

Energy Crisis

New Area Limited Hour Gas Schedule

BY DON RIGHETTI
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Area gas station owners sounded the official death knell of the odd - 'n - even system at a Thursday meeting and decided instead to promise the motoring public a schedule of regular hours of service.

Station owner Bob DiCiano said the system of serving odd and even license plate numbers on alternate days had been dropped because it simply didn't work in this area.

Instead, he noted, the operators have decided to open their doors every weekday morning for at least a limited- hour schedule. DiCiano said some 40 dealers had been contacted about the new arrangement and virtually all of them had agreed to the weekday morning

idea.

Many of the dealers, those with larger gasoline allocations, also will be open during the afternoon and evenings, DiCiano said.

And at least some of the stations will be open weekends as well, Diciano declared.

"People don't have to panic," he observed. "Gas will be available every day of the week."

He advised motorists to check with the stations in their areas to learn the schedules they intend to observe.

Joe Calcagno, local head of the National Service Station Dealers Assn., said he agrees with the action taken by dealers at the Thursday meeting, although Calcagno had been a strong backer of the odd - even system.

He thought it might serve to shorten panic buying lines at local stations as motorists come to realize they can get gas any day of the week.

Calcagno said there still are lines every day at his station on 41st Avenue, but the motorists are "calm and relaxed."

He said he has never yet run out of gas and was critical of station owners who sell over their allotments on given days and run out toward the end of the month before new shipments come in.

Duane Weber, cell leader for the dealers association in the Aptos area, thought the system of regular hours might trim lines to some extent but certainly would not eliminate them.

The problem, he pointed out, simply is one of supply

and demand. There is not enough gasoline to go around, so people will continue to line up to get what there is.

He agreed with the end of the odd - even system, observing that plan "never worked at all."

All the station owners, he said, are pumping their day's allotment in a matter of two to three hours.

Weber, who operates a Standard station, said he sees no end to the situation at this time.

He said he had talked recently with Standard officials and they are not optimistic. In fact, he reported, Standard allotments may be trimmed on the West Coast for the month of March because Standard has been ordered to fill the gasoline needs of the federal government for that month.

Santa Cruz Sentinel

119th Year NO. 44 FRIDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 22, 1974 15c 34 Pages

Weather

MONTEREY BAY AREA — Fair through Saturday but with patchy morning fog or low clouds. A little cooler tonight. Highs Saturday in mid 50s to lower 60s. Lows tonight in mid 30s to mid 40s. Light wind becoming northwest 5 to 15 mph.

Temperatures for the Santa Cruz area for the 24 hour period ending at 8 a.m. this morning: High 66, Low 35. Rainfall for that same period: .35 of an inch.

