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**...parking meters: who needs them?**

[continued from page 1]

customers are from out of town, and don't know about the 9:00 o'clock meter rule."

Mr. Kalmbach told us that he hadn't seen the police at show times on Fridays while the theater was closed for several months recently. The police re-appeared, he claims, when the movie house opened again.

"We've received about 70 letters complaining of the meters in the last four years," Mr. Kalmbach said. He also feels that the meter hours are poorly marked, which he thinks is "very deliberate on the part of the Borough. It's an interesting way of raising revenue."

Parking meters have stood along Market Street in Marietta since 1957. Police Chief Millar was a hairdresser on Market Street then. When the question of meters was raised, he took a stand for them.

"54 per cent of my customers were from out of town," he told us, "but they all signed a petition to keep the meters."

What about Mr. Pines' letter of last week? "That man lied," was the Chief's response. "First of all, he

said all the businesses were closed, and that just isn't true..." Here he listed almost all the businesses on Market Street, all of which were open when Mr. Pines went into the theater.

According to police records, Mr. Pines was ticketed at 7:15 that night. This is the same time that Mr. Pines, in his letter, claimed to have entered the Marietta Theater.

Answering charges that the police hang around the movie theater waiting for out-of-towners to ticket, Chief Millar said, "I emphatically deny that. We have regular foot patrols in the business district on both Friday and Saturday nights between 6:30 and 10:00, but no one hangs around waiting to ticket anyone. The ticketing is a hit or miss activity. If a policeman sees a flag, he gives a ticket, but enforcing the meters isn't our primary goal with the patrols; crowd control is. We patrol then because that's when we have the most problems."

Commenting on the complaints that the meters are poorly marked, he

noted that the signs in the meters are small because the meters themselves are small. Extra signs would cost extra money, he pointed out.

Marietta policeman Steve Englert told us that "Some people really get bent out of shape about parking meters. I couldn't tell you how much trouble we run into over them, and traffic violations of all kinds." Sgt. Englert stated that, on occasion, people get so bent out of shape that the police are forced to arrest them for disorderly conduct.

Mr. Pines' letter is the second one the Marietta Police have ever received complaining about the meters or meter enforce-

ment, according to Chief Millar.

Chief Millar doesn't think 2-hour meterless parking would be a good idea in Marietta, due to the many residences in the business district. Now, he said, many people who live on Market Street plug the meters all day, and enough park elsewhere that parking is available for store customers. He said, also, that Marietta doesn't have the police manpower to enforce meterless parking limits.

"When I get a ticket, I get mad. Everyone does. That's just human nature. I feel the meters are the best way to control parking downtown, though," he told us.

**... forget that  
"tax break"**

[continued from page 1]

per year, starting next year. If the state money does come through, local people won't have to pay for the repairs.

When the Board reopened their budget (a formality which allows them to get the subsidy), they carefully included the option of returning some money to the taxpayers, which led our reporter to the conclusion that local people would possibly get tax refunds in the mail. In fact, though,

the Board members say, they were only making the wording of their motion conform to state requirements.

Board members point out that the cost of returning money directly to local taxpayers would, in any case, burn up half of the subsidy. In the long run, they say, we're better off using the subsidy to hold down taxes in future years—and that is exactly what the Board is trying to do.

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