

State Commission Has Approved Lake Villa Bridge Over Railroad

The Illinois Commerce commission has approved the agreement between the State Highway department and the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie railroad as to the proposed overhead bridges in Lake Villa, Lake county, on Route 21. The circuit court of Lake county in December of last year dismissed an appeal from a previous commerce commission ruling.

The proposed overhead crossing which is located just north of the town of Lake Villa, will consist of nine spans with a minimum vertical clearance of twenty-two feet eight

inches above the rails, and a side clearance of eight feet six inches from the center of each track.

The roadway on the bridge is to be twenty-four feet wide, while the pavement on the approaches will be eighteen feet in width.

Under the agreement that has been reached between the state highway department and the railroad the state is to furnish all labor and materials and is to build the bridge. The railroad agrees to pay \$30,000 toward the cost of the structure and also will alter the telegraph and signal lines.

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PUBLIC SERVICE CO. EXTENDS GAS SERVICE

Enlargement and Development of Its System on North Shore Is Described

Enlargement and development of its gas service system in Lake county has been carried out by the Public Service Company of Northern Illinois according to an announcement from the Chicago offices of the corporation. The steps have been taken by the Public Service company as a measure of meeting the remarkable development in this county.

The communities to benefit by the reinforcement of the service includes, Fox Lake, Antioch, Lake Villa, Ingle-side, Ivanhoe and others in that section of the county.

Links Big Corporations

The combined gas generating and gas storage facilities of the entire Chicago area was made possible for these towns through the completion of the mains connecting the company's station at Niles Center with the north shore holder of the People's Gas, Light and Coke company of Chicago.

Increased demand for gas in the north shore territory and anticipated future demand, caused principally by growth of this area and increased use of the fuel for house heating and other purposes, necessitated the new inter-connection, officials of the Public Service company say. The new connection provides both for additional supply and emergency service and supplements the connection which has been existant for a number of years between the company's Evanston system and the mains of the Chicago gas company. It will assure adequate capacity to serve the communities affected for many years to come, it is believed.

Improve System

Large future capacity is provided for by the use of new type couplings for pipe joints instead of employing the lead joints used almost universally for this purpose, enabling the main to carry considerably higher pressures than lead joints will allow. The main was designed for 25 pounds pressure, although the present operating pressure will be only about five pounds. This will mean that when the operating pressure is raised a large amount of additional capacity will be realized.

Marble in Floor of Field Museum Hall Million Years Old

Henry W. Nichols, associate curator of geology at Field Museum of Natural History, who during his many years of the institution's scientific staff has traveled with expeditions to far parts of the world in search of specimens, has recently found an attractive subject for study right in the materials of which the museum building is constructed.

The floor of Stanley Field Hall, which is the central hall of the museum, and the treads of the stairways in the building, are tiled with marble from Carthage, Missouri, and this marble was formed in a sea of Mississippian age, more than three hundred million (300,000,000) years ago, Mr. Nichols says. Numerous fos-

sils of the animals that lived in that sea are now to be found on the face of the tiles. Most of them are shells, somewhat obscurely displayed as they have nearly the same color as the marble, but they are very distinct when once seen.

There is also, Mr. Nichols states, a less numerous group of fossils which are more plainly seen because their white color contrasts with the darker marble. These are thin rod-like creatures with thin wide flanges wound spirally around them after the manner of screw threads.



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