



Help came from as far away as New York City.

Photo by Laurence E. Keece

Red Cross Patching Up Corning

By CHARLES RANDISI

"The Red Cross has done a heck of a job" said Al Donnelly.

Donnelly deals in public relations at the Corning Glass Works, and, during the week of July 2-8, he became the publicity man for the Red Cross in flood-ravaged Corning.

The center of operations for the Red Cross in Corning is St. Mary's School. Father Timothy Weider, who heads the Church's relief efforts in the area, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and the Sisters of Mercy, have been working with the Red Cross as counselors and relief center volunteers.

"Initially, we had a lot of local people volunteering to clean up," Donnelly said. "But lately there has been an influx of about 25 Red Cross professionals from all over."

On July 6, the national president of the Red Cross, George M. Elsey, and the president of the United Way of America, William Aramony, began a tour of the areas most severely flooded by the rains of Agnes. Corning was their first stop.

Elsey was surprised by the amount of "structural damage"

in the area, and said it was "above normal" for a flood of its nature.

More than \$1.5 million has been provided by the Red Cross for the Corning-Painted Post area. Out of between 5,000 and 6,000 families affected by the flood, the Red Cross has fed and sheltered approximately 4,000.

"We are a stop-gap organization," said Donnelly. "We try to provide the initial help to get people back on their feet and back to normal. Our aims are not long range. The Red Cross wants to ease people back into life by giving them what they need."

The flood destroyed more than 500 Corning area homes. Also ruined were many small businesses. In order to help businesses as well as families, the Red Cross has initiated a voucher program.

The Red Cross will give families voucher slip for items they need, such as food, clothing, and furnishings. With the slip the families will purchase their goods at stores where they normally would do their shopping. The Red Cross will pay the bills.

"It's a freebies program," said Donnelly. The people get

what they need, the merchants get the business, and it is all courtesy of the Red Cross."

The next step toward rehabilitation is to find homes for people who were washed out. "There are many obstacles to housing," Donnelly said. "Ordinances must be waived, and this takes time. Some families will move into trailer parks. There is a trailer camp on the north side of Corning which has already offered its facilities. For the most part, though, HUD will take care of these problems."

The Red Cross is slowly beginning to phase out of the relief operation. The cleanup work is nearing the end. By July 14, there will be only two Red Cross relief centers remaining. However, general relief work, such as food distribution, will continue on a full scale for several more weeks. A hard core of professional Red Cross workers will remain in the area indefinitely.

There is also a continuing need for volunteers, especially qualified case workers and doctors. "When people begin to realize the full extent of their losses, there will be much emotional shock," Donnelly said. "The people, the community, and industry will need much guidance."

Damage Estimate Mounts Daily

Damage to homes in Steuben and Chemung counties by ravaging flood waters that hit the area two weeks ago is estimated at \$207,125,000 by the U.S. Office of Emergency Preparedness.

OEP is a branch of the Presidential office. In an emergency it is called into action in the area that has been declared a disaster area by the President.

Flipping through pages on pages of statistics of the disaster

areas, Joseph J. Mastroianni, regional director of OEP, reported that in Steuben county 5,050 homes were damaged at an estimated loss of \$47 million, and 344 businesses suffered damage amounting to \$57,683,000.

In Chemung County, Mastroianni continued, 8,120 homes suffered damage amounting to \$160,125,000 and 324 businesses added \$74,500,000 loss.

The number of completely destroyed homes in Corning, Steuben's hardest hit city, is 500; those with major damage is estimated at 2,000 and 5,000 suffered minor damage.

Elmira householders seem to have come out of the disastrous flood a little better. Two hundred homes were destroyed, 1,250 suffered major damage and 8,000 suffered minor damage.

However, figures on damage are revised everyday by the office. They get more refined every day as inspection continues, Mastroianni said.

It is OEP's job to amass these figures in order to determine the number of mobile homes that are needed to house the 3,000 families left homeless.

