

# MONTHLY REPORT

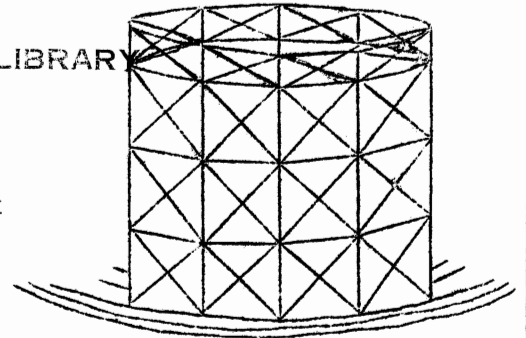
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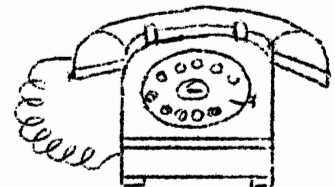
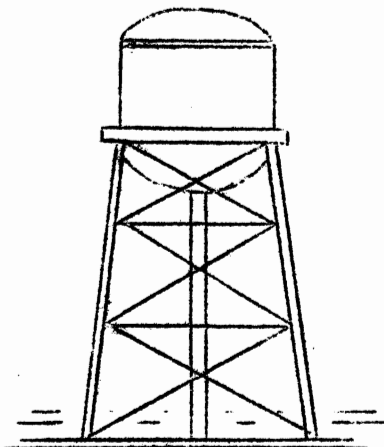
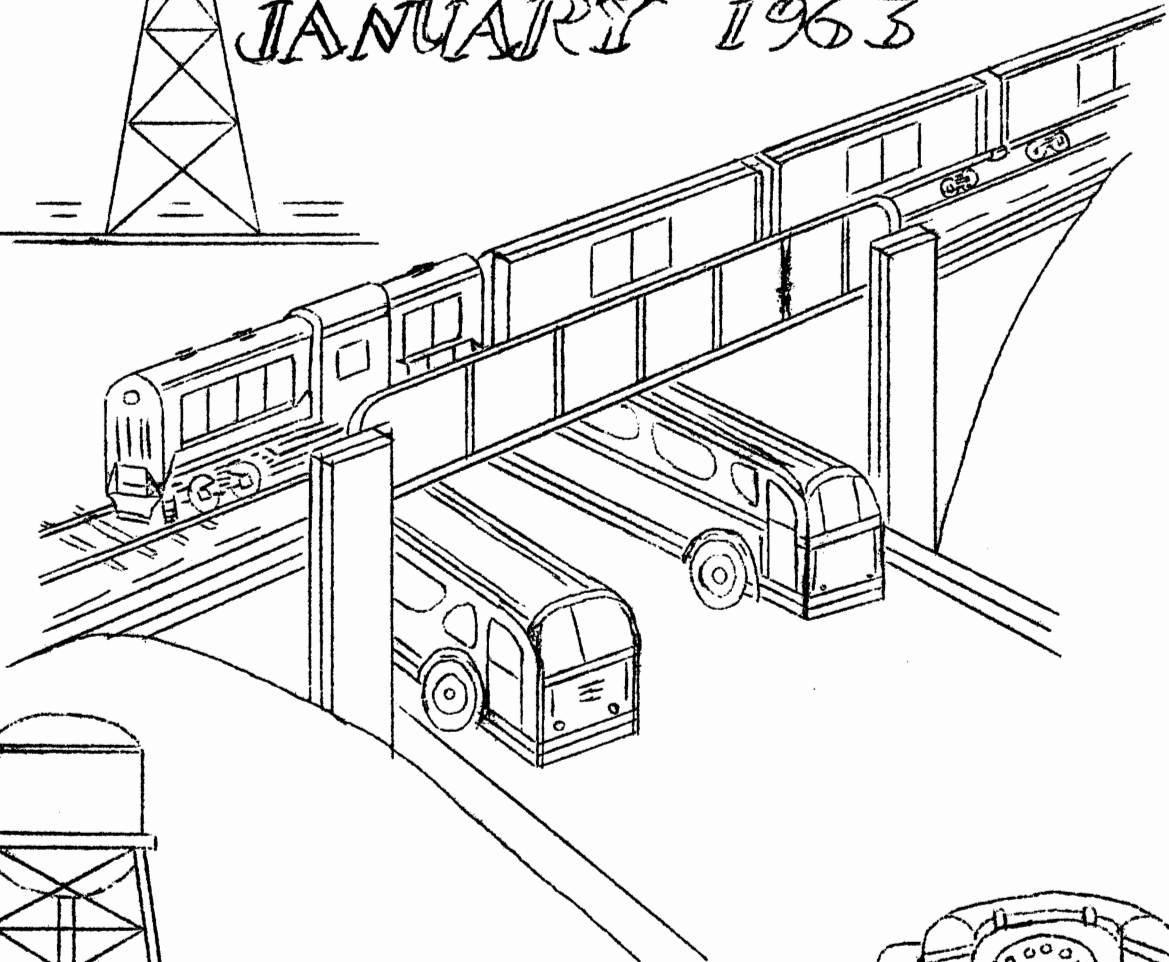
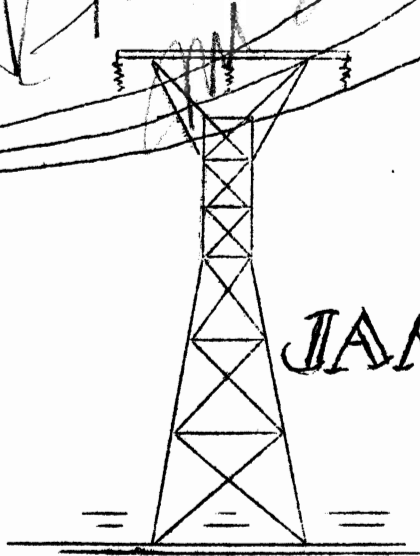
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JANUARY 1963



