff reports.

The General Accounting Office, the investigating arm of Congress, estimates some 484.1 million gallons will be dumped in Indiana in 1980. The permit system is not catching the trash, officials admit.

What happens then is unregulated hauling and dumping. Some of the unregulated hauling and dumping that occurred prior to the new state statutes have created landfills just waiting to explode — or explode again.

Somewhere between 14 and 18 landfills in the state are being sued by Indiana Attorney General Theodore L. Sendak, with another 25 hauled before the stream or air pollution control boards for administrative hearings.

Some of the worst landfill, dumping locations in the state include:

**Seymour Recycling Company, Jackson County** — Stuck in the middle of fields of corn and soybeans, Seymour Recycling is under a court order to reduce the number of 55-gallon drums on its site to 42,000. In reports filed with the state, the company claims a reduction of 13,000 barrels. The drums, according to 14-month-old EPA reports, are filled with PCBs, hex (C-56) a pesticide, cyanide, alcohol, reagents and paint sludges.

State officials, hopeful of another out-of-court settlement, do not believe the number of containers has been reduced. The site was listed on the first national list of potential dangerous landfills, one of five in the state to make that list.

**Fisher-Kalo Chemical Co., Kingsbury** — Hidden in an industrial park eight miles south of LaPorte, this landfill was struck by a "vicious" fire March 31, 1978. Flames were reported to reach 7,000 feet, drawing the attention of U.S. Sen. Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.), who was flying in the area that night. An estimated 7 million gallons of water washed chemicals — mostly paint sludge, it is believed — into the ground.

Lane Ralph, a Lugar staffer specializing in hazardous wastes, reported finding between 100 and 150 55-gallon drums of cyanide in a bunker. Ralph claims to have left the facility with a glass jar of copper sulfate.

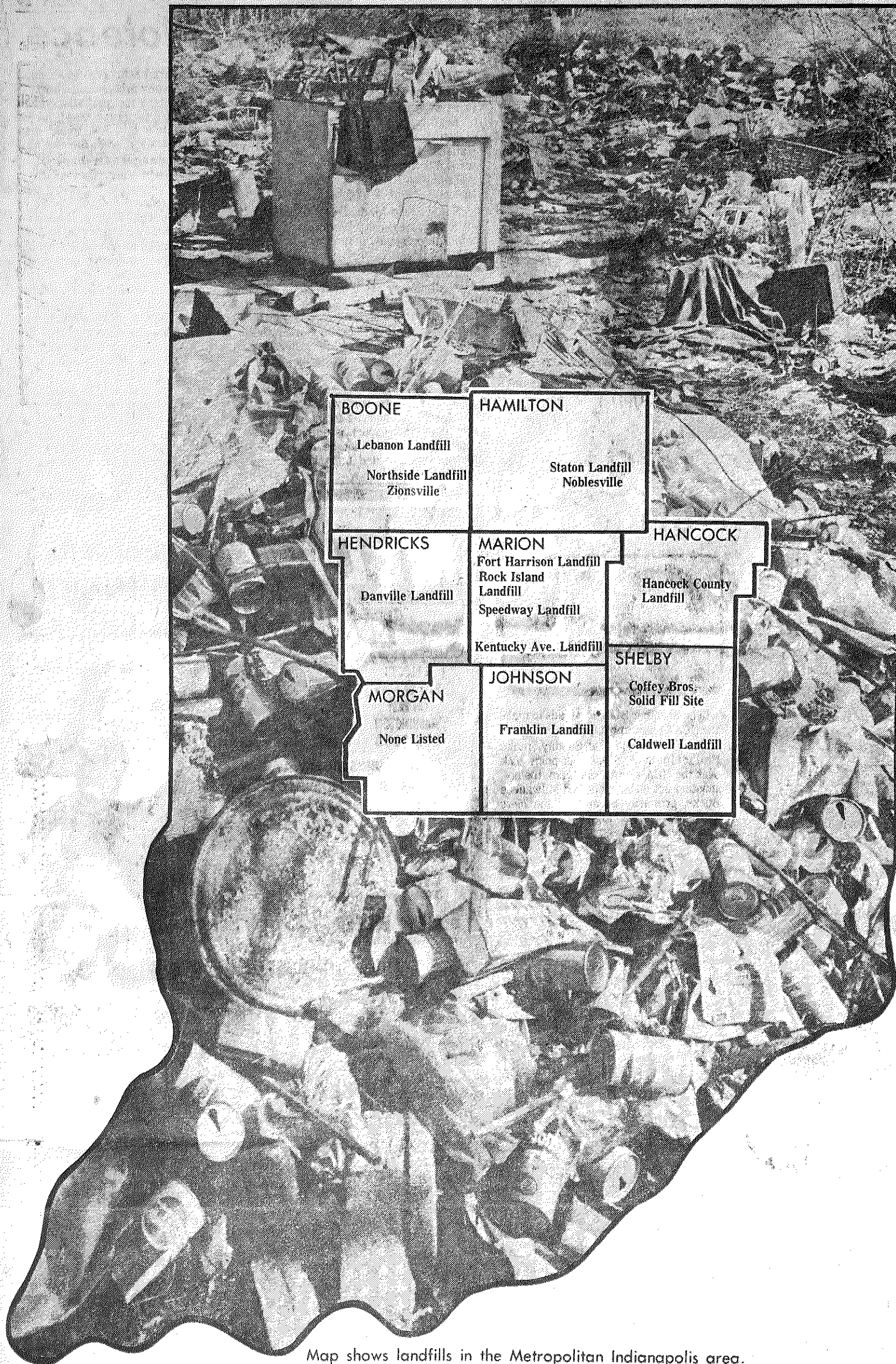
Fisher-Kalo, also on the original EPA list, is being sued for improper clean-up from the fire, as state officials claim numerous drums are still leaking chemicals.

