

City of Portland
Inspections Division, Room 315
389 Congress St.
Portland, ME 04101-3509

Re: Illegal, private sewer pipe running about 600 feet along edge of city road BETWEEN ditch and road.

Dear Sirs:

Please investigate, and take action on, the following complaint on Cliff Island, Portland, ME, against Lot No. 45, owned by Anna and Bruce Dyer, Cliff Island, ME 04019 (139 Sunset Rd).

A private sewer pipe was installed along the edge of the city road, BETWEEN the ditch and the road, running about 600 feet along road, down long hill, (see photo of boards showing location of pipe at edge of road, half-way down hill), across private land-right next to a private, very large dug well, and into a small cove. I have been coming to the island for over 20 years, and there has always been a terrible sewer smell for about 200 feet around this cove. I've been told it is from this pipe, which has a number of leaks of which the owners have been aware of for many years, See photos. They know there are leaks underground next to the well causing ground erosion nearby. see photos.

I visited the island in winter, during record cold, of temperatures below zero F., and was surprised to find the air still filled with the sewer smell see photos. In early spring while all vegetation was still brown, there were very green areas around these leaks, and around the little puddles of frozen sludge see photos. What surprised me even more was a large, less solidly frozen area that had been forced over two-thirds of the road at the bottom of the hill. Everything was frozen at these temperatures --yet this had continued flowing underground in the pipe until it hit a frozen spot and the rest continued bubbling up and onto the road. There had been no rain, no snow, no melting for weeks. The rest of the road was bare frozen dirt. This brownish ice was the only ice on the road, a dangerous surprise for a moving vehicle. See photos.

Was a permit issued for this cement holding tank of a private septic system, and lengthy septic pipe, to be installed on a city of Portland road? Can anyone just install a private septic system and sewer pipe like this along a city road? Was a permit issued to pollute the well and groundwater, soil and air? Have fines been collected for this for the past 35 years?

About the year 2000, the sewer pipe froze up and broke by the road, in front of their house. It was dug up and replaced with about 200 feet of new pipe, this time extending west about 9 MORE feet INTO the road (the cement tank was already 3 feet west of the ditch, into the road). Was a permit issued for all this new work? Not long after this, the road was straightened out to accomadate this private pipe. This was partly possible because they took 4 feet off the little Cemetery Green across the road. However, it makes the blind corner at the top of the hill more dangerous, and narrows the road just before the blind corner. Was a permit issued for this new, more dangerous road location?

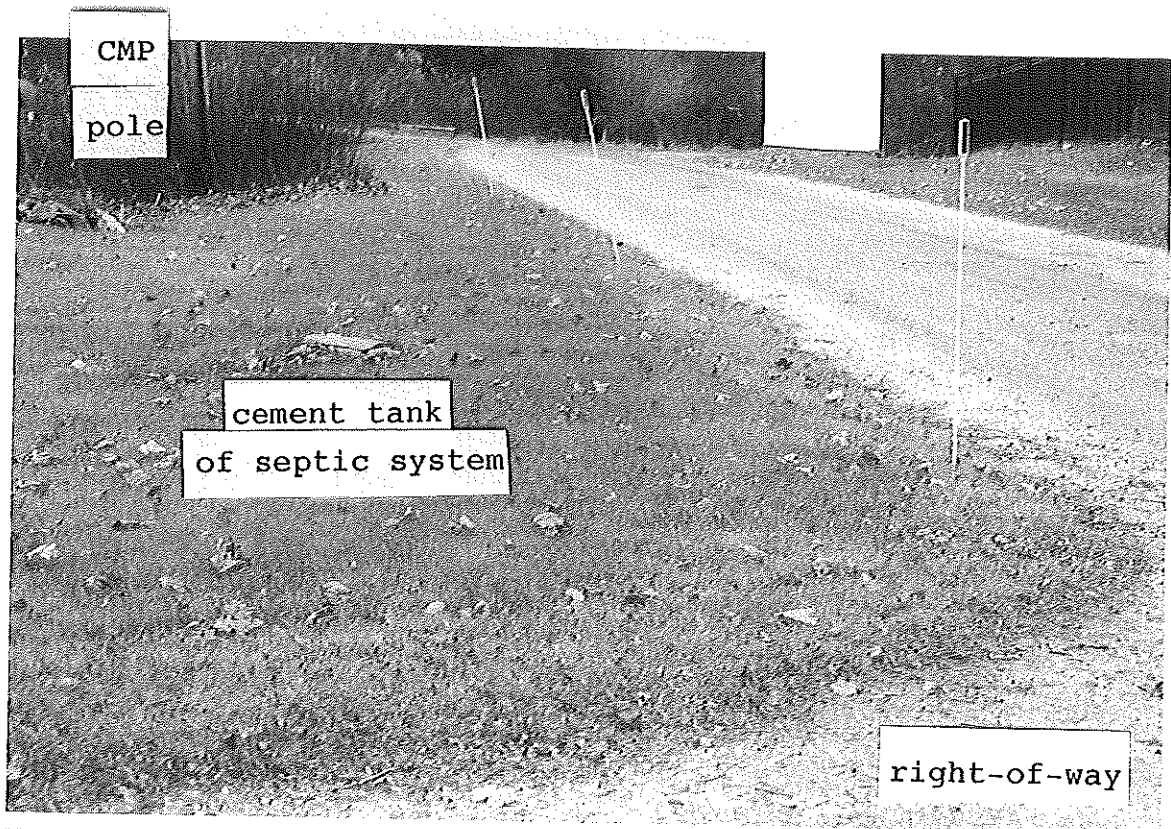
Can anyone just do this to public roads? Is there some corruption here? Abuse of power? These people have also put up red reflector stakes to keep motor vehicles from running onto "their lawn", making it almost impossible for trucks to turn safely at the right-of-way.

