

FR. LOUIS HOHMAN

The Open Window



Q. How much is 2 + 2?

Theoretically the answer is very simple and I'm sure you know that one. But when we get down to the reality of things and people the answer can be very COMPLICATED.

For example there's that old chestnut: 2 oranges + 2 apples = 1 fruit salad. And when you bring the question into the realm of people, you get some very interesting and varied answers. So, — 2 Episcopalians + 2 Catholics = What? A few years ago the answer might have been 2 separate tables. The answer today would be 1 ecumenical meeting. A few years from now the answer might be 1 communion.

Or how many is 2 wedding partners + 2 wedding partners. The answer might be 1 bridge party or it might be 1 bridge party or it might be 2 divorces if they happen to be playing "switchies".

Or, of course, 2 + 2 might equal one Win-Place bet at your favorite racetrack. When all is said and done, I do wish I could have settled for that first answer — it was so SIMPLE.

A New Look for Elmira

By DICK BAUMBACH

Elmira — Frequent visitors to this Southern Tier city of 40,000 won't recognize the 108-year-old tiny metropolis five years from now if a proposed New Elmira plan becomes reality.

The plan was developed by the state's Urban Development Cor-

poration (UDC) and the Elmira Urban Renewal Agency in an attempt to rebuild this city stricken by the worst disaster in its history on June 23.

The proposal calls for a rebuilt and modernized downtown area with a mall type of setting being created. A pedestrian walkway

will be constructed along the city's Main St.

Currently Main St. serves as the major motor route through the city.

Plans also call for the creation of parks and recreation facilities in the downtown area with all the structures presently located on the southside of Water St. to face demolition.

New housing developments will also be constructed with five definite sites selected for elderly and low-income housing units.

Other single family homes will be built in areas which need just one or two new residences constructed.

City Manager Joseph E. Sartori has termed the innovative proposal as the only plan which could make this city survive.

"We need something like this. If we don't get this then I don't know what will happen to our city," Sartori said.

The \$71 million proposal was prepared in less than four months by the UDC and local urban renewal staffs. It has been lauded by other planners throughout the country and has even prompted top planning officials from Pennsylvania to visit this city to get technical data on how the plan was created.

The Pennsylvania officials are interested in using portions of the plan to rebuild Wilkes-Barre which was also hard-hit by the June 23 flooding.

Citizen reaction to the proposal has been overwhelming in favor of the plan and at a recent public hearing 225 out of 250 residents attending the session showed strong support for the New Elmira project.

Officials caution, however, that Elmira residents should not expect to see the city rebuilt within a short time.

"It will take five to ten years for the project to be completed. We hope to start the rebuilding next year, but with such a large program the progress will move slowly," Stanley J. Roth, the Elmira urban renewal director said.

Roth says he is pleased with the local citizen report and believes that Elmirans are now stepping forward to help the city rebuild itself.

"We have come from the original days of despair following the days of the flood to a period where many individuals are enthusiastic about our proposal and are looking forward, as we are, to creating a new and better Elmira. Truly a New Elmira," Roth concluded.



Left to right, Clifford Benedict, deputy grand knight Elmira Council, and Francis Sally, district deputy, present check to Father Henry Adamski, with Frederick White of Corning.

K of C Gives \$30,000

Elmira — The state council of the Knights of Columbus recently presented a check for \$30,000 to a committee of Knights in this area, for disbursement to the elderly, disabled, helpless and widowed families of the organization.

The funds were made available from more than 400 councils across the state. Also received in the area was \$1,500,000 from the Central New York Chapter and the State Council offices.

Those on the disbursement committee are: Father Henry Adamski, pastor, St. Casimir's Church Elmira; Father Peter Bayer, Office of Human Development for the Corning area; Philip Sutton, grand knight, Elmira Council #229; Frederick White, grand knight, Corning Council #281; Andrew Jackson and G. William Russell, past grand knights of Corning Council; Clifford Benedict, deputy grand knight, Elmira Council and Francis H. Sally, district deputy of the 96th New York District.

Elmira Area Notes

Elmira — St. Patrick's Church Women's Club will sponsor a card party at 8 p.m. Nov. 13 in the parish hall. Proceeds will go towards the scholarship fund for St. Patrick's students wishing to attend Notre Dame High School.