**Mid-Co No. 1 and Mid-Co No. 2, Gary** — Fires at Mid-Co No. 1 Dec. 21, 1976, and at Mid-Co No. 2 Aug. 15, 1977, have closed down this dump, which had stored general waste, cyanide solvents and chlorinated organics. The state has tried for two years to have the remains of the dumps cleaned out following the fires. The EPA also listed these dumps on its first list of hazardous locations.

The EPA has filed suit in federal court at Hammond, while the air pollution control board has a hearing set for Dec. 18. The state is seeking a pledge for no new dumping, a clean-up of what is already in the site, and fencing. At one point the

103,000  
gallons  
not 33,000





<b>BOONE</b> Lebanon Landfill Northside Landfill Zionsville		<b>HAMILTON</b> Staton Landfill Noblesville	
<b>HENDRICKS</b> Danville Landfill		<b>MARION</b> Fort Harrison Landfill Rock Island Landfill Speedway Landfill Kentucky Ave. Landfill	
<b>MORGAN</b> None Listed		<b>HANCOCK</b> Hancock County Landfill	
		<b>JOHNSON</b> Franklin Landfill	
		<b>SHELBY</b> Coffey Bros. Solid Fill Site Caldwell Landfill	

Map shows landfills in the Metropolitan Indianapolis area.

# Where State's Trash, Waste Go

Other than three landfills that have permits, the State of Indiana is unable to produce a list of sites in the state where hazardous wastes are being disposed of.

The problem is, says David Lamm, solid waste management division chief, State Board of Health, there was no identification of such locations until passage of the Federal Resources Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976.

Regulations of that act were not written until May 1980 and did not take effect until Nov. 19, 1980.

Those regulations require that anyone disposing, treating or storing hazardous waste, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency, notify the EPA.

The EPA then notifies each state of the locations where hazardous waste is being accepted.

Lamm said that "as of the end of November we had 105 reports, now it's somewhere about 150."

He said the State Board of Health is currently in the process of identifying and inspecting the locations.

