OWOSSO, MICH.
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FLINT METROPOLITAN AREA

PCB Suit Trial Begins Jan. 23

BAD AXE, Mich. (AP) — It's almost 10 years since that September day when a Michigan Department of Agriculture inspector told an Owendale farm family that milk from their dairy herd contained cancer-linked PCBs.

Farmer Roger A. Hisley said the inspector told his family polychlorinated biphenyls may be coming from feed in the farm's silos, but the state waited until 1976 to advise against using the contaminated feed.

Hisley, his wife Valerie, and his parents, Donald and Florence Hisley, filed a $4.3 million lawsuit in 1977 against Monsanto Co., maker of PCBs under the AROCLOR 1254 trademark, and three silo builders who used it in a sealant.

Barring a last-minute settlement, the Hisley's lawsuit goes to trial on Jan. 23 before Huron County Circuit Judge M. Richard Knoblock who on Thursday set aside two months of his court calendar to hear 150 witnesses.

"It's good to see it come to a head now. Its kind of occupied my mind for all these years," said Roger Hisley, 34, who has been running the farm since he was 16 with his father, now dead, and his mother as investors.

"It hits you hard. It takes away your living, your way of life. It's really traumatic," Roger Hisley said Friday. The PCB contamination forced him to grow corn and navy beans instead of running a dairy farm, he said.

Knoblock told all parties not to discuss the lawsuit because of possible adverse pre-trial publicity.

Besides the St. Louis-based Monsanto, the defendants are Michigan Silo Co., C&B Silo Co., and Concrete Silo Co.

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Approximately 7
participated.

Tables, centered
were decorated to ca
birthday theme,
representing a month. Guests
were seated at tables appropriate to their birthday months.

Deana Hultin, Peggy Dillingham and Jonella Smith were in charge of the program, a historical skit presented in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the church women's organization.

Initially, it was noted, the organization was known as the Ladies' Aid Society.

Minutes from an 1902 meeting were used in the skit which was set in the parlor of a pastor's home.

also featured.

Ellen Matthews is continu
a sewing project for children
migrant workers, it was
nounced. Patterns and mate
are available for anyone
terested in helping out.

The UMW's next meeting
mission workshop, will begi
10 a.m. on Feb. 14. A
luncheon is to be served at

Refreshment hostesses
cluded Sue Abbott and Ela
Shepard. Greeters were
Dynes and Helen Robinson.

Geneva Carpenter acted
hostess chairman.

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