

# PASNY claims 250 feet is wide enough for right of way

BY SCOTT ATKINSON  
The Power Authority of the State of New York (PASNY) feels that the 250-foot right-of-way for its 765KV line "is more than adequate" and that "there has been no showing of any real health and safety hazard" from the line, according to a document filed by the Power Authority.

The Power Authority's findings are in sharp contrast to a position paper released by the staff of the Public Service Commission last week.

The staff's paper, PASNY's paper, and a host of other statements from the different parties concerned with high voltage power lines will be the basis on which the Public Service Commission will make its final decision about certifying the 765 line for operation.

Both the Power Authority and the PSC staff reports are drawn from the lengthy hearings that have been conducted on

the effects on health and safety posed by the line.

Although the PSC is specifically being asked by PASNY to certify its 155-mile long line for operation, both Rochester Gas and Electric and the Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. sided with PASNY during the health and safety hearings. Both utilities are contemplating lines of their own.

To date, the PSC has certified clearing and construction of the line, but not its operation. PASNY wants to use the line to ship 800 megawatts of electricity from Quebec to the state, although opponents fear that it will eventually be used as an excuse to build a nuclear power plant in the north.

Where the PSC staff concluded in its report to the commission that the line "will probably cause biological effects in humans exposed to them on a chronic

basis," the Power Authority finds that "there has been no showing of any real health and safety hazard as a result of these protracted hearings in respect of 765KV transmission lines."

The staff report went on to recommend a series of specific steps aimed at protecting the public as much as possible from the line. Those steps included purchasing or relocating homes within 325 feet of the centerline of the line — in effect widening the right-of-way from its current 250 feet in places — if certain electrical field limits are exceeded, or a noise limit is surpassed.

PASNY Questions Research  
PASNY's 58-page brief takes issue with the research from which the staff drew its conclusions. Much of the staff's report was based on the readings and experimentation of Dr. Andrew Marino and Robert Becker, two Syracuse

scientists who began looking into the effects of high voltage lines while researching the use of electricity to heal human illness.

While the PSC staff report found that most of Marino and Becker's work withstood the rigorous cross-examination given it by the three utilities, PASNY takes a different outlook.

PASNY cites Marino's own testimony that he was "unable to state what specific effects there will be and whether these effects will be harmful to any living organism" because of exposure to the line.

Moreover, the authority brought its own witnesses to the health and safety hearings, and they not only testified about their own work with high voltage lines, but also found that Marino and Becker's experiments were defective in

many ways.

At one point in the Power Authority's report to the PSC, it refers to what it calls the "total lack of credibility as well as the bias and prejudice of the witnesses Marino and Becker."

Major Costs Seen  
The Power Authority states its case another way too. According to its report, widening the right-of-way for the line or increasing the number of conductors used — two things that some say would make the line more safe — would cost millions of dollars.

To widen the right-of-way from 250 feet to 370 feet, PASNY says, would cost \$1,805,500 for additional land purchases; for a 1,500-foot right-of-way, \$4,783,000. If houses had to be moved or purchased, the cost would increase by millions of dollars more, PASNY says.

If six conductors instead of four are used, (a Power Authority witness said that it is technically impossible anyway) it would cost \$17,500,000 for the conductors and \$1,115,000 for structural reinforcements for the added conductors.

## County eyeing parts from Albany bridge for Colton

The misfortune of the Albany area might prove to be good luck for St. Lawrence County, if county highway superintendent John Cook is correct.

Cook told the County Transportation Committee Tuesday afternoon that the material from a bridge that collapsed in the Albany area is up for sale, and might be suitable for use in repairing Brown's Bridge, which collapsed on July 8.

A total of \$370,000 is earmarked in Cook's preliminary budget request for 1978 for the replacement of Brown's Bridge, but according to an estimate by highway department officials, as much as \$35,000 could be saved by purchasing the decking from the Albany area bridge.

Cook agreed to inspect the bridge himself before the next committee meeting, to determine whether the material is worth buying. If it is, he told the committee that the county could use its own personnel to move the bridge material north at a minimal cost.