There are 158 landfill operations in Indiana, according to the State Board of Health. Only three landfill operations have permits to handle hazardous waste materials. They are:

Adams Center Landfill, Fort Wayne

Four-County Landfill, south of Culver in Fulton County

Wheeler Landfill near Wheeler in Porter County.

The following six Indiana counties have no landfills:

Floyd	Ohio
Jasper	Rush
Morgan	Spencer

Following are counties in the state with landfill operations:

ADAMS — Adams County North Landfill, Adams County South landfill and Waste Reduction Landfill.

ALLEN — Adams Center Landfill, National Serv-All Landfill and United Refuse Landfill

BARTHOLOMEW — Bartholomew County Landfill, Industrial Liquid Waste Disposal Landfill, Petersburg Solid Fill Site.

BENTON — Brown Landfill.

BLACKFORD — Blackford County Landfill.

BOONE — Lebanon Landfill and Northside Sanitary Landfill near Zionsville.

BROWN — Brown County Landfill.

CARROLL — Carroll County Landfill and Runyon Landfill.

CASS — Byers Sanitary Landfill.

CLARK — Bi-Co Transfer Station, Clark-Floyd Landfill, U.S. Army Ammunition Plant Landfill, Charlestown.

CLAY — Bedwell Landfill, Central Disposal

Facility, Haviland Landfill and Staunton Landfill.

CLINTON — Montgomery Landfill.

CRAWFORD — Crawford County Landfill.

DAVIESS — Daviess County Landfill and Elnora-Painville-Odon Landfill.

DEARBORN — Greendale Landfill, Lawrenceburg Landfill and Rumpke Landfill.

DECATUR — Decatur County Landfill.

DEKALB — DeKalb County Landfill.

DELAWARE — Metropolitan Landfill.

DUBOIS — Jasper Landfill.

ELKHART — Earthmovers Landfill and Elkhart County Landfill.

FAYETTE — Mason Landfill.

FOUNTAIN — Fountain County Landfill.

FRANKLIN — Franklin County Landfill.

FULTON — Four-County Landfill and Fulton County Landfill.

GIBSON — Gibson County Landfill.

GRANT — Grant County Landfill.

GREENE — Greene County Landfill.

HAMILTON — Station Landfill.

HANCOCK — Hancock County Landfill.

HARRISON — Harrico Landfill.

HENDRICKS — Danville Landfill.

HENRY — Hayes Landfill.

HOWARD — Greentown Landfill and Wills Tri-County Transfer Station.

HUNTINGTON — Huntington City Landfill and Huntington County Landfill.

JACKSON — Darlage Landfill, Willcutt Industrial Waste Disposal Site, Willcutt (Robertson) Landfill and Willcutt Transfer Station.

JAY — Jay County Landfill.

JEFFERSON — Madison City Landfill.

JENNINGS — Euler Landfill and Garrett Farm Landfill.

JOHNSON — Franklin Landfill.

KNOX — Wampler Landfill.

KOSCIUSKO — El-Ko (Beer) Landfill, Lakeland Transfer Station, Ransbottom Landfill and Scott Landfill.

LAGRANGE — LaGrange County Sanitary Landfill and Spidel Landfill.

LAKE — American Admixtures Fly Ash Processing Facility, Gary Land Development, Griffith Landfill, Hobart Transfer Station, J & D Landfill and Munster Landfill.

LAPORTE — LaPorte County Landfill.

LAWRENCE — Lawrence County Landfill.

MADISON — Delaware Street Transfer Station, Industrial Removal Solid Fill Site and Madison County Landfill.

MARION — Fort Harrison Landfill, Kentucky Avenue Landfill, Rock Island Land Application and Speedway Landfill.

MARSHALL — A-1 Disposal Landfill, A-1 Disposal (Burr Oak) and Corl Corp. Solid Fill Site.

MARTIN — Crane NWSC Landfill and Martin County Landfill.

MIAMI — Crawford Landfill and Maiben Landfill.