Please investigate and take action on all of this.

Sincerely,
John Brown



Dyer house, 139 Sunset Road

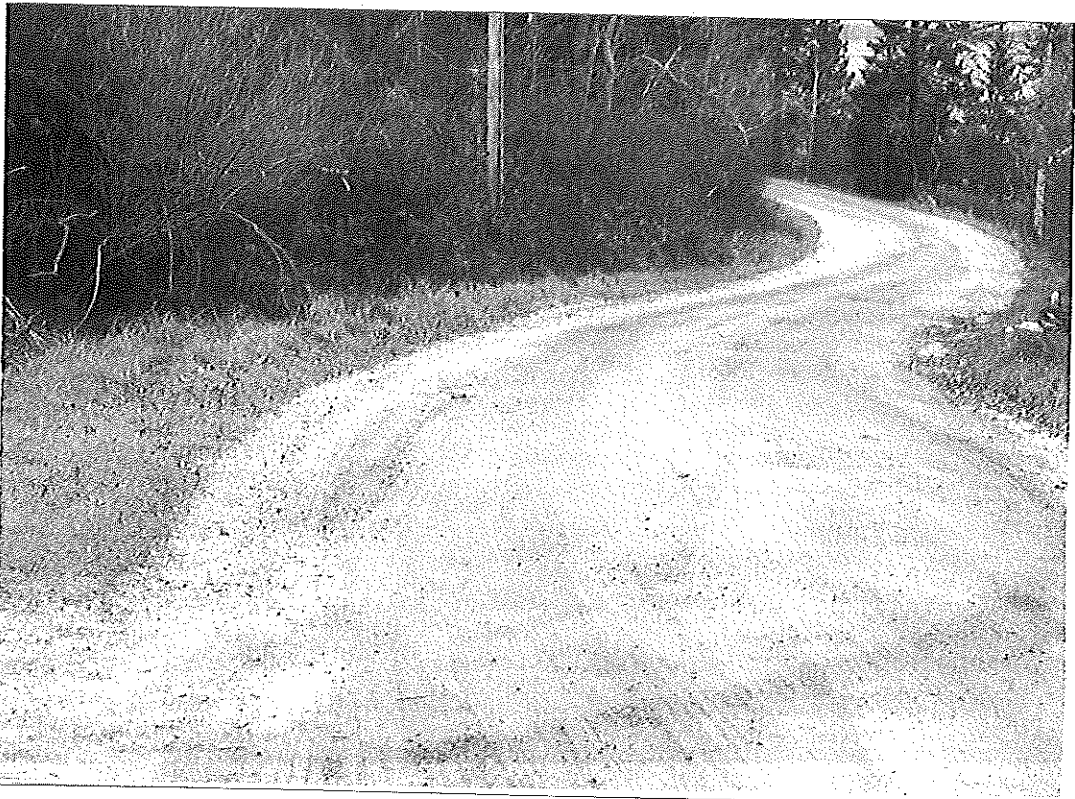


about 9 feet use to be road--now it is part of their septic system and lawn

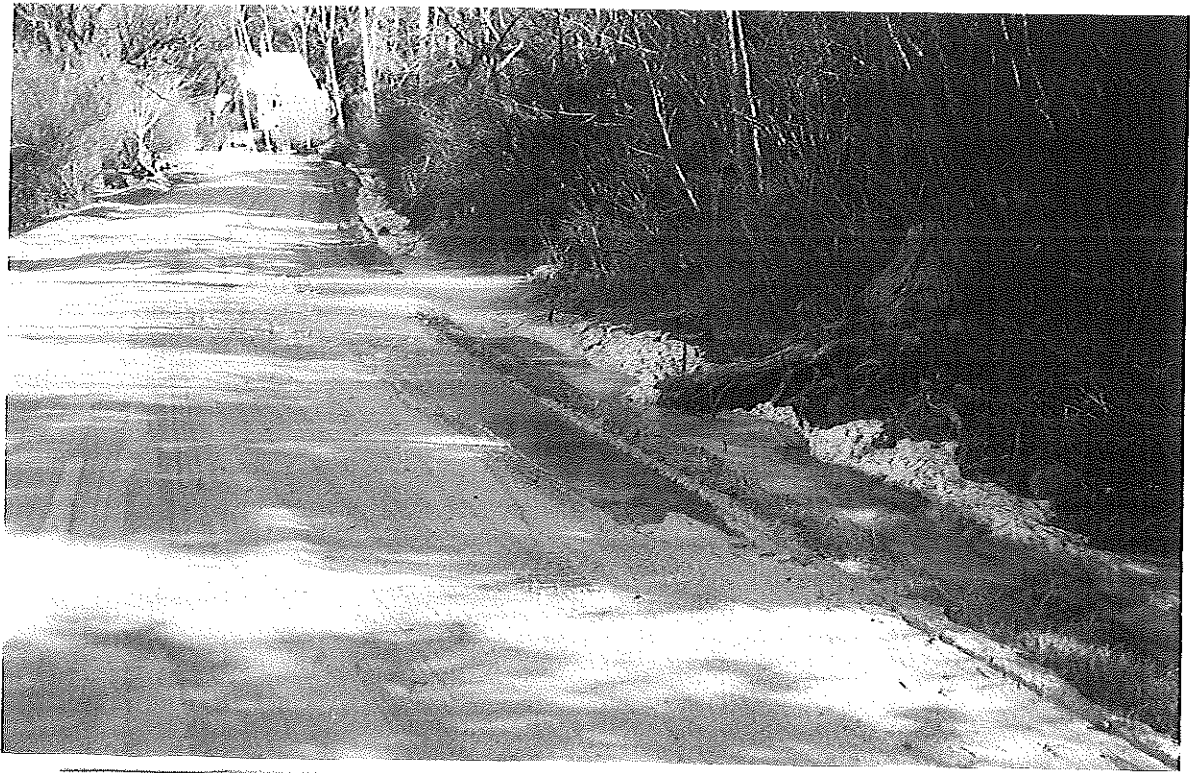


About the year 2003, Anna Dyer had the road pushed about 5 feet to the west, to accomodate their private septic system pipe along road about 600 feet to cove at bottom of hill.

