

726

Weekly Report of the Superintendent of the Dexter Asylum.

To the Honorable Mayor and the Honorable the City Council of the City of Providence

The Superintendent of the Dexter Asylum herewith reports on admissions and discharges for the week ending **November 1,** 19**53**

Admitted, 0 Discharged, 0 Remaining, 45

ADMISSIONS

DATE	NAME	AGE	BIRTHPLACE	ADMITTED BY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WELFARE

DISCHARGES

NAME	DISCHARGED BY	NO.

Respectfully submitted,

James V. McGovern Superintendent
Director of Public Welfare

In City Council, **NOV 19 1953**

Read, whereupon it is ordered that the same be received.

W. Everett Whelan Clerk.

WEEKLY REPORT
OF THE
DEXTER ASYLUM

WEEK ENDING
November 1, 1953

Weekly Report of the Superintendent of the Dexter Asylum.

To the Honorable Mayor and the Honorable the City Council of the City of Providence

The Superintendent of the Dexter Asylum herewith reports on admissions and discharges for the week ending **November 8,** 19**53**

Admitted, 0 Discharged, 0 Remaining, 45

ADMISSIONS

DATE	NAME	AGE	BIRTHPLACE	ADMITTED BY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WELFARE

DISCHARGES

NAME	DISCHARGED BY	NO.

Respectfully submitted,

James V. The Governor Superintendent
Director of Public Welfare

In City Council, **NOV 19 1953**

Read, whereupon it is ordered that the same be received.

W. Everett Whelan Clerk.

WEEKLY REPORT
OF THE

DEXTER ASYLUM

WEEK ENDING

November 8, 1953

727

CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

BOARD OF CANVASSERS AND REGISTRATION

BOARD

THOMAS A. CAHIR
EDWARD L. CASEY
GAETANO LANZI

CITY HALL, PROVIDENCE 3

November 16, 1953

D. Everett Whelan, City Clerk
City Hall
Providence, R. I.

Dear Sir:

The Board has certified the total votes
cast at the Special Election, November 3, 1953 relating
to the School Committee as follows:

Plan 1	11,655
Plan 2	4,238
Plan 3	518

Very truly yours

Thomas A. Cahir
Edward L. Casey
Gaetano Lanzi

Board of Canvassers and Registration

IN CITY COUNCIL

NOV 19 1953

RECEIVED

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

D. Everett Whelan
CLERK



CITY OF PROVIDENCE • RHODE ISLAND • Walter H. Reynolds • Mayor

Office of the Public Service Engineer

Peter J. Hicks, Jr.
Public Service Engineer

City Hall, Providence 3, R. I.

November 5, 1953

Mr. D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Whelan:

I enclose herewith, the bill of the Narragansett Electric Company for the street lighting of the City of Providence, for the month of October, 1953.

The total net amount of the bill is \$35,540.14.

Yours very truly,

PJH, JR:tm

Peter J. Hicks, Jr.
PETER J. HICKS, JR.
PUBLIC SERVICE ENGINEER

IN CITY COUNCIL

NOV 19 1953

APPROVED:

D. Everett Whelan
CLERK

Sent to Controller
11/25/53



CITY OF PROVIDENCE • RHODE ISLAND • Walter H. Reynolds • Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Joseph Smith, M. D.
Superintendent of Health
Ex-officio
City Registrar
Inspector of Milk

City Hall

Providence 3, R. I.

November 19, 1953

The Honorable, The City Council
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island

Gentlemen:

Resolution 687 of the City Council approved November 3, 1953, resolved that the Superintendent of Health and the Public Service Engineer make a study to determine whether or not there is a health hazard connected with the use of open flame gas refrigerators. Said resolution also requested that should such a hazard exist, the extent to which it exists should be noted and that recommendations should be made for necessary actions to correct such hazards.

In compliance with said resolution, the Public Service Engineer and the Superintendent of Health have held numerous conferences and have conducted separate and joint investigations, questioning the officials of the gas company and the health officials of the City of New York. As a result of this investigation, the first point to be determined whether or not there is a health hazard connected with the use of open flame gas refrigerators could be answered in the affirmative. However, there are health hazards in all factors involving life.

There are two types of open flame gas refrigerators, the water cooled and the air cooled types. In the City of Providence there are about 25 water cooled gas refrigerators and these 25 or less may constitute a grave hazard to the users thereof, especially when used with mixed or natural gases as compared to manufactured gas. These water cooled refrigerators have been discontinued for close to 20 to 25 years. They were originally designed to use manufactured gas which burns more rapidly and requires less air for proper combustion the natural gas or its mixtures. According to the manufacturers, these water cooled refrigerators will not burn natural gases properly and they have recommended that the use of all water cooled refrigerators be discontinued immediately in areas where there has been a change in the composition of the gas from manufactured to natural or where adequate and conscientious servicing is not obtainable.

The cause of the hazard from the operation of gas refrigerators and other appliances is the improper operation producing carbon monoxide. While it is true that manufactured gas contains a high proportion of carbon monoxide and natural gas does not, it has been determined by surveys and investigations in Los Angeles, New York, Richmond and other places that it is carbon monoxide created by improper combustion of natural and manufactured gases that creates the health hazard resulting in poisonings and death.

