

GRAVEL *from page 1A*

ty at 880 E. Sutton Rd.

"This is up for public review and that's all we can really do about it at this time," said

Metamora Township Planning Commission Chairman George Nash.

Entitled "The D-Bar-A Project," the project site includes 724 acres in Metamora Township — 154 of which are

owned by the American Aggregates of Michigan, and the remaining 570 acres are owned by the Boy Scouts of America and are under a lease agreement with AAOM. According to the project's website, *wuw.dbaraproject.com*, the

project objectives are to extract natural resources from the project site for the production of construction-grade aggregates for sale to markets in the local metropolitan region, while shaping the land to meet the recreational and agricultural needs of Boy Scouts of America.

"This will mean 100 trucks a day going down Dryden Road," said Wes Wickham, a concerned Lapeer Township resident.

Rob Champion, whose property in Metamora Township lies directly across Dryden Road from one of the proposed access roads to the planned mining site is opposed to the to idea of gravel mining in the township. "The impact a project of this magnitude will have not only on the local Metamora community but on a much larger area for 20-30 years is immeasurable," said Champion.

Victor Dzenowagis owns the White Horse Inn with his wife Linda Egeland. They completed a multi-million dollar



Photos by Jeff Hogan

Many neighbors and Metamora-area residents are not happy to hear there's a possibility gravel may be mined from the D-Bar-A Boy Scout Ranch on Sutton Road, resulting in large numbers of double-bottom gravel haulers on area roads.

refurbishment of the venerable Metamora landmark, known as Michigan's oldest restaurant, about a year ago. Dzenowagis is incredulous that a plan to mine the Scout Ranch's pristine property would even be considered.

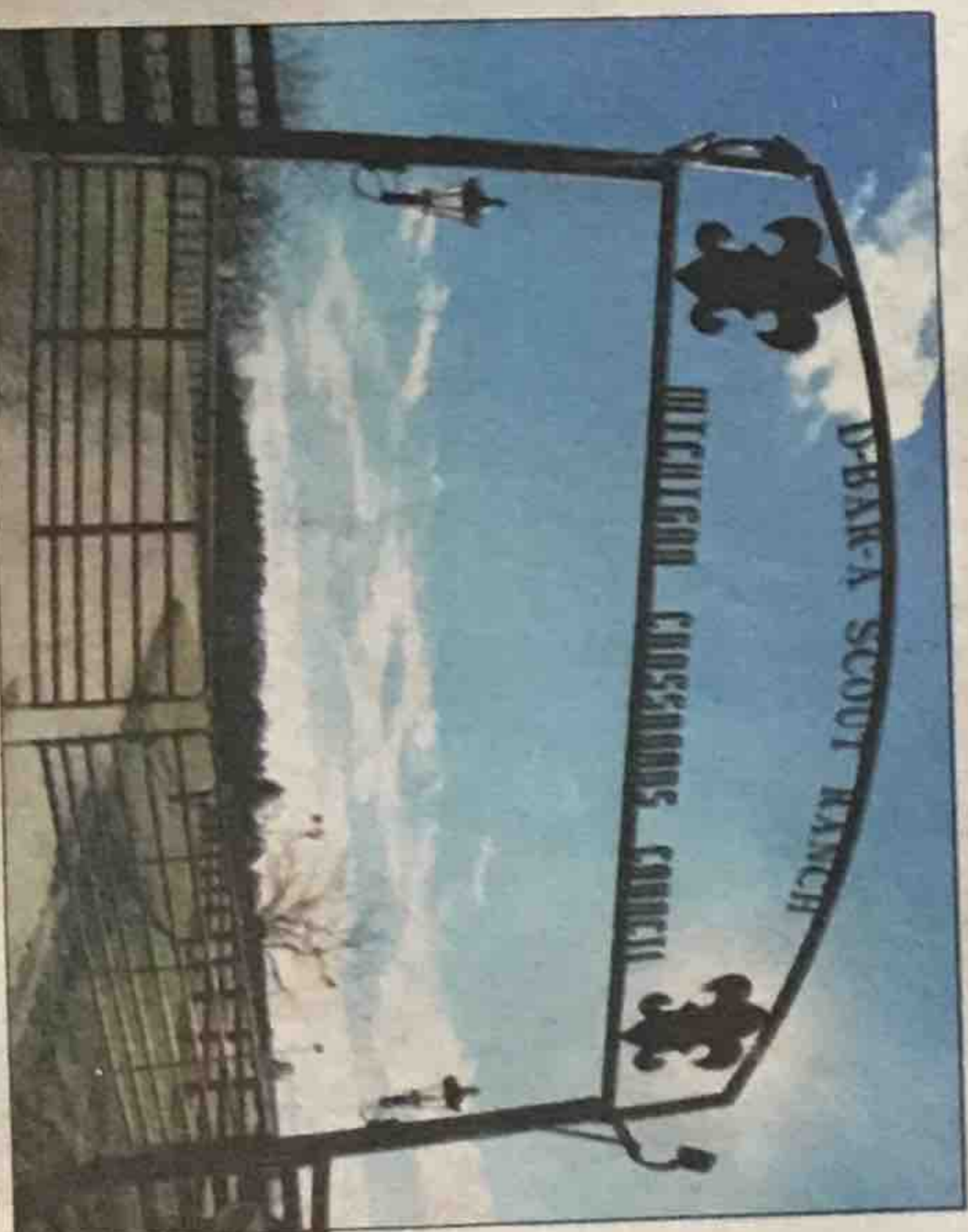
"The thought of this historic area being subjected to a mining operation and 100 trucks a day coming and going is unbelievable," he said. "If this gets approved we'd be right smack dab in the middle of one of the biggest gravel mining operations in the country,"

Dzenowagis continued. "I can't believe it is even being considered. It will destroy the village."

The proposed haul route for the project would take gravel trains west on Dryden Road through Metamora Village to M-24. The heart of the village, the intersection of Oak and High Streets (aka Dryden and Metamora roads) was designated as a Michigan State Historic Site and also added to the National Register of Historic Places on July 19, 1984.

Dzenowagis says he hopes common sense will prevail at the local level and the township board will reject the rezoning sought by American Aggregates. "I just hope they slow this down and make careful decisions," he said.

"That gravel has been there a million years. Taking a few months to review this plan is all we're asking."



The D-Bar-A Scout Ranch is located on Sutton Road between Metamora and Wilder roads in northern Metamora Township.