about 4 feet of cemetery green turned into road because of their lawn and septic



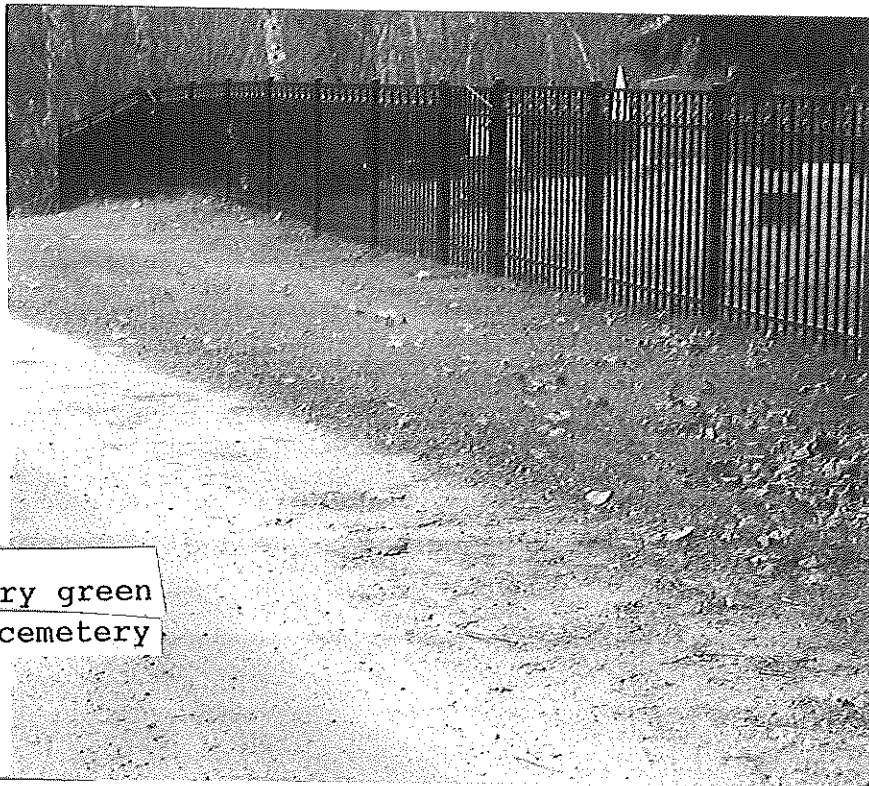
sewer pipe runs about 600 feet to cove at bottom of hill