The county bridge, which had been posted for a two-ton weight limit, collapsed after a truck that allegedly exceeded the weight limit drove over it. It is located on the "Military Turnpike," a half mile east of Route 56 between Hannawa Falls and Colton.

caused by a series of proposed bridge repairs, legislator Lloyd Moore suggested that the money for either the Brown's Bridge repair or some proposed equipment purchases come from this year's contingency fund.

The committee took no action on Moore's suggestion, pending a report from Cook.

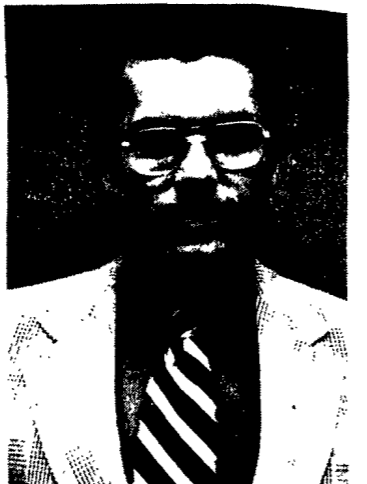
The committee reviewed Cook's preliminary budget request, and decided to pass it on without cuts to the data processing department for printing. While the budget proposal is up drastically in several areas, the legislators present emphasized that the budget request was just that — a request and would undoubtedly be reduced significantly before it reached final approval.

It was sent to data processing without change because of the county's new budgeting process, instituted by administrative assistant June O'Neill. After being printed, it will come before the finance committee for the first round of cuts.

If the preliminary budget request is not a good indicator of what the department's final budget will be, it at least suggests what Cook's priorities are during the coming year.

Brown's Bridge is marked for reconstruction, as is Dey's Mills Bridge, (\$125,000 cost), and the Talville Road Bridge, (cost \$150,000). The painting, cleaning and general rehabilitation of Alcos bridge in Massena is penciled in at \$100,000.

**Immediate Funding**  
If the material is suitable, there's a chance that the committee may ask for the money to repair it this year, instead of including it in the 1978 budget. Faced with Cook's preliminary budget request, which shows a \$1.3 million increase in the highway road fund that is in part



GEORGE E. MURRAY son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Murray, Norfolk, has been named Senior Quality Manager, Film Assembly, by Polaroid Corporation in Waltham Massachusetts. Murray graduated from Norwood-Norfolk Central School in 1959, and received a B.S. degree in Photographic Science from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1963. He returned to school in 1969 and graduated from Syracuse University with an M.S. degree in Engineering Management in 1970. He has been employed by Polaroid since then. His wife is the former Norma Regan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Regan of Norwood.

## Legal hotline to move to Potsdam

The St. Lawrence County Legal Assistance Corporation has announced that the Legal Information Hotline will move to Potsdam September 12, and operate between 1 and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 265-2702.

The Legal Information Hotline is a project sponsored and supervised by the St. Lawrence County Legal Assistance Corporation in an effort to answer legal questions for people who can not afford to consult an attorney.

The Legal Information Hotline began operation in mid-July as a joint project with the Office of the Aging which provided office space and phone. The Legal Information Operator, Laurene Pierce, is employed through that office's "Green Thumb" employment project.

With the move to Potsdam, the project will gain another sponsor, "Helping Hand", which will allow the line to accept collect calls from within St. Lawrence County, offer office space, and benefit from the readily available resource.

The attorneys who are selected to the Board of Directors of the St. Lawrence County Legal Assistance Corporation are available to Mrs. Pierce on a rotating basis so that clients have the benefit of an actual attorney's advice. Mrs. Pierce is trained by the corporation to attempt to find real solutions to the problems clients bring to her attention. Also, providing supervision and a resource to the HOTLINE are the lay directors, most of whom are involved in human services occupations.



WADDINGTON'S UNITED METHODIST MEN SPONSOR AUCTION. Auctioneer Maurice Forkey holds up an item during Sunday's auction sponsored by the men of Waddington's United Methodist church. The auction, which was held on the Town Hall square, was preceded by a chicken bar-b-que held in the Town Hall. A total of \$142.38 was realized from the auction. (Photo by Lee Reed)

## Workshops will highlight annual religious congress

The Department of Religious Education is sponsoring its seventeenth Annual Religious Education Congress on September 17 at Immaculate Heart Central High School in Watertown. The Congress will open with registration at 8:30 a.m. and close with a celebrated, Anticipated Sunday Liturgy at 4 p.m.

