

Gas Users Get Refund; Or Do They?

Although the Michigan Public Service Commission announced a refund to South Oakland gas users last week, a Parhandle Co. spokesman called the announcement "preliminary".

An MPSC spokesman, James H. Inglis, said the \$550,000 refund would be deducted from September bills and that a reduction in gas rates, also effective in September, would accompany the refund.

Negotiated settlement of pipeline gas charges to the Consumers Power Co. made the refund possible, according to Inglis, MPSC chairman.

Inglis indicated the refund stems

from a consumer rate increase dating back to May 11, 1961. That increase amounted to nearly \$8 million annually.

HOWEVER, THE settlement of three of five rate cases between Consumers and its two principal suppliers, the Parhandle Eastern Pipe Line Co. and the affiliated Franklin Co., has not yet been approved by the Federal Power Commission, according to a Parhandle spokesman.

In fact, a Parhandle spokesman said the Inglis announcement, also one by first Swanton, were premature since the refund has not been finalized.

Swanton had said earlier that the refund is the result of a 10-year fight to have the pipeline companies and the FPC recognize the justice of a special low rate for gas taken during summer months for underground storage in Michigan.

Beverly Hills Okays Sidewalk Ordinance

BEVERLY HILLS.—An informal committee, interested in protecting the village's rural atmosphere, turned out for Monday's council meeting to express views on the sidewalk ordinance.

The ordinance regulates construction and reconstruction of sidewalks. It was on the new construction that the objectors were most vocal. The hour-long discussion resulted in a recommendation that public hearings precede all sidewalk construction.

THE ORDINANCE states that whenever the council decides a sidewalk is unfit for use and dangerous, the property owner will be informed and given 30 days in which to repair it. If it is not repaired in that time, the village will do the work and then assess the property owner.

Charles E. Quick, 13221 Devonshire, spoke for a group of property owners who felt that they had no protection against having sidewalks put in when they did not want them.

S. BRADFORD Kempton, 19380 Beverly Road, pointed out that the land in his area has never been condemned. He asked if sidewalks can be built when the property owner's land extends to the center of the road. No answer was forthcoming.

Action on the ordinance was tabled until the Aug. 20 meeting.

Police Seek Dog That Bit Boy, 14, In B'field Hills

Area residents have been asked by Bloomfield Hills police to report to them should they see a medium-sized German police dog. The animal has a black body and head and brown markings around the neck. Police believe the dog is still in the vicinity.

The dog bit a 14-year-old boy on July 12. Efforts to locate it have been unavailing.

THE BOY, James Yates, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Yates, 2940 Massfield, Bloomfield Hills, was bitten in the vicinity of Stonycroft Golf Course. The course is on Long Lake Road, east of Woodward.

Because the dog has not been located, the boy is now undergoing a series of rabies shots. The treatment must be continued unless the animal is captured and found free of rabies.

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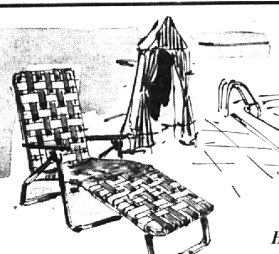
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Board Continues Community Study, 'Progress Good'

Good progress is being made on the continuation of the community study begun in Birmingham last year, according to Basil Bushbar, study director. The project, financed by the federal government, is currently establishing a scientifically selected sample of local addresses. The sampling will include residents of new homes constructed in the area since the previous sample was interviewed in April, 1961.

In the near future, trained interviewers will visit the homes selected to request interviews with selected residents. Names will be withheld.

COMMENTING on the study, Superintendent Otis M. Dickey stated, "We are most pleased and gratified that the outstanding cooperation of our citizens in the initial 1961 study was most instrumental in making possible further benefits to our schools and to our community of this follow-up study."

"At that time, only four of nearly 700 citizens interviewed felt they were unable to respond. It is this type of 'feed-back' which is most important in helping us to determine the expectations our citizens have of their schools so appropriate planning can be done."

"That this study could have broad significance is a distinct possibility in view of the increasing demands most certain to be made on the schools as the pace of change in our society accelerates."

Commission Rules Against Sewer Project

The Chester-Wallace relief sewers are dead today.

Death was long in coming, but it arrived Monday night when Birmingham city commissioners voted to declare no necessity for the project.

And yet, back on June 11 they were almost ready to declare necessity.

As outlined by City Manager L. R. Gare and City Engineer William T. Killen, the project called for construction of a system of relief sewers in the area bounded by Southfield, Merrill, Pierce and Lincoln.

Cost was estimated at \$180,000.

GARE POINTED OUT THAT FLOODING WAS NOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN THE AREA BUT SAID THAT BEFORE THE CITY COULD MAKE ANY STREET IMPROVEMENTS THE SEWERS WOULD FIRST HAVE TO BE BUILT.

Commissioners argued Monday night that there was very little hope of acceptance of the project by the property owners who would have to bear the assessments.

"We're only postponing what has to come ultimately," declared Gare.

Residents of the area will be notified of the commission's decision and of a report from the state health department that there is no health hazard in the area.

AT THE JUNE 11 public hearing, objection to the project was overwhelming from the affected property owners.

Commissioners adjourned the hearing until July 31 to gather information on possible alternate plans. At that time, the hearing was adjourned without date.

Although most of the commissioners appeared in favor of the project at the first hearing, they seemed to change their minds once it was determined that no public health problem was involved.

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