shows distance from dyer house to bottom of hill

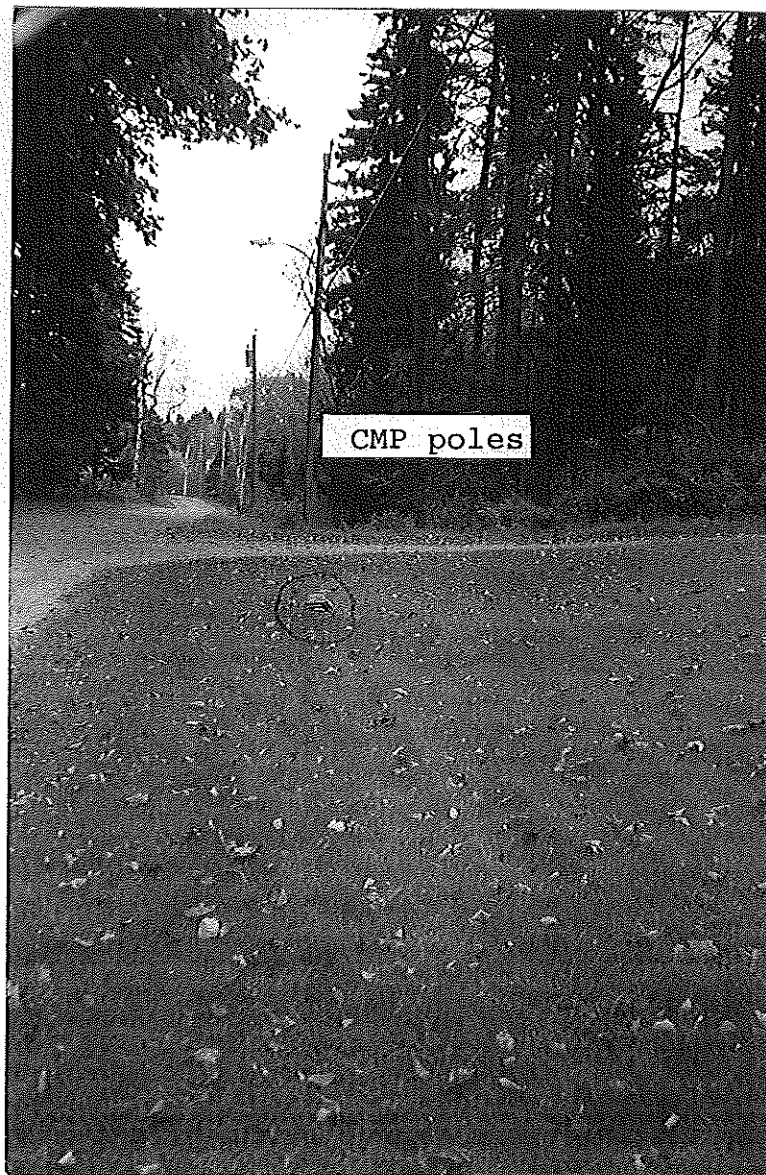
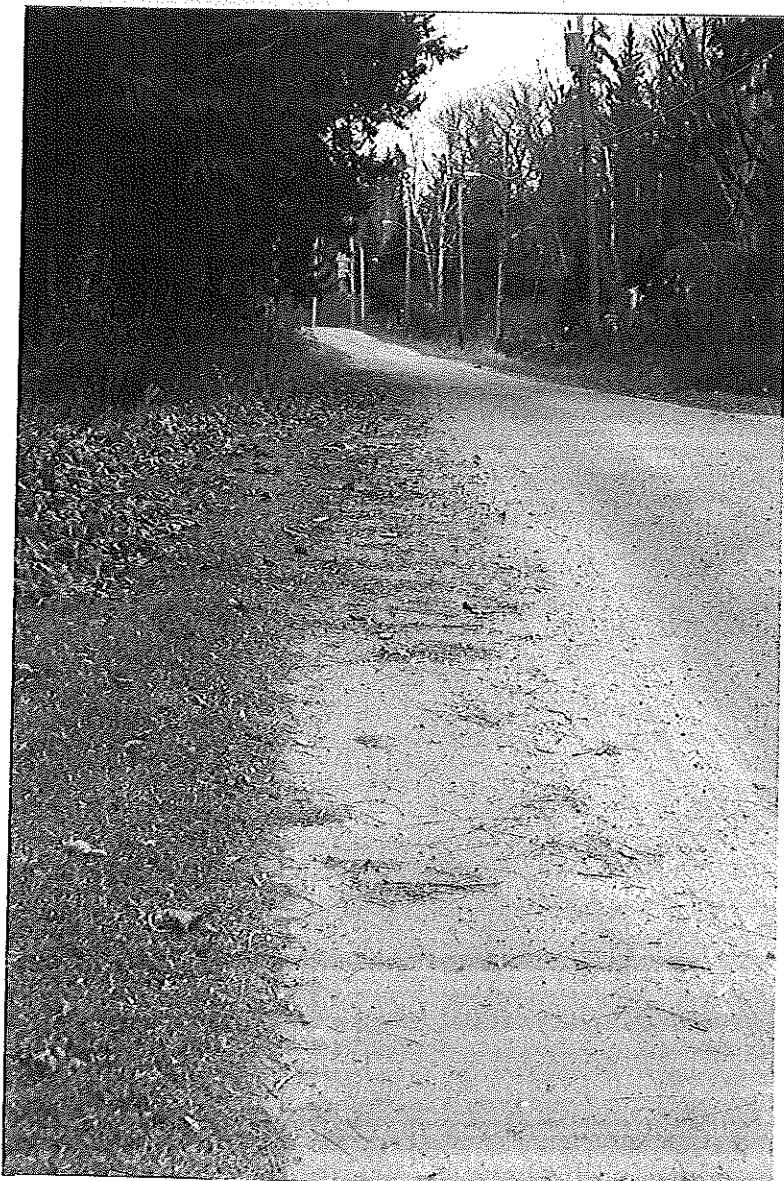


road ditch was here, at bottom of slope, in the 1950's



loss of cemetery green
at one end of cemetery

sewer pipe extends through cement holding tank, to road, turns
and runs 600 feet down edge of road ↘