NEW JERSEY  
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

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

GENERAL ACTIVITY

Decisions Issued	64
Petitions Filed	74
Formal Hearings	48
Informal Proceedings	2968

	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
Filing Fees and Other Services for January	\$ 11,995.87	\$ 24,614.90
Filing Fees and Other Services for July - January	127,259.11	100,570.40

MERGER OPPOSED

The Interstate Commerce Commission is conducting extended hearings in connection with the proposed merger of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central Railroad. The Board was represented at hearings in this case in Washington on November 5th and 6th, in New York City on January 21st and 22nd, and in the Board's offices in Newark on January 28th and 29th. Further hearing will be held in Washington on February 11th. At the Newark hearings considerable opposition was presented to the merger and a statement by the Governor, opposing the merger, was placed in the record.

"NO SMOKING" CONFERENCE HELD

A conference was held by a representative of the Board with the operating officials of De Camp Bus Lines, Clifton Buses, Inc., Inter-City Transportation Co., Inc., New Jersey-New York Transit Company, Manhattan Transit Company, Manhattan Coach Lines, Inc., Westwood Transportation Lines, Inc., Mohawk Coach Line, Inc., Lincoln Transit Company, Rockland Coaches, Inc., The Red & Tan Lines, Inc., Hudson Bus Transportation Co., Inc., Plainfield Transit, Inc., and Suburban Transit Corp., relative to the practice of passengers and drivers smoking on autobuses.

At this conference it was pointed out that because of the large number of complaints received by the Board relative to the above practice, the Board has under consideration a number of possible steps which it might take either through regulations or statute, holding the bus company itself responsible. It was further pointed out that many of the complaints received came as a result of the operators of the buses themselves smoking while operating their vehicle and their lack of courtesy in handling verbal complaints received from passengers in their buses, calling their attention to other passengers in the buses smoking in violation of the law.

It was suggested that a joint meeting between themselves and the officials of their unions be held, at which time the Union officials could be advised of the Board's position with respect to drivers and passengers smoking in autobuses and could in turn relay this to their membership at some future meeting.

All of these company officials agreed that such a meeting would be beneficial and result in improvement with respect to the "no smoking" statute.

