

In general, complaints were answered with explanations and promises to investigate. No one was dissatisfied with services rendered by company representatives when properly requested. Some were voicing complaints for the first time at this forum.

What will happen as a result of objections to the rate increase remains to be seen. Mayor Hanan testified with figures listing rates from 1979 to present showing an increase of 146%. Why more? Sal Franzo testified that he could not find records for years earlier than that even though he had requested financial statements from the company. Based on the information he had there was a return of 5.6% to the company.

David Hasulak was concerned that Pine Knoll Shores might be subsidizing other communities and a request was made for figures showing the costs of providing water to this community as compared with overall costs. The company representative, Mr. O'Brian, agreed to supply this but stated that PKS does not pay enough to cover all its services. The differences in demand between the tourist season, for which the utility must be geared, and the off season when much of this is not in use, means that there are periods when rates do not cover expenses.

Other speakers were concerned with the rise in tap-on fees as well as rates, or why they were charged for the 2 months a year they were not in residence. Things like this were not answered but perhaps on November 15th they will be. Certainly no one can complain that he/she was not allowed to speak to the fullest extent desired. That made the hearing long. It went over into the afternoon with only a short break. The subjects were thoroughly covered. It is results we want now.

OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

To call Bob and Evelyn Erath "New Neighbors" is a misnomer because they are not "new" to Pine Knoll Shores at all! They bought their lot on Loblolly Drive right after the area was opened up for sale 17 years ago. They spent their vacations here from then on. Since their lot is next to ours we came to know them and look forward to their yearly visits. They have always been neighbors to us.

The Eraths are Long Islanders. They moved here from Seaford, N. Y. in September when their house, which they had been planning for so long, was completed. After all these years of planning you would expect it to be special. It is.

Retired now from Grumman, Bob is an electrical engineer first of all, although he has other degrees as well. For instance he is a meteorologist with a specialty in weather for boating. Seems like this is a good place to practice that avocation. He also is a model train buff. Something else to set up. Evelyn is also retired from her job at the State University of New York at Farmingdale. She is looking forward to having the time for the quilting and the counted cross stitch she likes to do. Maybe after they have their place the way they want it they will take some of the trips they have been thinking about for years. Meanwhile they are enjoying just being retired. They walk, ride their bicycles, and make the most of this beautiful weather.

There are four Erath children, three boys and a girl, who also like it here in Pine Knoll Shores. As a matter of fact, their daughter and family have their own house here and come as often as they can make it. Two of the boys are with Grumman so they are near enough to see pretty often. Their oldest son lives in Oklahoma but he is going to visit here too very soon. There are four grandchildren in all.

Grumman is now well represented here in Pine Knoll Shores and there are enough retirees in North Carolina to have a reunion from time to time. It was a friend from Grumman who discovered this place and told them to come down and look it over. They did, and owned property before they went home. Evelyn says it was impulsive but one of the best things they ever did. We think so too.

MARY KORFF