Elmira — The Sixth Annual Charity Ball to benefit the New Horizon House will be held Nov. 18 at the Horseheads Holiday Inn. The affair is sponsored by the Ladies of Charity.

Horseheads — The Celebrate Life singing group will present a

concert at 8 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Horseheads High School auditorium.

The group, sponsored by St. Mary Our Mother Church, has been singing for several years. Admission to the concert is \$1 for adults and 75 cents for students. Pre-school children will be admitted free.

Elmira — St. Casimir's parish will hold a festival Sunday, Nov. 19, from 4 until 8 p.m., with dancing afterward. There is no admission charge.

Father Herbert L. Sturmer

Always on the Go

By PEGGY PEASE

Hornell — The life of a retired priest does not necessarily constitute days of uneventful activity.

Father Herbert L. Sturmer served the congregation of St. Pius V Church in Cohocton for 16 years until his retirement in 1968. The January following his retirement, he was recruited to help on weekends and holidays at St. Ann's here. He also helps out at Wayland with Father William Reifer and in an emergency will pitch in at Cohocton. He has been known to deliver a very colorful sermon.

Father Sturmer could be aptly described as the "traveling priest" like the proverbial doctor who used to make house calls.

At 73, he takes an active interest in the many facets of spreading the "good news." When Father Cuddy became ill and could not lead a group of 29 pilgrims to view the wonders of Spain and Portugal, Father Sturmer took over and on Sept. 30 the group was airborne. Their trip was to take them to Lisbon,

with a stop to view Fatima, then to Lagos, on to Seville and Granada, next to Toledo and finally Madrid. The group constituted people from Rochester, Ithaca, Clyde, Canandaigua and Hornell. Father says, "Spain and Portugal have some very beautiful things."

"In Seville we witnessed a tremendous statue of the Sacred Heart which commemorated the Spanish entrances into war. To me, the most impressive thing to be found in all of Spain is the Valley of the Fallen. It was an immense Basilica, the entrance to which required the climbing of numerous steps to reach the interior. It was a tremendous facade, built into a mountain, excavated to a depth of 450 feet. The walls were ornamented with paintings and tapestries. In the underintersection of the edifice are buried 100,000 of those who lost their lives in a Civil War some 40 years ago. This Basilica, outside of Madrid was built by Franco. Above the entrance is a cross considered to be 500 feet tall and 120 feet wide. The largeness of the complex seems to minimize the size of the cross."

Father Sturmer went on to say, "at various hotels the meals are superlative. Lunch is equivalent to dinner... served in three parts, soup followed by fish, then the main offering of meat and vegetable, and dessert."

The earlier part of their 15 day stay abroad, the group visited Fatima. A special bus was put at their disposal. Father says, "sometimes we would spend six and seven hours travelling to see points of interest. A general guide accompanied them, with a special guide who spoke beautiful English going along to fa-

miliarize them with the various shrines."

Father recalls, "one morning, when I couldn't sleep, I was outside my Hotel in Granada saying my office and as I walked back and forth, I noticed a woman approaching carrying her office. She hurried down the street and turned left into a chapel which I didn't realize would be in such proximity to the Hotel. I proceeded down the street and came upon a priest. We tried to communicate in Spanish and Latin and finally hit upon German as our means of communication. I was pleased when the priest offered me the chance to concelebrate Mass with him. I hurried back to the hotel for my cassock and upon re-entering the Chapel I noticed some 25 young children beautifully disciplined being lead in singing by seven or eight good sisters of the community. The accidental circumstances of our meeting was one of the highlights of the trip," Father said.

In looking back on the trip, everyone felt it was an enlightening venture and Father said, "We were all very impressed by what we saw." We missed Father Cuddy's experience of previous trips but I feel the group was given the proper attention."

In his spare time, now, as before the trip, Father says, "I do quite a bit of fishing but haven't gone up to Canada this year because I don't like to go alone and I haven't found the right companion. Around here, I haven't caught any big ones, maybe a few five pounders but not like former years." Possibly the right companion will come along, one that could keep up with him.

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