#### GAS REFUNDS APPROVED

The Board approved a proposal by Public Service Electric and Gas Company whereby the Company will return approximately \$1,223,000 to its gas customers resulting from refunds received by the Company from its gas suppliers under rate adjustments ordered by the Federal Power Commission. These refunds will be made by reducing the Raw Materials Adjustment charge on all customers' bills for the month of February, 1963.

#### BOARD'S RULING BENEFITS PUBLIC AND RAILROAD

The Central Railroad Company of New Jersey submitted a petition in July 1962 for the sale of two parcels of property in the City of Elizabeth to Elberon Development Co., Inc. for \$697,865. Since these two parcels were neither functionally nor geographically related, the Board denied the petition. The Company subsequently submitted individual petitions for the two parcels which were advertised separately in accordance with the Board's recommendations in the aforementioned decision. One parcel is to be sold to the Division Development Co., Inc. for \$162,300, and the other parcel to Willow Park Homes, Inc. for \$675,000. These sales, if approved by the Board, will amount to a total of \$837,300, or \$139,435 more than the original sale price of the property.



## RATE INCREASES GRANTED

The Board issued two Decisions and Orders for increase in rates to produce additional revenues involving the following companies:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Date Issued</u>	<u>Estimated Annual Increases in Revenues</u>
Lakeside Park Water Company	1/11/63	\$ 4,859
Western Union Telegraph Company	1/16/63	24,855.

## BUS FARE INCREASES ALLOWED

On January 3, 1963, the Board issued Negotiation Orders on the petitions of Browell Bus Company, Four Eight Four Corporation, Ellmas Bus Co., Inc. and Lincoln Bus Co. for increased fares on the Springfield Avenue Bus Route #26. The Petitioners' fare proposal provided for an increase from 20¢ to 25¢ for two-zone rides. No change was proposed in either the basic one-zone fare or student fares. The proposed fares were estimated to produce additional annual revenues totaling \$10,040. The Board permitted the Petitioners' proposal to become effective January 20, 1963.

## GRADE CROSSING ELIMINATION PROGRAM

Passaic

Work is continuing on the elimination of the Passaic grade crossings. The bridges over Getty Avenue and Main Street have been practically completed and a large portion of the embankment has been placed for the new elevated rail connection. Track and signal work between Paterson and Athenia is also progressing. The Rail Transportation Division of the State Highway Department held a hearing on January 22nd, 1963, in connection with the proposed schedule of trains when the new connection has been completed. At the hearing it was testified that it was expected that the new connection would be in service by March 15th.

Lutz Road, Hamilton Township

The Lutz Road grade crossing elimination is virtually completed except for a portion of the paving and the guard rail on the embankment. The roadway was opened to traffic on January 3rd. President Hyland, Commissioners Powers and Otis and municipal officials participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony which opened the roadway. The old grade crossing has been removed and the railroad forces are working on fastening the catenary to the new bridge. This project has eliminated the last crossing at grade along the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad which runs from North Bergen in Hudson County to Trenton.

### Garwood

Four of the five main line tracks of the Central Railroad are now operating over the new bridges and excavation for the underpass is proceeding.

Exceptions have been filed to the Examiner's Report and Recommendations in connection with the payment for the signal work. The Railroad Company claims that the entire cost of the signal work has been caused by the elimination and should be made a participating part of the project.

### Edgewater

Work for reconstruction of the River Road bridge was started on November 29th, 1962, and is now proceeding. After the work had been started it was found that the underlying rock was not sufficiently strong to support the proposed new abutment. Removal of the old rock and replacement with reinforced concrete is proceeding at an estimated extra cost of \$23,000.

### Matawan

The Board's Order of November 29, 1962, directed The Central Railroad Company of New Jersey to reconstruct the Atlantic Avenue bridge which carries the street over the Freehold Branch of the railroad in Matawan. Plans are to be forwarded to the Board for review and comment by February 15, 1963.