loss of cemetery green, etc., across road



Boards placed here to protect pipe from traffic

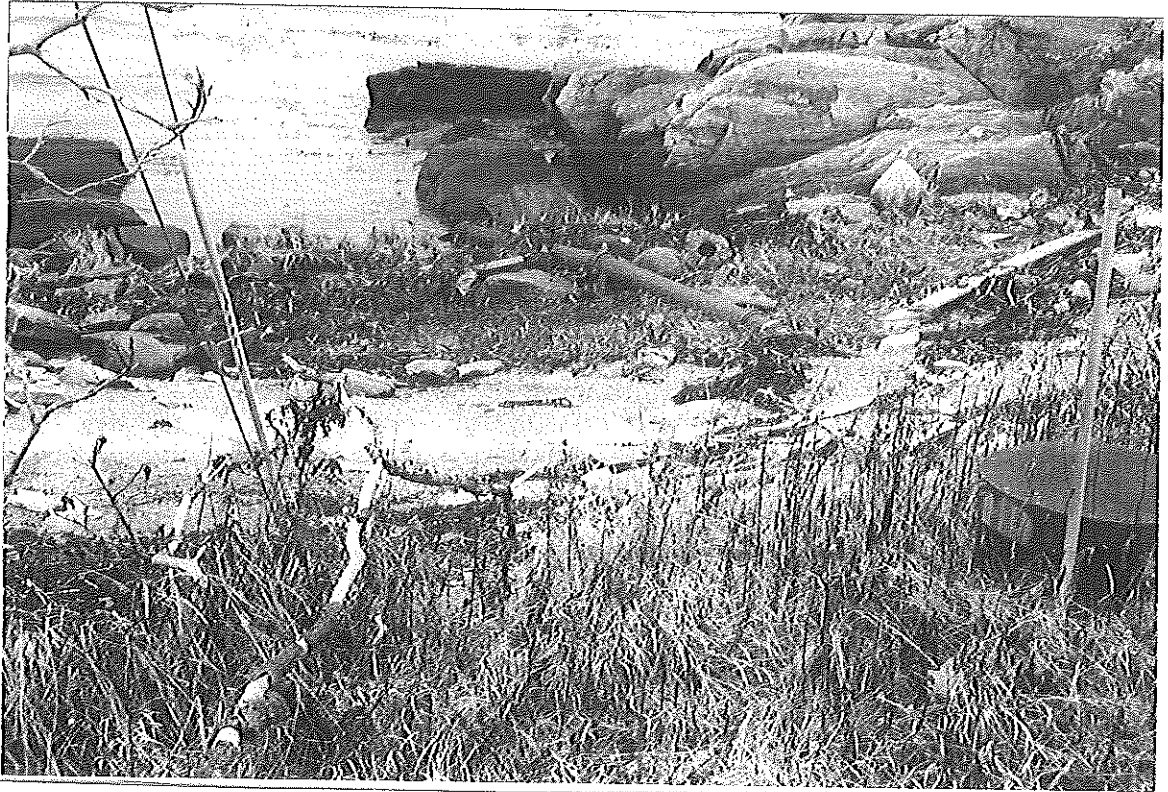


Break in pipe, but a major leak is about
10 feet before this break



a major leak is in bottom of pipe --- runs constantly like a double faucet wide open. Note the light reflecting off liquid under center of pipe, and liquid flowing out of pipe, and green areas only here in early spring (note snow on ground in foreground)





