



gas line leaks water

Mrs. Perry Hoover thought she heard an unusual sound Thursday afternoon and, looking out of her window, was amazed to see a torrent of water coursing down over the hill behind her home at Pikes Creek. She called her daughter, Sheron Whitesell, who with her husband rushed to the scene. They discovered that the gas pipeline on the hilltop had burst releasing tons of water which had been pumped into the pipes recently to clear the lines.

Had the break occurred nearer her house and garage it is likely the latter would have washed away, Mrs. Hoover pointed out, because the pipeline owned by Transcontinental Gas Co., goes near both buildings.

The water which resembled a river for a time flowed down the driveway and away from the living quarters.

fireman details plight

National Fire Prevention Week is in full swing in the Back Mountain, where every volunteer fire organization is cooperating in an attempt to point out dangers of carelessness.

Jim Besecker, charter member of the Dallas Fire Company, chief for 15 years, and still active, points out the value of the increasing number of farm ponds in the Back Mountain.

"We have apparatus that can throw 250 gallons a minute from a farm pond or other water supply," he says. "Last week we dropped a hose into the farm pond in Franklin Township where an unoccupied house was blazing, and were able to supply water for all the pumpers taking part in the effort to save it. The more ponds this area gets, the more help the fire companies can give the public.

"It's mostly carelessness when a fire starts in this semirural area, but you can't discount arson, either, An unoccupied house or an abandoned barn doesn't usually catch fire without some as tance, though there are cases where a piece of glass on a trash pile alongside a building

has heated in the sun to a point where it ignites debris.

"Mostly it's people who are at fault. That house cleaning in spring and fall is responsible plenty of times. Folks take out their trash to burn, and first you know you've got a brush fire. All Back Mountain fire companies answer a lot of fire calls, men dropping their work to go with the apparatus, and when you get there, some woman has started a fire and gone back into the house, and wind catches some flaming paper, and by the time she looks of the window, the woods are on fire.

"Actually, we're pretty lucky out here. We don't have to many bad fires, but then we do have one, it makes history. Like when an overheated fireplace starts scorching the woodwork and spreads before it's dim covered.

"We do have some poor wiring problems, but not too many. It's mostly just plain carelessness.

"Houses are widely separated enough out here so that we seldom have more than one house burning at a time. The fire companies are right on their job. They're carrying out fire drills this week in all the schools. It's astonishing how lucky we are. It's all volunteer in all the areas, and men turn out in the middle of the night, glad to help.'

National Fire Prevention Week coincides with the anniversary of the Chicago Fire. Oct. 9 was set aside in 1911 as Fire Prevention Day, and in 1922 the observance was extended to a full week.

The top fire hazards as outlined are these: trash piles, flammable liquids improperly contained, oil or paint-soaked rags in a closed closet, smoking in unauthorized places or in bed, frayed extension cords.

Carelessness leads all the rest. In California, where forest and brush fires are a seasonal occurrence, there is a strict rule, break your match before you throw it away, or break into prison and a stiff fine. Lightning can start a fire, but most fires are man made.'