Families need to help smokers quick

smokers across the United States quit their tobacco habits Thursday in the American Cancer Society's

The bad news is that the majority of quitters were puffling away again of Friday.

"Unfortunately, many smokers will fail because their families, riends and associates won't give them proper support and encouragement," said Michael Samuelson, president of the National Center for Health Fromotion, which sponsors Smoke Stoppers, the largest hospital-based smoking cessation program in North America.

"The percentage of American adults who smoke - 28 percent - Is greatly reduced since five years ago," he said. "We're now dealing with 'hard-core' smokers who are more addicted and need more support than the smokers who quit in previous years."

According to Samuelson, using scare tactics to convince smokers to quit is one of the biggest mistakes family members and friends can make.

"Smokers get defensive and anx-lous when you tell them they are kill-ing themselves or they'll get lung cancer," said Samuelson.

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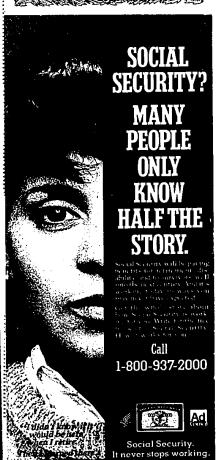
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Consumers offers hook-up break

In a new effort to offer natural gas service to people in outlying areas, Consumers Fower Company has been consumers from the consumers for the consumers for the consumers for the consumers for the consumers of the consumers of

residents with natural gas.

Under the proposal, the utility estimates that several thousand homeowners and businesses in suburbs and rural areas will choose natural gas service.

"Natural gas has been, and is, significantly more economical than other energy alternatives. In spite of this price advantage, some new gas customers are not being provided the gas service they want," said Michael G. Morris, executive vice president of natural gas for Consumers

Power.

"This proposal gives groups of new gas customers the option of paying their main extension charges are produced as year period, rather than paying those charges beforehand in one lump sum; Morris salid.

The billing practice change is particularly attractive for residential home contractors, because it would nesure lower costs for vital heating and gas service.

About 20 gas extension projects have been identified that would ben-

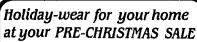














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