### GRADE CROSSING PROTECTION PROGRAM

Hearings for additional protection under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:12-49.1 at the following crossings were held on the specified dates:

Academy and Broad Streets, Clayton	-	1/8/63	(PRSL)
Ryerson Avenue, Caldwell	-	1/17/63	(E-LRR)
Washington St., Chesilhurst	-	1/22/63	(PRSL)
New Orleans Ave., Egg Harbor	-	1/23/63	(PRSL)
Bremen, Vienna and Genoa Avenues, Galloway Township	-	1/23/63	(PRSL)
Egg Harbor Road, Winslow Township	-	1/25/63	(CRRofNJ)
Mays Landing Road, Mullica Township	-	1/30/63	(PRSL)

No decisions have been issued as yet.

## CROSSING BARRICADED AND CLOSED

The Board on December 27, 1962, ordered the N.J. & N.Y. R.R. Company to close and barricade the crossing and to complete the work within 15 days from the date of the Decision. The crossing at West Railroad Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights has been barricaded and that municipality has filed a petition for establishment of a public crossing at this location. No date for hearing has as yet been set.

## SERVICE TO CONTINUE

In Decision and Order issued January 11, 1963, the Board ordered the New York and Long Branch Railroad Company to continue agency service at the Elberon, Little Silver and Red Bank stations as it existed on and before October 29, 1962, the date of the Show Cause Order, and permitted no reduction in the personnel at these stations.

## MUNICIPALITY REQUESTS RELOCATION OF CROSSING

On December 20th the Board issued an Order approving establishment of a public crossing at grade on the alignment of Bridgewater Drive and the tracks of the New York and Long Branch Railroad in Oceanport, and directed the Railroad Company to install single-arm automatic gates and appurtenant devices at the crossing. Petition was received from the Borough of Oceanport on January 30th, requesting relocation of the Bridgewater Drive crossing. No date has as yet been set for the hearing.

## ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COURSE COMPLETED

Members of the staff of the State Police Academy in Trenton conducted a two-day course in Newark on January 7th and 9th, for the Board's R.R. inspectors, M.C. investigators and 5 of our engineers. The course covered accident report forms, methods of making investigations and general information in connection with investigation work.

## MOTION FOR REARGUMENT AND RECONSIDERATION

Counsel for Hillsborough Water Company and Hillsborough Sewer Company filed motions for reargument and reconsideration of the Board's Order authorizing the issuance of securities dated December 20, 1962.

The Petitioners take particular exception to the Board's exclusions from capitalizable assets, the costs of the water distribution and sewage collecting systems. Petitioners' counsel has been advised by the Board to submit memoranda in support of the modifications requested with the Board's decisions. Meanwhile, members of the Board have been conducting research into the background of these utilities and preparing material which could be useful in dealing with the allegations to be contained in the memoranda.

## REROUTING OF TRAINS STUDIED

In connection with the proposed rerouting of Jersey Central trains into Pennsylvania Station, Newark, the Board has been making a study of the problems involved in this project. The Commissioners and members of the staff made an inspection on January 28th of the line to be used and inspected conditions at each of the five grade crossings on the Lehigh Valley Railroad which should be eliminated if the Central trains are rerouted. Investigation of this matter will continue.



## ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSIONERS

On January 3, President Hyland, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Otis attended the official opening of the new bridge over the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad on Lutz Road in Hamilton and Lawrence Townships, Mercer County.

On January 9, Commissioner Powers attended the signing of the Proclamation Observance of the 55th Anniversary of the Department of Civil Service of New Jersey and the 80th Anniversary of the Federal Civil Service Department.

On January 17, President Hyland attended the Civil Defense Meeting held in Acting Director Thomas Digman's office of the Division of Civil Defense in Trenton. This meeting was in reference to the Emergency Motor Transport Board.

On January 28, President Hyland attended the I.C.C. Hearings of the Pennsylvania and the NYCRR merger.

On January 28, President Hyland, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Otis attended the inspection of five grade crossings in Hillside, Roselle Park, Union County area.

On January 29, Commissioner Hyland attended the Governor's Cabinet meeting.

On January 31, President Hyland conferred with Mr. McElwain of Jersey Central Power & Light Company in reference to plans for a new generating plant in Lacey Township, Ocean County.

On January 31, President Hyland held a conference of the Emergency Motor Transport Board.

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Hyland  
President

Dated: February 26, 1963