The operation of a gas refrigerator is distinguished from that of other gas appliances in that the burning or combustion of gas in the heating unit takes place in a narrow cylindrical flue rather than in the open air, thus if there is improper combustion and carbon monoxide is produced, there is greater opportunity for this carbon monoxide to be liberated into the atmosphere of the room. Poisoning by carbon monoxide of the manufactured gas is prevented in the case of gas refrigerators by the operation of a thermostatically controlled valve which shuts off the supply of gas automatically should the flame go out. However, this still does not prevent the manufacturing of carbon monoxide by the improper combustion of the gas itself. This is especially true when natural gas is used. It should also be remembered that when natural gases burn, about twice the amount of air per cubic foot must be supplied than would be the case when manufactured gas is used. Thus an improperly operating heating unit of a gas refrigerator will produce excessive amounts of carbon monoxide. While it is true that carbon monoxide is normally an odorless gas, it should be remembered that there is a characteristic musty aldehyde odor which is almost always associated with the incomplete combustion of gas in a refrigerator emitting carbon monoxide.

The report received from New York cites one instance where the victim apparently noticed this odor in her apartment and found the odor sufficiently objectionable to attempt to counteract it with a bottle of deodorant solution, however, this did not remove the carbon monoxide and the patient was poisoned. Had she been alerted to the significance of the odor and opened her windows, she would not have been poisoned. We therefor cannot stress too strongly the necessity for alertness on the part of every individual to this musty aldehyde odor.

The Consolidated Edison Company of New York, which supplies gas to inhabitants of several boroughs of the city, has not serviced such appliances for several years. Customers who request service on gas refrigerators are referred to service organizations which are supposed to undertake such work. These service organizations charge for any service rendered and many apartment house owners are reluctant to pay for such service, with the result that in many instances refrigerators were continued in use without having received adjustment services. When service was requested the service organizations were slow to respond so that operating defects were not corrected promptly. Resulting in poor combustion that in many cases caused the occupants of the apartments to be overcome by carbon monoxide.

The Providence Gas Company supplies adjustment service for all gas appliances without charge and encourage refrigerator owners to report faulty operation. Such reports receive prompt attention. If adjustment service cannot be rendered at once by emergency men who respond to calls, the refrigerators are shut off and any faulty operating condition that might be injurious to health is corrected as soon as possible so that use of the refrigerator may be resumed. All gas refrigerators on the lines of the Providence Gas Company are equipped with an automatic safety device which shuts off the gas supply to the refrigerator if the flame is extinguished.

In addition to this, every refrigerator has an individual pressure at the burner at all times and which prevents an increase in the size of the flame if the pressure in the system should be increased.

During the conversion of consumer's appliances for natural gas, all gas refrigerators are being inspected. New burners will be installed on every refrigerator. This is a necessary and definite part of the conversion program. There are 22,000 of the air cooled type refrigerators in use in Providence, of which 10,000 are less than 10 years old.

It must also be remembered and realized that the reason for the large number of defective air cooled gas flame refrigerators in New York City is that the servicing in such a large area is not carried out by the utilities, but by independent service men who have been found to be doing the poorest type of job. Here in Providence we are fortunate in that the utilities carry out their own servicing, however, this could be strengthened by an educational campaign to make the users of gas flame refrigerators aware that such appliances require periodic adjustment and servicing. The very fact that these refrigerators have no moving parts and operate noiselessly may cause the user to forget that said apparatus should be checked from time to time. Indeed, it has been found that a refrigerator may be operating in an apparently satisfactory manner without odor and with a gas flame of the proper color, and yet at the same time, said refrigerator may be discharging dangerous amounts of carbon monoxide. It is necessary that the entire heating unit and flue system be thoroughly cleaned and proper adjustments made if serious or fatal carbon monoxide poisoning is to be prevented. Since for the most part carbon monoxide is odorless, a carbon monoxide indicator should always be part of the servicing equipment. It must be remembered that the gas refrigerator is a continuously operating mechanism and when combustion is incomplete, carbon monoxide will be continuously generated. We feel that this study should continue.

IN CITY COUNCIL
NOV 19 1953

RECORDED:
WHEN IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECORDED.

W. Everett Whelan
CLERK

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Smith
JOSEPH SMITH, M.D.
Superintendent of Health

Peter Hicks
PETER HICKS
Public Service Engineer



CITY OF PROVIDENCE - RHODE ISLAND • Walter H. Reynolds • Mayor

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

DWIGHT T. MYERS

Traffic Engineer

ROGER T. CHANDLER

Assistant Traffic Engineer

October 30, 1953 ^{147 Fountain Street}
Providence 3, R. I.

The Honorable City Council
City Hall
Providence, R. I.,

Gentlemen:

At the request of Council Resolution No. 638, dated September 18, 1953, the traffic engineer has studied the feasibility of modifying the present parking restriction on Cranston Street from Hoyle Square to the Providence City Line from Mondays to Fridays inclusive.

Mechanical vehicular volume counts were made on Cranston Street between Ford Street and Superior Street for the weekly period from the 9th of October 1953 to the 16th of October 1953. During this time, the traffic volumes from 4PM to 6PM, which is the time of the parking restriction, were as high or higher on Saturday as they were for the rest of the days throughout the week. Actually, on the Saturday that the count was made, a total of 2256 vehicles were recorded using Cranston Street from 4PM to 6PM. With volumes such as these, we certainly feel that the NO STANDING 4PM to 6PM restriction on the northerly side of Cranston Street is certainly justified and should be maintained in the interest of moving heavy volumes of traffic effectively.

Therefore, we must deny the request for modifying parking restrictions on Cranston Street at this time;

Very truly yours,

Roger T. Chandler
Acting Traffic Engineer

EFC/eg IN CITY COUNCIL

NOV 19 1953

RECEIVED:

WHEREAS IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE ASSIGNED.

CLERK