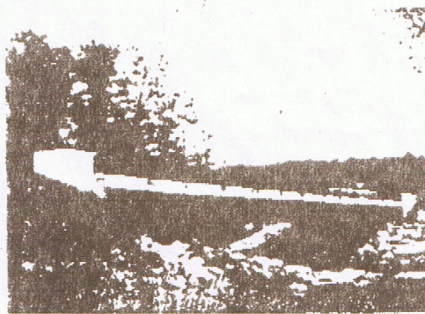


Big Bridge, Little Stream: Minot



According to Tom Dunn of Albion, president of Lay Advocates at Work, the Bog Stream Bridge on Rte. 124 at Minot, just outside Mechanic Falls, is "the latest monument to bureaucratic waste, through overspend, that is being perpetrated upon the Maine taxpayer by the Maine Department of Transportation."

The \$336,000 concrete bridge built two years ago to replace a small, old wooden bridge that had collapsed and had been out of use for two years, spans a length of 140 feet, although the stream had to be considerably widened for it to do so. The original request, by one Lilo Turner who needed a safe approach to her property, was for a culvert, or possibly another small bridge.

The width of the final product is 35 feet, and the load capability is 60 tons. The bridge is equipped with its own drainage system and is supported with five steel I-beams, each three feet in depth. There are one-inch thick straps of 10 inches width welded to the I-beams for additional strength.

The bridge construction was carried out by Callahan Brothers of Mechanic Falls.

Dunn issued a letter to Gov. Joseph E. Brennan May 28 saying, "If the attorney general's office were truly representing the Maine public, there would be massive criminal indictments for fraud and misappropriating funds."

Dunn said the MDOT has bankrupted itself through its own arrogance and waste and

now turns to the taxpayer for budget support. He accused Brennan, former attorney general Richard S. Cohen, the current attorney general, James E. Tierney and the Legislature of ignoring the situation and "only heaping a greater tax burden upon those they supposedly represent."

In other news, Abel Sirote retired last week as Chief of DOT's Bridge Maintenance and Operations Division. He assumed the post in January after the resignation of Martin Russell. Of Sirote, Dunn commented, "His health has been faltering the last couple of months."