MONROE — Monroe County Landfill and Monroe County (Phase II) Landfill.

MONTGOMERY — Montgomery County-Crawfordsville Landfill.

NEWTON — Newton County Landfill and Newton County Solid Fill Site.

NOBLE — Noble County Landfill.

ORANGE — Orange County Landfill.

OWEN — Owen County landfill.

PARKE — Parke County Landfill.

PERRY — Perry County Landfill.

PIKE — Pike County Landfill.

PORTER — Wheeler Landfill.

POSEY — McCarty Landfill, McCarty Solid Fill Site, SIGECO Filter Cake Disposal Site, Springfield Sanitary Landfill, and Wolf Sanitary Landfill.

PULASKI — Pulaski County Landfill.

PUTNAM — ILWD Landfill and Putnam County Landfill.

RANDOLPH — Tinsman Landfill.

RIPLEY — Rumpke Landfill and Seevers Landfill.

SCOTT — Scott County Landfill.

SHELBY — Caldwell Landfill and Coffey Bros. Solid Fill Site.

ST. JOSEPH — St. Joseph County Landfill.

STARKE — Starke County Landfill.

STEBEN — Steuben County Landfill and Steuben County Sanitation Landfill.

SULLIVAN — Apex International Landfill, Merom Station Landfill and Sullivan County Landfill.

SWITZERLAND — Switzerland County Landfill and Whiskey Hollow Solid Fill Site.

TIPPECANOE — Tippecanoe Sanitary Landfill.

TIPTON — Tipton County Landfill.

UNION — Union County Landfill.

VANDERBURGH — Ruston Lane Landfill, Laubscher Meadows Landfill and Lambert Solid Fill Site.

VERMILLION — Able Valley Solid Fill Site, Centenary Landfill, County Home Landfill, Kanizer Landfill, South Alta Gas Storage Field Landfill, Newport Army Ammunition Plant Landfill and West Clinton Landfill.

VIGO — Coal Bluff Landfill, Southside Landfill, Westside Landfill and Victory Mine Landfill.

WABASH — Celotex Solid Fill Site, Spring Valley Landfill and Wabash Valley Reclamation Center Landfill.

WARREN — Warren County Landfill.

WARRICK — ALCOA Sanitary Landfill and Warrick County Landfill.

WASHINGTON — Washington County Landfill.

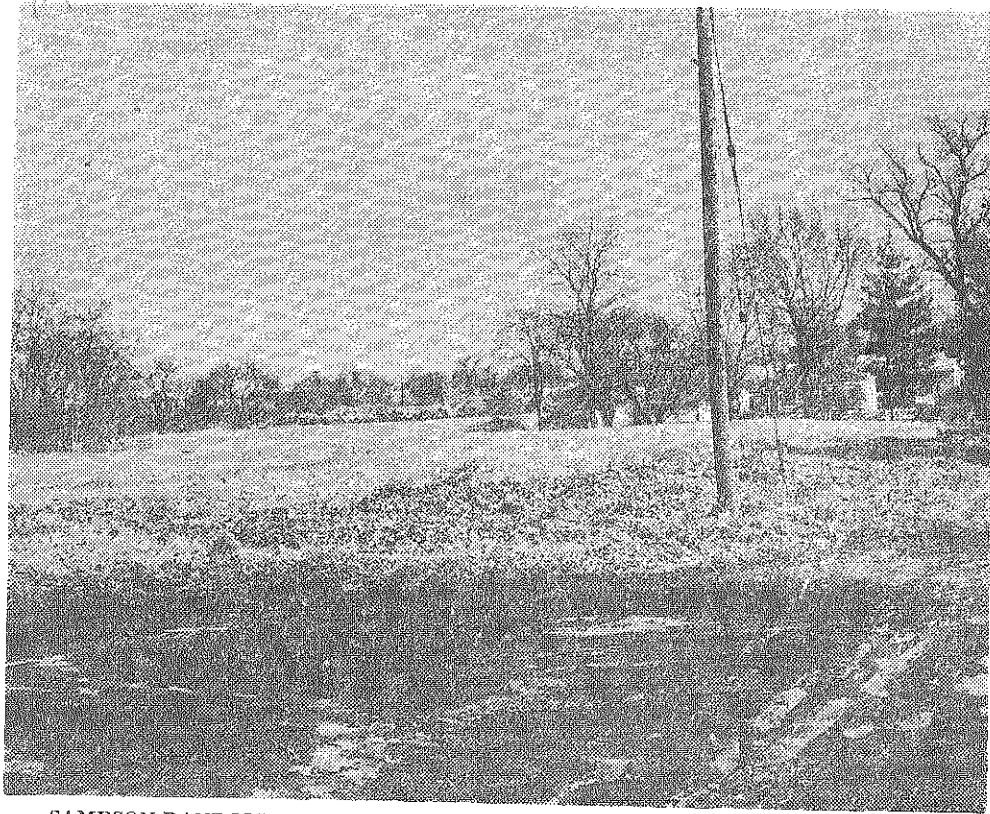
WAYNE — Richmond Sanitary Landfill and Wayne County Transfer Station.

