

## County 'Too Relaxed' About Gas Crunch

CANTON — The St. Lawrence County Public Safety Committee was told that the county legislature was "too relaxed" and "had done nothing" in attempts to prevent a gasoline crisis in the county by the president of the local gasoline dealers association.

Norman Laneville of Massena said that no one has attempted to determine where the supply of gasoline goes after a service station has been closed in the county.

County Emergency Services Director Patrick VerSchneider said that the gas

is given back to the distributor and is then reallocated to other areas, not necessarily in the county, by the federal Department of Energy.

VerSchneider said that he has attempted to find out how many stations are open and operating in the county by sending out a small questionnaire to the stations and 38 distributors. He said that the distributors do not seem to be cooperating as only 12 distributors responded.

Laneville told the committee that "if we sit back and do nothing now we will

be faced with a crisis worse than what was experienced in 1973." He predicted that at least 87 of the approximately 250 service stations in the county would be completely out of fuel between Jan. 23-28 and would remain out until February.

Laneville said that a person should be hired by the county with the primary duty of traveling around the county to see how many stations were opened, closed, or ready to close, where the allocations are going for those that did shut down, and how much of the county's allocation has been forwarded somewhere else due to the closed station.

The local gasoline dealer association official appeared to already have those answers but did not reveal them to the members of the committee.

Legislative Chairman Donald Livingston, who attended the meeting, said to Laneville "now don't tell me, as an elected official, that we need to lead you around by the hand to get the necessary information."

The legislative committee appeared concerned as to what course of action they, as a legislative body, could take to getting its share of gasoline gallonage that may have been allocated elsewhere because of a station closure.

Committee members also requested that VerSchneider continue his efforts to obtain information from station owners and distributors in attempts to learn more about the gasoline situation for the county in the months ahead.

Future mailings are expected to be sent out to the station operators and distributors, who county officials hope, will take the time to respond so an accurate account of the situation can be made in the county.



NEW COLLEGE EMBLEMS — Beside a new granite campus marker, donated to Potsdam College by Bicknell Brothers and St. Lawrence Transit Mix Inc., Dr. James H. Young, Potsdam College president, unveils a new college flag bearing the college seal and motto, "A Tradition of Excellence." Flanking Dr. Young are Student Government Association President Arlene Hunter and Faculty Assembly Chairman Dr. Arthur Johnson.

## Wood-Burning Workshop Set

Update People for Safe Energy Technology (UPSET) is planning a workshop on woodburning and a cooperative for wood cutting.

The workshop will be directed by Tom Newman and Randy Shatrae, professional chimney sweeps. The topics covered in the workshop will include: kinds of wood stoves, operation of stoves, types of chimney's and their maintenance, kinds of fuels and seasoning of fuels.

A wood cutting cooperative will be formed if enough families are interested. The cooperative will purchase a large wood lot as a fuel source. Members would cooperatively own equipment such as a wood splitter.

Persons interested in either project should come to the UPSET meeting held at the Canton Free Library tonight (Tuesday) at 7:30 p.m. or call 347-2443.

Other topics to be covered at the meeting include:

- The MUSE grant received by UPSET for alternative energy workshops in solar energy and alcohol distillation.
- Summer workshops for the construction of solar hot water heaters.
- The final report on the 765 kV line survey.
- Non-payment of landowners by PASNY.

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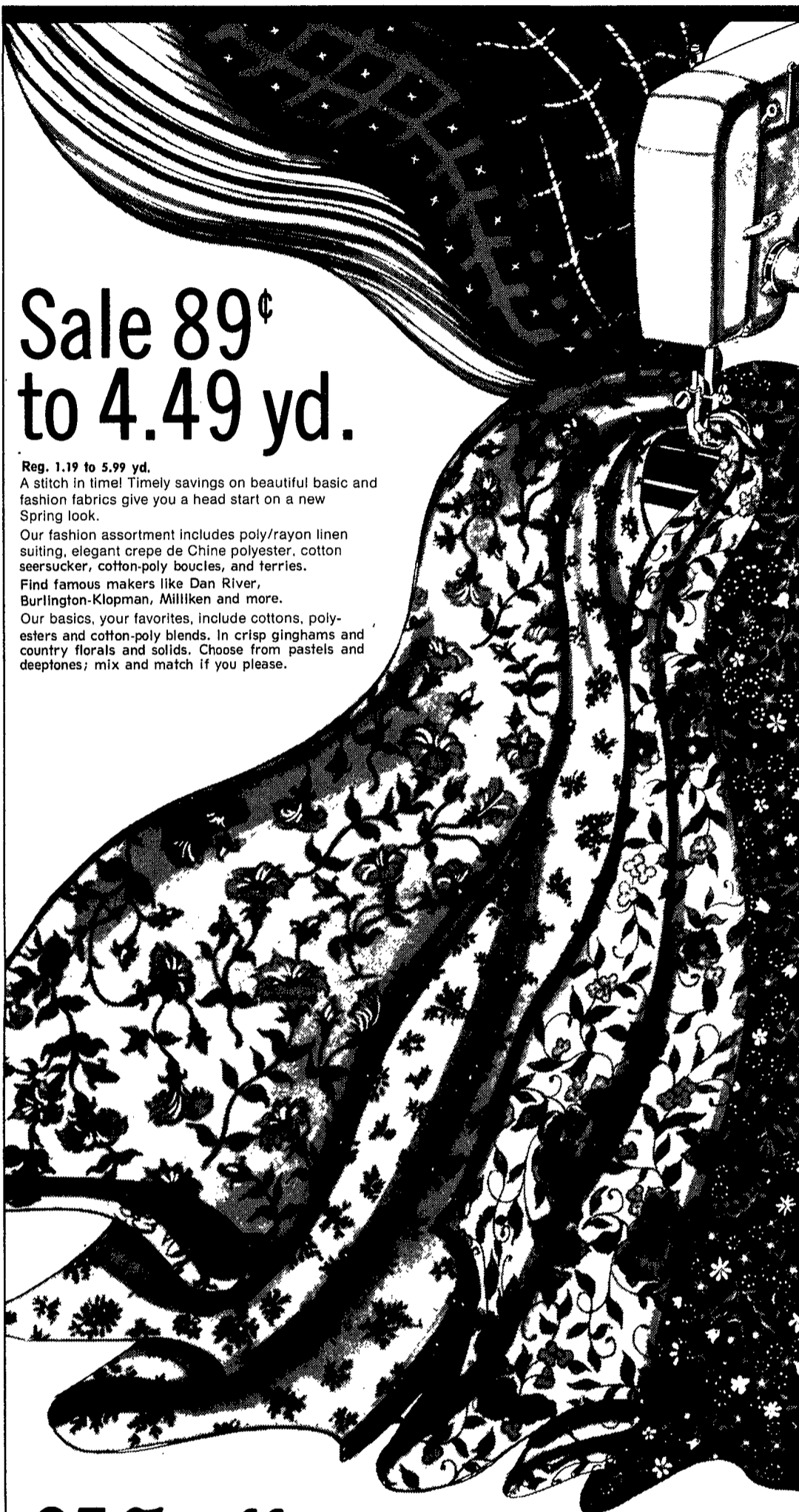
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