My name is Evalind Ellis Pickering. My current residence is in Lindair Acres in Mad River Township, Clark County, Ohio. I was born in June, 1938 and was raised in Richland Township, Clinton County, Ohio. My family home is located at 7311 East US 22/SR 3, Wilmington, Ohio. The family farm consists of acreage on both sides of the highway. My family home is on the land on the north side of the road which extends north to the railroad tracks. On the north side of the tracks lies the property of the Melvin Stone Company, presently affiliated with John R. Jurgensen Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The family home was built in the 1860's and eventually purchased by Alfred Sprague, my paternal great-grandfather. The Melvin Stone Company had its beginnings in 1919 when Clyde C. Beam teamed up with Vern Custis, of Melvin, in a stone-crushing enterprise. The land chosen for this business was located on Melvin Road and was near the north boundary of Mr. Sprague's property.

The purpose for this quarry was to supply the material needed to construct the new '3-C' highway which would connect Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland. In 1919 the highway was called the Wilmington-Sabina Pike. Today it is known as US 22/SR 3.

Today, I want to share with this Board what it is like to live with a blasting stone quarry.

By the time I was in junior high school, the quarry had moved its operations to the southern and eastern edges of its land holdings. The blasts were louder. The ground shook beneath one's feet. The china in the china cabinet in the dining room rattled longer. Generally, it took the morning to arrange the charges for the regular afternoon blast(s). My bedroom door some years would close, then not close for a while. Eventually, the rain water cistern was cracked from the constant blasting. Now, my mother needed to take the weekly laundry to the laundry facility in nearby Sabina.

When I was in high school, the wallpapering project was undertaken. The addition to the north side of my home, added in the late 1800's - early 1900's, included the kitchen, dining room, sitting room and bathroom. Because of the blasting through the years, muslin strips had to be applied first to the plaster walls to stabilize the plaster before applying the wall paper. Some places on the walls were quite checked from the blasting. Such walls are definitely not suited to painting. Today, you can spot bulging sections in the wallpaper in the dining room, indicating that it is just the wallpaper holding the plaster pieces in place.

When Clinton County decided to introduce zoning in the county, the area around the Melvin Stone Company was now zoned industrial. This means only family members can live in the house. It cannot be sold to a non-family member. The house was built BEFORE the quarry

began its operations but the house loses to the quarry.

Eventually, the quarry opened a new digging west of Melvin Road. The great hole in the earth on the east side of Melvin Road is very deep and very prominent in a Google Map. I am told that on very windy days, white caps can be whipped up on the surface of the water.

As for Melvin, a church still stands near the crossroad and one house just north of the church on Melvin Road. At the railroad, in Melvin, the grain elevator is still in business for the local farmers. But the other houses which once were in Melvin no longer stand and the land is now part of the quarry.

Richland Township is an agriculture community. There are no subdivisions in the immediate vicinity of the quarry. I am told that Melvin Stone Company, at their cost, has reinforced 1.5 miles of Melvin Road to handle the stone trucks which use the road constantly.

Respectfully Submitted: Evalind Ellis Pickering, 2399 Versailles Ct., Springfield, Ohio 45502