WELLS — Schlieter Landfill and Wells County Landfill.

WHITE — Miller Landfill, Monticello Sanitary Landfill and White County Landfill.

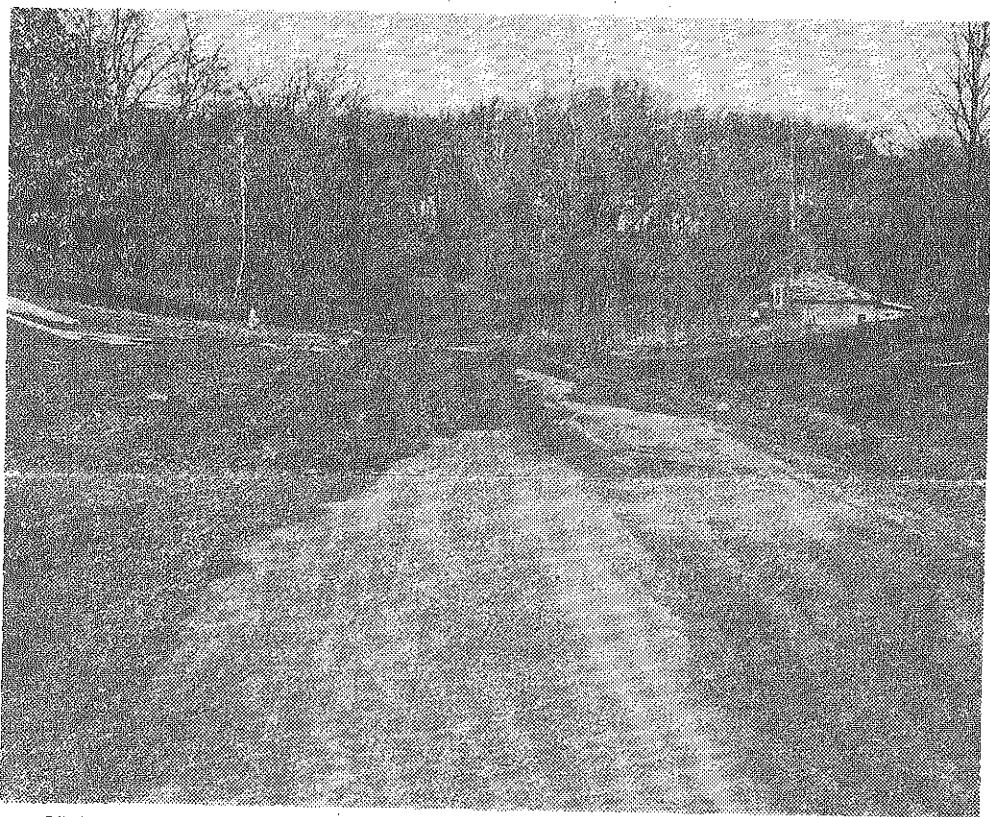
WHITLEY — Whitley County Landfill.





