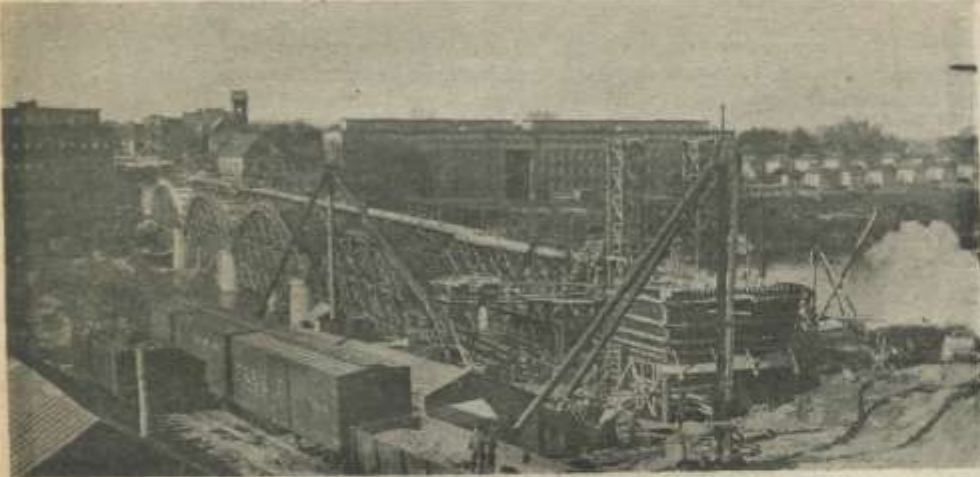


# OSWEGO VALLEY

# NEWS

FULTON, NEW YORK

VOL. XXXI NO. 1 WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4, 1978 [3 Sections] SINGLE COPY: 15c



FROM THE OLD ALBUM— This old photo shows construction taking place on the old Broadway Bridge, the one which has long since given way to the 4-lane bridge which currently carries State Rte. 3 across the Oswego River in Fulton.

## County to Investigate Increasing Water Supply

By Sue Reinert

A major study intended to find out how Oswego County could get more water for industrial expansion and population growth will be started this year, county officials said last week.

The study will also examine the possibility of a county-wide sewer district, according to Patrick Lozito, assistant to the chairman of the County Legislature.

Adequate water and sewers are "a major problem for the entire county," Lozito said.

The study is budgeted at \$50,000. It is expected to be awarded to an engineering firm early this year and could take 18 months to complete, Lozito said.

County Planner Alman Hawkins said the study will focus on "how the county could get into the water supply business." Representatives of the Syracuse Metropolitan Water Board have told the county that "there is no more water for Oswego County until they increase their capacity," Hawkins said.

"We are at the mercy of Onondaga County," he said. The MWB line is the only facility that could serve areas of the county south of Minetto right now, Hawkins said.

The Syracuse authority gets its water through an intake tunnel in Lake Ontario owned by the City of Oswego. Recently, the board applied to the Department of Environmental Conservation for permission to draw up to 62.5 million gallons of water per day from the lake.

Clinton Gay, an official of the board, said the board's contract with the city allows that amount to be pumped, but at present, the capacity of the MWB system is only 36 million gallons per day.

It would take about two years to install the

extra pumping capacity needed to bring the volume up to 62.5 million gallons per day, Gay said. Until then, he said, it's true that the MWB has no more water for Oswego County. "We averaged 20 to 25 million gallons per day for this year," he said. "That was the average, so there were days when we were at the limit of our capacity."

Oswego Water Commissioner Earl Wilkinson said the board's contract with the city will expire about the year 2000. He said the city recently refused to let the water board test the city intake to find out what its full capacity is.

"They wanted me to turn on all four pumps and pump as much water as we possibly could," said Wilkinson. "If I did that, we'd have crews out repairing broken mains all through the city."

Wilkinson said the city's consulting engineers estimated that the total capacity of the tunnel is 125 million gallons per day when the tunnel was built. The city uses only about 10 million gallons per day, he said.

