

MONTHLY REPORT

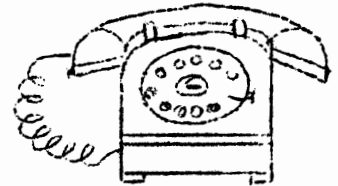
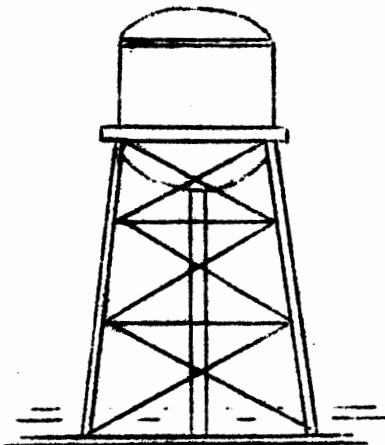
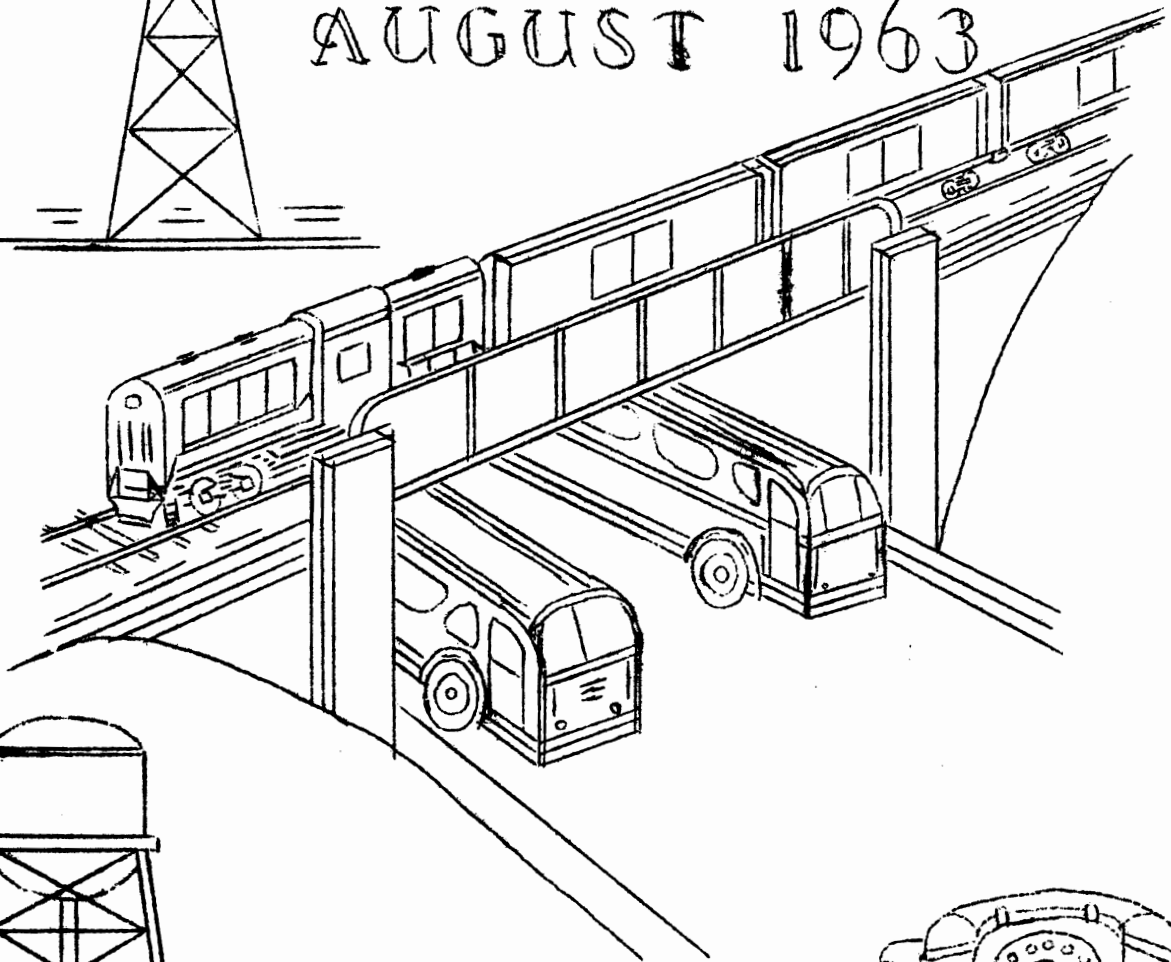
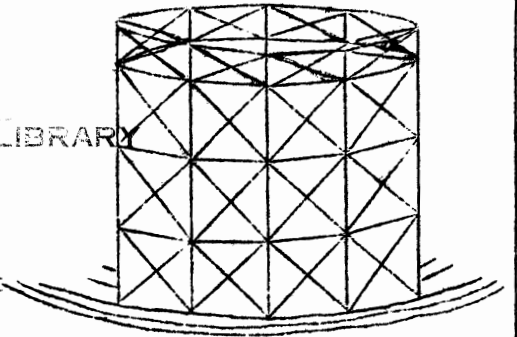
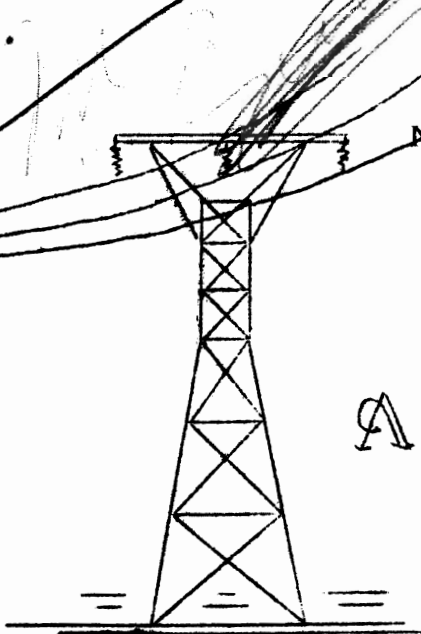
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AUGUST 1963



NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

REPORT TO GOVERNOR RICHARD J. HUGHES
FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 1963

ACTIVITIES

Decisions Issued	41
Petitions Filed	86
Formal Hearings	33
Informal Proceedings	2,419

<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
Filing Fees and Other Sources for the Month of August	\$14,806.02	\$19,925.55
Filing Fees and Other Sources for the Months of July-August	\$22,920.13	\$62,765.57

GAS REFUNDS AND REDUCED ELECTRIC RATES APPROVED

The Board processed a proposal by Public Service Electric and Gas Company whereby the Company will return approximately \$264,000 to its gas customers during the month of September, 1963, as a result of refunds received by the Company from its gas suppliers under rate adjustments ordered by the Federal Power Commission.

In its Order of August 21, the Board accepted a revised electric tariff filed August 1 by Public Service Electric and Gas Company, reducing heating rates by \$12,500. Additionally, a new rate schedule - High Tension Service - to include all such customers results in an annual reduction of about \$230,000.

HEARINGS ON LOCOMOTIVE ACCIDENT SCHEDULED

The Board has initiated an investigation and set five September hearing dates on the accident of July 24th when a PATH train collided with a PRR locomotive on the Pennsylvania Railroad Main Line at Harrison.

EXPLOSION HEARINGS COMPLETED

The Public Service Electric and Gas Company's hearings relative to accidents which may have been caused by gas explosions were completed during the month.

BUS FARES AT ISSUE

Because the petitioner, Warwick-Greenwood Lake and New York Transit, Inc., did not prove that existing intra-state fares were unreasonable as being too low, its petition for negotiation of a 5¢ increase was denied by the Board on August 8th.

Ace Bus Transportation Corporation and 34 other operators on the South Hudson County Boulevard bus route, serving the cities of Jersey City and Bayonne, the Town of Kearny and the Bayonne Naval Base, were granted a fare increase, in a negotiation Order of August 21, of 5¢ for two or more zones, one cent for student fares changed from 7 to 8 cents but one zone fares remained at 15 cents. About \$72,000 in increased annual revenues is expected after the fares become effective September 1, 1963.

TRAIN SERVICE PRESERVED

Although the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad Company filed two petitions with the Board amounting to a proposal for discontinuance of all passenger train service, it later entered into a state subsidy contract with the State Highway Commissioner promising to continue existing service and several experimental trains, to test possible patronage, until December 31, 1963. Consequently, the Board closed its docket on the 2 petitions by Orders of Dismissal. Under the contract, if the railroad obtains rights to operate to a terminal so passengers may connect with Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corp. trains or ferries to New York City, the parties are obliged to extend the train-continuance contract to June 30, 1964 for 4 commuter round-trips per day.

WATER SERVICE PROBLEM SOLVED

Subsequent to the filing of a complaint by the Borough of Bloomingdale alleging inadequate water pressure and service to Borough residents by the Borough of Butler Water Department and later adjournment of further hearings so as to allow for a water system survey by the Water Department, a Board Order of Dismissal is forthcoming since the issues have been resolved and the petitioner wishes to withdraw its action.

MUNICIPALITY ACQUIRES SEWERAGE UTILITY

After public hearings in latter 1962 and early 1963 , before the Board on a rate increase petition by Delaware Township Sewerage Corporation to boost rates by 31.5%, the petitioner notified the Board that the Township of Cherry Hill had acquired petitioner's facilities. Consequently, the petition was dismissed by the Board.

WATER FRANCHISE AREA DISPUTE CONTINUES

Manalapan Water and Utility Corp., holding municipal consent of Manalapan Township for water service in a part of the Township, seeks Board approval for its organization as a water utility but is opposed by an existing water utility, Gordon's Corner Water Company, which states as an intervenor in the case and by separate petition that as its franchised area, approved by the Board, is next to the petitioner's area, it is better able to serve the public if the service is really necessary. This problem of balancing interests is scheduled for further hearings on a petition by Manalapan for approval of municipal consent, issuance of securities and initial tariff.

GRADE CROSSING ELIMINATION PROGRAM

PASSAIC

Working under a deadline of September 14, 1963, set by the Board for project completion, the City of Passaic was authorized to remove parts of main line tracks in the city center to make parking space; Erie-Lackawanna trains are operating across the new connection between the main line and the Boonton Branch; and railroad-Board staff meetings were held relating to bills for engineering charges.

GARWOOD

Except for minor work on tracks and signals on the railroad, the underpass beneath the Central Railroad of New Jersey is completed and open to vehicular traffic service since May 26, 1963.

MATAWAN

As with the Garwood job, the work on the bridge at Atlantic Avenue spanning the Central Railroad Company track was substantially complete in August with the opening of the overpass for automobile traffic scheduled for September.

BOARD'S DECISION APPEALED

By Order of August 8th, the Board dismissed the petition of New York Central Railroad Company for an order, under R.S. 40:55-50, that a Ridgefield ordinance prohibiting outdoor storage of automobiles did not apply to utility property, on the ground that there was a failure of proof, required by statute, that the present or proposed situation of the structure was reasonably necessary for the service of the public. The company, the Board said, had shown that a storage area was needed but gave no proof that the particular location was reasonably necessary. A notice of appeal to the Appellate Division from the Board was filed by the company.