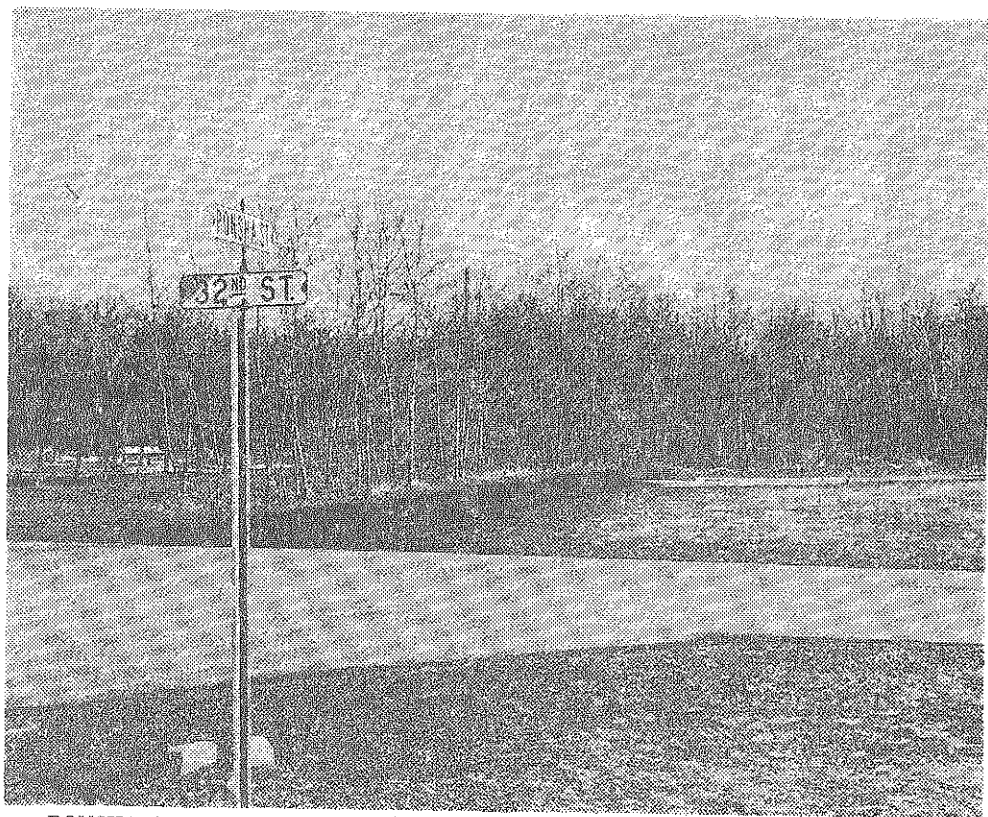
**SAMPSON-RANDOLPH LAGOON SITE** — A storm water retention lagoon is to be constructed in this area where the view is northeast from the vicinity of Randolph and Sampson Sts. The houses at right were inun-

dated during the severe storm of June 25, 1968. The city council is to act upon a bill tonight to appropriate \$583,510 for the construction of this and two other lagoons.



**MARKED FOR WATER POND** — This view is north on 36th St. in the vicinity of Washington Ave. where another storm water pond is to be built in the low area to store flood water. Storm drainage from the high

ground at right and from Logan St. a block east flows into this low area. Wells 140 feet deep on the perimeter of the lagoon will allow water to seep back into the ground.



**PONSHA ST. TO GET POND** — A third lagoon is to be scraped out behind the brush area in the vicinity of Ponsha St. and 33rd St. in the city's far northeast section. This flat

area is plagued with ponding problems during storms. Water collected in the lagoon would be slowly drained into Judie Creek which meanders through the area north of this site.

—Photos by Tribune Staff Photographer