Several years ago, the city refused a request from the water board to raise the amount allotted to the water board from 62.5 million to 72.5 million gallons per day. One of the arguments the city raised against the proposal was that the availability of the water could make Onondaga County more attractive to industry than Oswego.

"We can be competitive within ourselves, but we have to be cooperative in terms of the region," Lozito said last week, in commenting on the city position. Lozito also noted that Onondaga County contributes pollutants to the Oswego River which have resulted in more stringent sewage treatment requirements being necessary in Oswego County.

## \$840 Per Capita To Run Local Govt.

For Oswego County residents who wonder whether the local taxes they are paying are higher or lower than those levied in other communities, recent surveys provide some answers. They show that while the cost of government has been rising rapidly for local taxpayers, the increase has not been as rapid as in some areas.

The facts and figures come from the Department of Commerce, the Commerce Clearing House, and others. Nearly every community has been put in a squeeze, it seems, trying to maintain and, if possible, to expand its services and meet rising payrolls.

The fastest expansion in operating costs

## SUCO Radiation Official Caused Possible Overdose

By Sue Reinert

The man in charge of radiation safety at the State University College at Oswego exposed three students and a professor to a possible overdose last fall when he uncovered a "hot" source of radioactive cesium without checking to see if anyone was in the vicinity.

The man, Dr. J. Robert Harrison, professor of zoology, has recently been appointed to a permanent position as radiation safety officer despite the incident last November.

And the three students and the instructor who were exposed, together with the chairman of the college's biology department, are dismayed at the appointment.

The incident was described last week in interviews with Dr. Terence Hamill, the biology professor who was exposed; his three students, Mary Lou Forbes, Lynn Kitchenman and Maureen O'Connor; Dean Donald Mathieu; Dr. Roger Hinrichs, the head of the college's radiation safety council; and state Health Department officials. Harrison refused to discuss the incident.

From the interviews, this was the story of the incident that emerged:

The state Health Department requires the college to have a radiation safety officer to oversee the handling of a number of radioactive sources used in teaching, including such toxic and long-lived isotopes as plutonium 239 and cesium 137.

Last September, the longtime radiation

safety officer, Dr. Ernest Wise, resigned. Harrison was appointed acting safety officer and the Health Department was asked to review his qualifications.

A letter from the radiological health division of the Albany department described Harrison as "marginally qualified," but he continued to hold the position and was scheduled to take training courses last month.

On Nov. 1, Harrison was calibrating a radiation monitor with cesium 137, described as "one of the hottest sources on campus." The source is normally kept in a lead "pig" to contain radiation emissions.

Harrison took the cesium 137 out of the "pig" in his office in Snygg Hall. Next door was a biology laboratory. He did not check to see if anyone was in it.

Hamill and the three students were in the laboratory for most of the day. In the afternoon, according to Hamill, Harrison came into the laboratory and asked: "Is this room shielded?"

Told that it wasn't, Harrison started measuring radioactivity in the room. Although he didn't tell the students or Hamill what the levels were, Hamill "overheard" an assistant tell him that "five or six millirems per hour" were coming through the wall.

The state Health Department limit for exposure is two millirems per hour, or ten millirems per week.

The next day, Harrison wrote a memoran-



OSWEGO UPSETS RED RAIDERS— After charging to an early 20-5 lead in the first quarter the Oswego Bucs starved off several Fulton rallies last Thursday night to defeat their arch rivals 71-62. Fulton, which got into foul trouble early in the game, managed at one point to close the gap to two points, but could get no closer as Oswego's quintet repeatedly sunk key foul shots, and grabbed important rebounds. Above Rob Stuber [21], surrounded by a group of Buccaneers, arches a shot towards the basket. Waiting for the rebound is Jim Jermyn [40]. To the right are Steve Dings [24] and Oswego center Rich Shaw [22]. In the background is Oswego's floor general Gene Knopp [24]. Story and more pictures in sports section.