The mobile home detail is being taken care of by the U.S. department of Housing and Urban Development. Trailers, which will be put up in area parks after the necessary electrical power and water facilities are installed, will be free of rent up to one year, Mastroianni said, explaining that most people won't need them for a full year.

Woman Killed In Collision Near Auburn

Flood relief efforts in the Southern Tier were not slowed by a fatal Friday morning accident that sent 27 volunteers to Auburn Memorial Hospital.

Killed was Mrs. Arthur Lee, Cayuga, when her car was struck by a westbound Golden Arrow bus on Route 5 & 20, which was carrying volunteers of Operation Cleanup from Holy Family Church into Corning.

According to a spokesman at Auburn Memorial Hospital, 27 volunteers were treated and one, Mrs. Pauline Chiayka, RD 1, Skaneateles, was hospitalized in "good" condition for lacerations of the mouth and jaw. Her husband, also a volunteer, was treated and discharged.

Citing the fact that "the need in the flood stricken area remains serious," members of the coordinating team running Operation Cleanup "decided to resume the program" of busing volunteers on Saturday, the said in a statement released 1:30 p.m. Friday.

Members of the coordinating team are Father Lewis Brown, Sister Ellen Ward and Father John Mulligan.

Also treated at Auburn Memorial Hospital were two persons in an automobile driven by Lynn N. Lepak, which collided with the Lee vehicle.

The bus then collided with Mrs. Lee's vehicle, said police, and veered to the side of the road. Members of the team heading Operation Cleanup said, "we want to express our highest praise to Kenneth Woleslagle, the bus driver, whose presence of mind and expertise prevented serious injury to any of the 36 volunteers on the bus."

Cleanup Volunteers Needed By Human Development Office

Volunteer help is the name of the game and the key to cleanup operations in the aftermath of the flood which struck the Southern Tier, according to Father Charles Mulligan, head of the Human Development Office, who is coordinating diocesan relief efforts.

"We need all the help we can get," he said, "adults as well as young people. The optimum ratio is one adult for every six young people."

Anyone interested in volunteering for the cleanup should call the Human Development Office at 328-6400, for further information.

Although recovery from the flood will be concerned with many spheres, such as financial help and job and psychiatric counseling, the overriding need now is for cleanup.

Volunteers to the Human Development Office will be briefed in Rochester and sent on to the stricken areas. They should be armed with shovels, pails, detergents, boots, gloves and old clothes.

Father Mulligan praised the voluntary job by George Welch of Elmira who led the volunteer effort there until last Wednesday. Associated with the Elmira School District, Welch "just happened to be there" and did an "excellent job in the relief effort," according to Father Mulligan.

Sister Augustine, headquartered at Notre Dame High School, now is in charge of volunteer efforts for Elmira generally and for Elmira Southside in particular. Sister Joan Cauley, at St. Casimir's, is directing the effort in Elmira's north side.

Two other nuns, Sister Barbara Moore, north side of Elmira, and Sister Ann-Marie, Southside, are coordinators.

Father Timothy Weider, assistant director of Catholic Charities, is coordinating efforts in the Corning area. Tom Byers is in charge of volunteers for Corning.

Three centers for activities have been set up there — at St. Patrick's parking lot, in North

Corning, and at Painted Post. Sister Marcia Farrell is directing volunteers out of St. Patrick's and mainly will be relying on workers supplied by the Corning Glass Works program Youth Emergency Services (YES).

Other volunteer efforts are being directed by Tom Honaid, Painted Post; Dan Finn, Erwin Valley; Father Lewis Brown, Father John M. Mulligan, and Sister Ellen, Auburn; Father David Mura, Ithaca, and Father Richard Tormey, Geneva, who sent in 65 volunteers last Saturday.

Volunteers are advised to check in with the Office of Human Development not only so efforts can be coordinated but also to be advised of "dos and don'ts" connected with such areas as health precautions, condemned buildings, curfews, etc.

The Office of Human Development is being staffed seven days a week; from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays. For the first eight days of the disaster it was open from 8 a.m. to midnight every day.