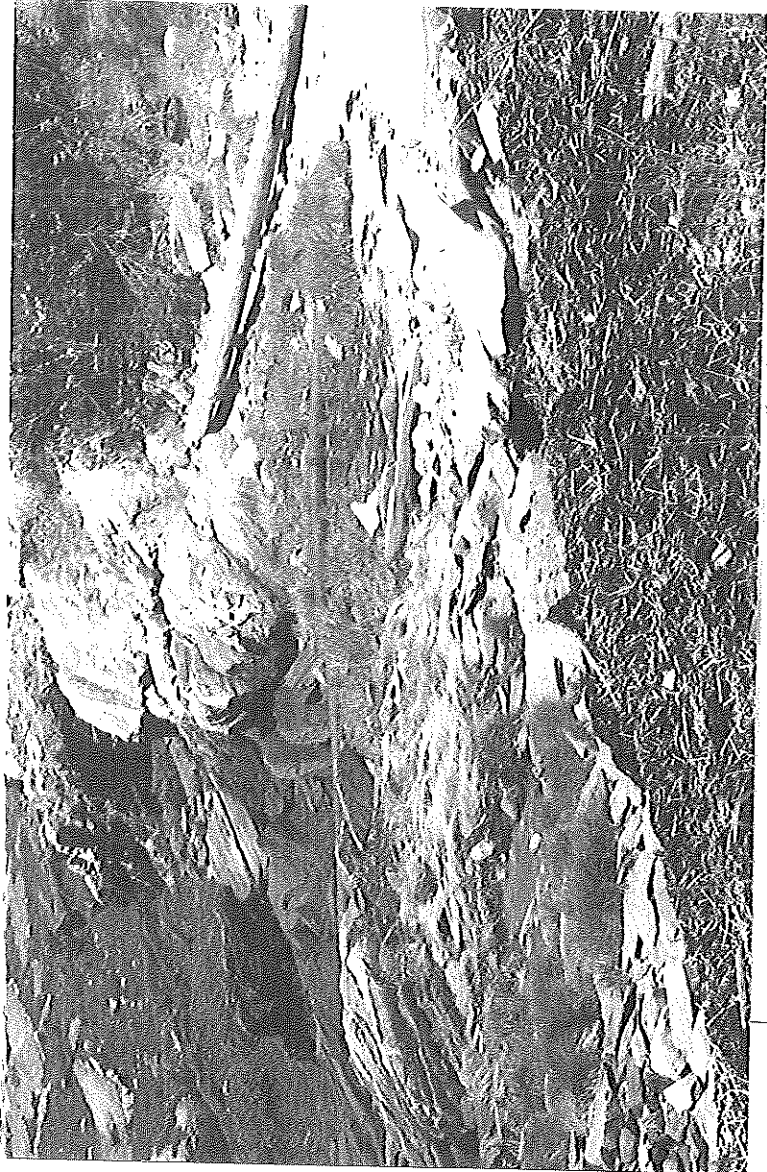
large private dug well. leaking sewer pipe passes next to it underground



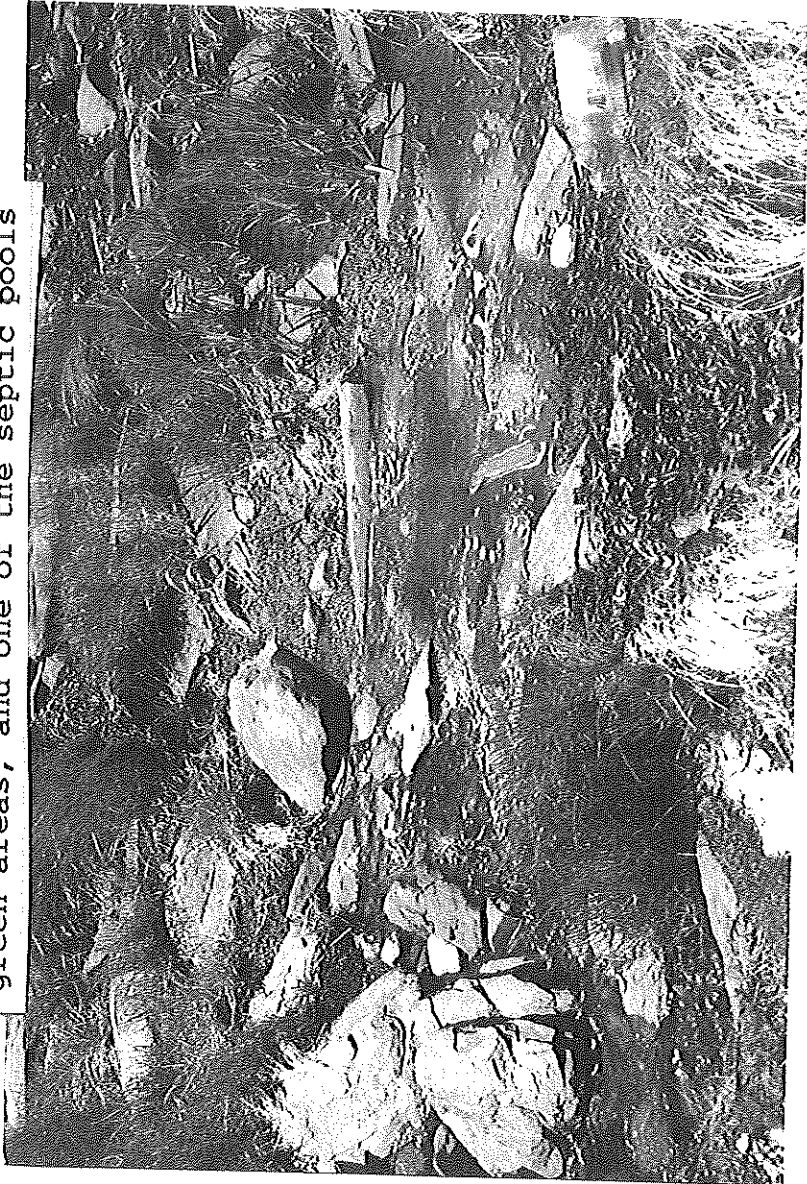
erosion from leaking sewer pipe next to large dug well