Special features for high school religious education teachers for this Congress will be: "Exploding the Vision" (Youth Ministry). This workshop will be presented by Brother Guy Roddy, F.I.C., regional coordinator for Pittsburgh Region; and Sister Kieran Quinn, O.S.U., catechist in the Malone District School of Religion. This workshop will deal with such issues as: "Where is the Ministry Happening?", "What is Taking Place Today in Youth Ministry?", and "What is the Impetus for The Future?"

The focal point of this workshop will be how to prepare a parish for youth ministry in terms of its needs and implementation as well as what can specifically and practically be done in implementing an effective youth ministry program.

A second workshop entitled: "Liturgy and Para-Liturgies: Experiences in the High School Program," will be given by Rev. Roland Gonyo, associate pastor and director of Religious Education for Holy Family Parish in Watertown, as well as an associate director of the diocesan Youth Department, Diocese of Ogdensburg. He will present a team approach to planning liturgies and paraliturgies.

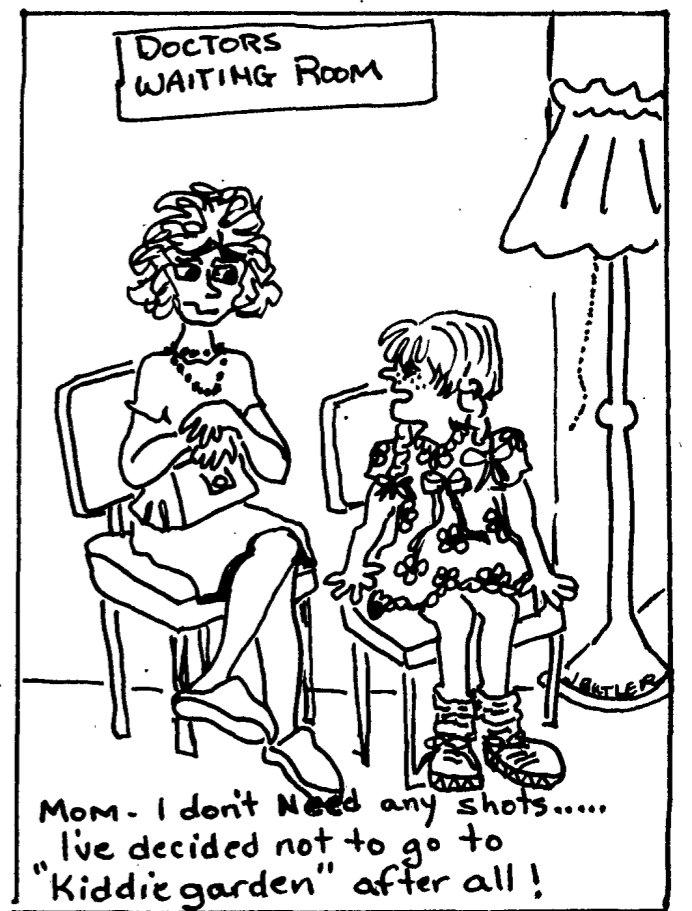
In the celebration of liturgy, there is a flexibility of expression in celebrating the Word of God. This workshop will assist the participants in the choice and options and approaches in preparing and celebrating liturgies with high school students. Materials available will be presented, along with how they can be integrated in planning and celebrating liturgies.

A third workshop entitled "Teaching

Religions to High School Students: Some Observations," will be given by Charles Chimera, Religion Department chairman at Canisius High School and assistant professor of Religious Education at Canisius College, Buffalo. He will present one teacher's viewpoint as to what works and what doesn't in his high school religion classes. The unique personalities and various faith levels of our students sometimes seem an insurmountable challenge to a high school teacher. This awareness, plus a sense of humor, are essential to guide our classroom methodology. Chimera will point out various methodological techniques, their purpose and possible outcomes.

Several other workshops will be given, such as: "Spirituality of a Religious Education Teacher," "Models for Community Building," and "Vocational Development in Religion Curriculums."

For more information, you may contact your local religious education coordinator or pastor; or write: Department of Religious Education, 604 Washington St., Ogdensburg.



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