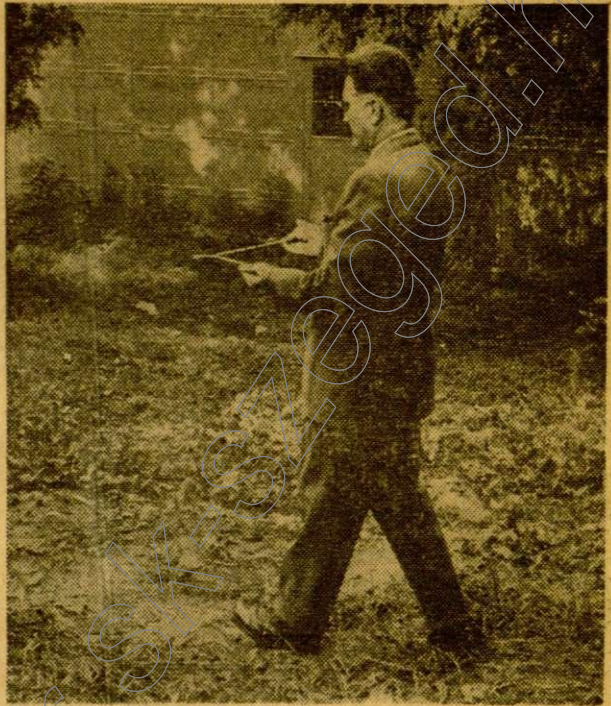


Halasi-Kun  
George dr.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1966

ny Times 1966

## Brass Rod Aids Search for Water



The New York Times (by Don Charles)

Dr. George J. Halasi-Kun, civil engineer and hydrologist, demonstrates use of brass rod used to aid a successful water search at Columbia University's athletic fields.

## Columbia Dowser Finds Water, And Baker Field Is Green Again

By DOUGLAS ROBINSON

The grass is greener on the other side of the fence at Columbia University's Baker Field these days, thanks to a water engineer who has been dowsing on the job.

The engineer, Dr. George J. Halasi-Kun, project manager of the university's office of new construction, succeeded in finding water where a Government agency and a private well-driller had failed.



Using a wishbone-shaped brass divining rod and a hydrogeological survey, Dr. Halasi-Kun located the sites for two wells that are now producing a total of 43 gallons a minute—more than enough for the 29-acre athletic complex at 218th Street and Broadway.

Before water was found, the football and baseball fields were in danger of becoming dust-blown saharas as a result of the city's water restrictions last spring. By the time the rules had been eased, the search for water had started.

#### Hydrologist Called In

The Government agency and the private driller put down eight holes in promising parts of the property. All were as dry as a commuter's martini. Then the university called in Dr. Halasi-Kun, who is a hydrologist as well as a civil engineer.

Dr. Halasi-Kun examined geological surveys of the rock underneath the field, which lies on a bluff at the edge of the Harlem River. He narrowed his search to four locations, and then, with the aid of the brass rod, reduced them to two.

The engineer attributes no occult powers to the brass rod. Instead, he describes it as a "spring that magnifies the body's reaction to water rushing underground."

He stressed that the rod was "only a helper with the guesswork," and added that it "helps you find the sites for the test borings, which are also guesswork."

Holding the rod almost upright in his hands, Dr. Halasi-Kun walked over a piece of ground that he said contained a sewer line. Three times he passed over the spot and three times the rod dipped.

#### An Ancient Technique

"About one in three persons have a body reaction to the friction created by running water under their feet," he said. "It's much like the ability of some persons subject to rheumatism to predict wet weather."

The technique of dowsing has been used with varying success for thousands of years. "It is my opinin that where it has failed," Mr. Halasi-Kun said, "the failure results from a lack of scientific knowledge on the part of the user."

Any metal will do for finding

the spot to drill, he said. He add, however, that wood is not good, because "one day it is dry and the next it has soaked up moisture from the air."

In the Baker Field project, the engineer pointed out, the brass rod located only the cracks in the bedrock over the water.

The wells—one near 218th Street and Indian Road, which produces 35 gallons a minute, the other close by 218th Street and Broadway, which pumps 8 gallons a minute—have just gone into operation.

