

# All the Way from Puerto Rico to Help

Elmira — Many people have come here to help those who suffered flood loss but Luis Argueso-Rotger and nine of his colleagues from Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, take all honors for having traveled the farthest.

He is serving a temporary stint as district branch manager of the Upstate New York Disaster Area Operations for the Small Business Administration. His men are assisting as loan officers in Elmira and Corning and their job is to help the area finance its way back to full recovery.

"When I was assigned to this job I knew about the disaster, but what I wasn't sure of was the role I was to play in it," Argueso said. "On the plane coming up I said to myself, 'This is God's will. I cannot challenge it. I will do my best.'" He refers to his job as his "mission" and executes his responsibilities with a religious fervor which he instills within his key disaster loan officers stationed in 19 New York counties. Each of his nearly 200 staff members in the Elmira office also reflect his dedication.

Disasters are not new to this Puerto Rican group: floods are almost an annual event in their homeland. These men conducted several disaster programs there and were in New Jersey last year in the wake of tropical storm Doria. "This is the worst flood

## K of C Elections

Elmira — Council 239 of the Knights of Columbus, Elmira, recently held elections of officers for 1972-73.

They are Philip Sutton, grand knight; Clifford Benedict, deputy grand knight; William Denike, chancellor; Thomas Ritter, warden; Clement Knuth, recorder; Neil Sullivan, treasurer; Paul Szymanski, inside guard; James Howland, outside guard; John Desbrow, lecturer; Father Henry Adamski, chaplain; Frank Belligotti, financial secretary; Thomas Sullivan, advocate; Dan Burns, Joseph McCloskey, and Fred Dykins, trustees.

Delegates to the convention will be Sutton, McCluskey, Benedict, and alternate Dykins.

## Parish Committee Elects Two

Elmira Heights — Two members of the St. Charles Borromeo financial committee have been elected to posts of trustee and auditor of the committee.

L. Adrian Whitemanwas, the new trustee, and Martina Cavanaugh, the new auditor, join Richard Wilson, current trustee, and James Weigle, present auditor.

The two new officers succeed John Yusko and William Aber who served in the two offices for the last two years.

## Elmira Pilgrims to Visit Quebec Shrines

Elmira — A five-day pilgrimage to Canadian shrines will get underway Aug. 21. Buses will leave St. Anthony's Church at 7 a.m.

Places to be visited include Three Rivers, St. Anne de Beaupre Shrine and St. Joseph's, Montreal.

The cost of the annual pilgrimage is \$45 per person and includes bus fare and hotel rooms. Additional information and reservations can be made by contacting John Bonsignore at 607-732-6094.

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disaster in U.S. history, though," Argueso said. "Not in terms of actual destruction but in terms of severity of loss incurred beyond the capacity to recover." He feels this is due to the general economy of the area and the age of its people — the number of retired and semi-retired.

Coordinating a financial assistance program in an unfamiliar territory, utilizing a large staff of untrained personnel, is no simple matter, Argueso said. His key people are disaster experts who were recruited from as far away as New York City, New Jersey, Boston, Texas and California. About 75 per cent of the office staff was hired locally.

Argueso's eyes well up with tears of compassion as he discusses cases of suffering applicants. "It is impossible not to become emotionally involved with the situation and the people who come to us," he said, "Every

applicant is an individual to whom we render a vital service. The greatest hindrance to their recovery is despair so we try to convey an attitude of confidence and hope."

It isn't easy. Working 12 and sometimes 14 hours or more a day can become pretty exhausting. When he feels tension begin to grow, Argueso has a way of injecting a note of humor or a few bars of a Spanish song sung in a mellow baritone, which somehow relaxes the mood and the crew continues its mission work.

Born in San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico, Luis Argueso-Rotger (the compound name is a combination of his father's and mother's last names) now resides in Rio Piedras, a suburb of San Juan. He received his degree in business administration from the University of Puerto Rico and worked several years for the Chase Manhattan Bank there.



When a friend told him of an opening in the SBA in Hato Rey, another suburb of San Juan, he applied, seeing the possibility of providing effective assistance of larger scope. He is now one of the agency's highest ranking loan officers.

He and his crew have a single purpose in being here — to help arrange for SBA loans to people who have suffered flood loss. However they cannot go to the people; people must go to them. If any reader has suffered any loss of any kind as a result of tropical storm Agnes, he may be eligible for an SBA loan, Argueso emphasized. Loans are available

at a low rate of interest and for whatever amount is necessary to restore the victim's personal property, business or home to pre-disaster condition. In the case of Presidential declaration, SBA may forgive up to a maximum of \$2,500 on disaster loans.

SBA Loan Outreach offices are located at the Remington Rand Building and Ernie Davis Jr. High School in Elmira, Horseheads Jr. High School, Blodgett School, Corning; Painted Post Town Hall, Erwin Valley School, Hornell High School, the Old Municipality Building, Wellsville; Municipal Building, Bath, and ASCS Building, Ithaca.

## STATEMENT OF CONDITION

JUNE 30, 1972

ASSETS	LIABILITIES
Cash and Due from Banks ..... \$ 6,282,561.90	Deposits ..... \$68,344,548.18
U. S. Government and Federal Agency Securities ..... 7,595,885.22	Other Liabilities ..... 2,795,429.88
Municipal Securities ..... 10,315,789.44	Total Liabilities ..... \$71,139,978.06
Other Bonds and Investments ..... 5,266,191.65	Allowance for Possible Loan Losses .. \$881,343.75
Real Estate Mortgages ..... 12,911,118.10	Capital Accounts
Loans and Discounts ..... 33,710,824.70	Subordinated Debentures ..... \$ 1,975,000.00
Bank Premises and Equipment .. 5,180,427.84	Capital Stock ..... 4,000,000.00
Other Assets ..... 728,945.01	Surplus ..... 2,600,000.00
	Undivided Profits ..... 1,395,422.05
	Total Capital Accounts ..... \$ 9,970,422.05
<b>\$81,991,743.86</b>	<b>\$81,991,743.86</b>

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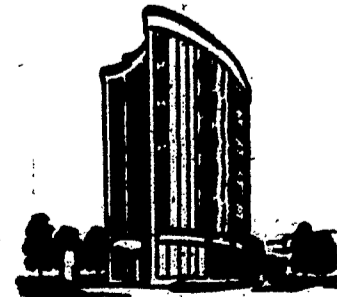
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