

Love Wins Out In Face of Flood

Although there were seemingly insurmountable odds against them — even a catastrophic flood on their wedding weekend — two young people have found love can conquer all. In spite of heavy rains and the angry waters of the Chemung River on that unforgettable weekend of June 24, there was brightness in the hearts of Bernadette DeMember and James Ungvarsky (the "g" is silent).

It was raining in Rochester on June 22 when Bernadette, who is the Audit Department secretary at Marine Midland Bank Plaza, left for Elmira, her hometown, to prepare for her wedding on June 24. The closer she got to Elmira, the "more frightening" the conditions became. Water from Montour Falls was already flowing onto Route 14 south of Watkins Glen. Portions of the highway in the Millport area had already begun washing away.

Upon arriving at Horseheads, where the groom-to-be lived, she found one highway bridge closed and the other endangered.

To compound the gloomy situation, when she called her parents in Elmira she learned that her father's car had been demolished by a drunken driver earlier that day. Luckily no one was hurt and Dad would still be able to give the bride away.

On Friday, June 23, Bernadette and Jimmy had planned to complete all arrangements for their big event, but because of Hurricane Agnes and the flood, there were a few things gone awry. Such as:

- The bridegroom's new suit was floating somewhere in a flooded downtown Elmira store. He eventually wound up wearing one of the bride's father's suits, which fit perfectly.

- The florist was completely inundated, hence no flowers as originally ordered. However, the father of the bride managed to get some flowers from one of the two florists who were still in operation in Elmira.

- The jewelry store also was under water, and the engraved gifts of appreciation for members of the wedding party were not readily available. It was ironic that the previous Saturday, June 17, the couple had visited the jeweler to check on the gifts and their wedding bands. Although they had thought of leaving their rings with the jeweler and picking up everything the next week, Jimmy wanted to take the rings along at the time. "Thank God," says Bernadette.

- The bride had planned to have two attendants, a sister who still lives at home and another sister who lives in Connecticut. The one from Connecticut could not reach Elmira because the highways and airport were closed.

- Bernadette's brother, who works for Polaroid Corp. near Boston, was supposed to take pictures for the wedding album. He was not able to reach Elmira either; so "amateur methods" were used.



The Ungvarskys . . . finally.

- The processional carpet for the aisle was missing. It also had been arranged for through the flooded florist.

- Father Frank Falletta, who performed the ceremony had recently transferred to Rochester, where he was when the flood hit. Somehow he made it to St. Anthony's Church in Elmira on time.

- Employees of the restaurant that catered the reception did not show up, so the owner's family pitched in. Furthermore, all drinking water had to be boiled. In addition, the supply of ice for mixed drinks was scarce.

With a guest list of 50 people, a total of 26 were able to attend.

Honeymoon plans were scrapped because highways were closed, so the newlyweds spent the rest of the weekend at a local hostelry on high ground. Despite the obstacles, both Bernadette and Jimmy were pleased that the wedding was at least possible.



Departure Mass

Concelebrating a Mass in the office for the Propagation of the Faith to mark the departure of Father Daniel Tormey for the mission parish of St. Joseph the Worker in La Paz, Bolivia, are Msgr. Donald J. Mulcahy, Father Edward Golden, already stationed in Bolivia, Father Tormey, and Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan director of the Society. The Mass was held Wednesday, July 26.

Clergy Question Planners

Area clergy are anxious over the new concepts behind the planned towns of Gananda and Riverton.

At a recent meeting with Gananda's social planner, an ordained minister, an attempt was made by eight denominational representatives to understand the role religions will play in Gananda.

The meeting with Paul Barru, formerly a minister at Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church

in Brighton, resulted from the developers' request that Genesee Ecumenical Ministries take part in religious planning.

The eight religious leaders present were concerned about the autonomy of their congregations in the multi-purpose center that the developers are planning for their use.

According to present plans for the town that will be completed in 25 years, the developer will make available a multi-

use community facility on a time lease basis, to any ecumenical, denominational or congregational group interested in becoming involved in Gananda.

The planners of this 10,500 acre new town for a projected population of 85,000 people, explain the reasoning behind such use of community facilities as follows: "The consequence will be to free the church from the financial burdens involved

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'Disaster Hoppers' Leave Corning

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Corning — The Red Cross disaster staff left Corning Saturday. Five weeks ago men and women flew and drove into Rochester for a quick training session from more than 11 states. Many came from the Kentucky flood area and Rapid City, S.D.

Many of the "disaster hoppers" have not been home since the end of May.

Beginning June 23, the Red Cross took control of the situation in the Southern tier. Their chief involvement was in the procuring and distribution of food. As of Thursday, July 24, they were still serving 1,000 meals a day, at 10 disaster relief centers that are still operating.

The 75 national Red Cross staff members included case workers, doctors, nurses, build-

ing inspectors, someone to take care of every need or question that arose.

There were about 300 local volunteers on hand during the disaster and they will carry on.

The wrap-up work includes going into hard hit areas of town, checking files to see if everyone has gotten what is needed, seeking out especially the elderly and infirm.

But, Red Cross feels things are now under control enough in Corning so that long range and more comprehensive assistance can begin. Red Cross assistance is immediate, they take care of the "now needs" according to Alan F. Donnelly, a Corning Glass Works employee who has been handling the Red Cross public relations work.

"And those immediate needs (Continued on Page 8)