very early spring -- greasy drainage from underground leaks
in sewer pipe



green areas, and one of the septic pools



green areas growing by sludge



sludge from leaks underground



frozen drainage from leaks in pipe





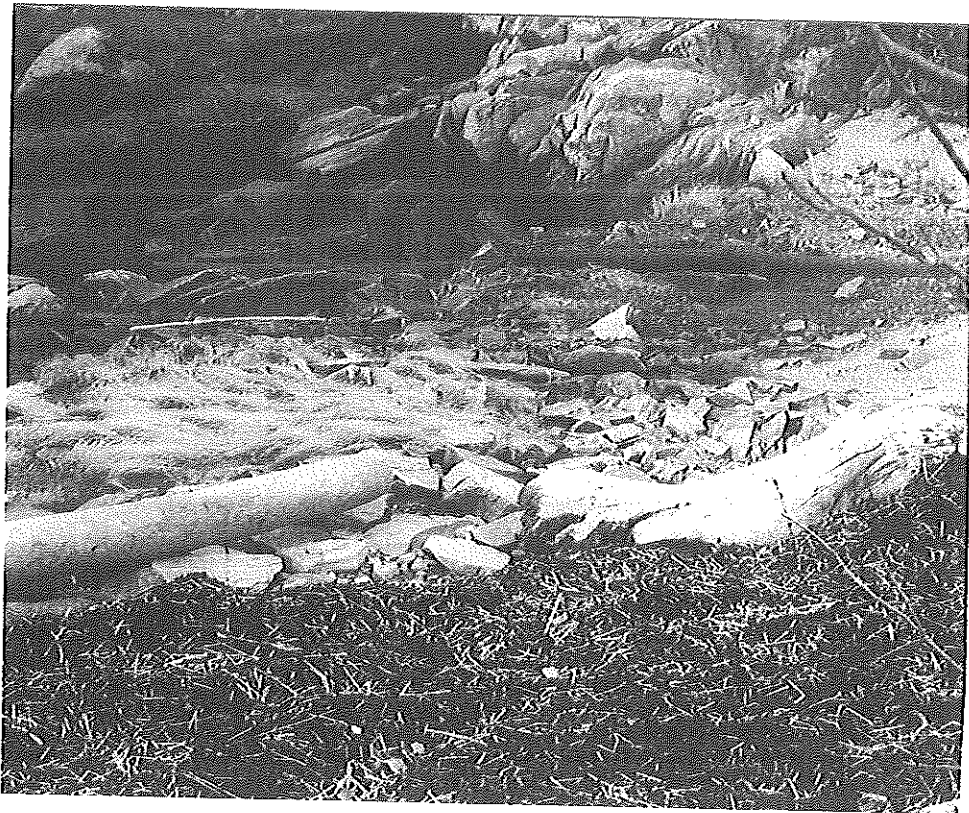
coldest days of winter, minus 9 degrees F. to plus 10 degrees F. no rain, no snow, no melting, for weeks,, but this sewer keeps flowing underground, until bubbles upward an freezes over road. brownish, and the only ice on the dry road.



drainage - sludge, and greenery



note ice, and only greenery



drainage - ice, and still greenery