

On Way to Recovery

Elmira — "Well, it's not perfect, but it's better than last year."

Those are the sentiments of Stan Douglas, community relations man at St. Joseph's Hospital; one of the places hit hardest by last June's inundation.

After the disaster, which leveled a spanking new emergency — rehabilitation wing, donations came pouring into the hospital, just as the water did. Douglas mentioned the Gannett Foundation, the Office of Emergency Preparedness, and "the general community in the country" as givers to the hospital, which lost \$4,371,000 in buildings and equipment.

Tacked onto Douglas' office wall is a yet mud-covered framed picture of some Oppy Award winners. "It's my own little reminder," he says, "of how high

the water was."

The E-R wing, dedicated in May of last year was "all washed away" and is now "all back together." Virtually everything had to be brand new, since the flooded equipment, from special radiation gear to door signs was no more than "junk."

When the flood hit, the hospital evacuated all but 57 of its patients. By December, St. Joe's was once again fully operational, and had returned to its 270-patient capacity.

Some work still remains. A new service and maintenance area will go up early next year. A flood proof energy plant is also in the works. The lower level of Dunn Memorial Auditorium "hasn't been touched yet," and is serving as a storage area.

Agnes washed her way through hospital records, many of which are now lost forever.

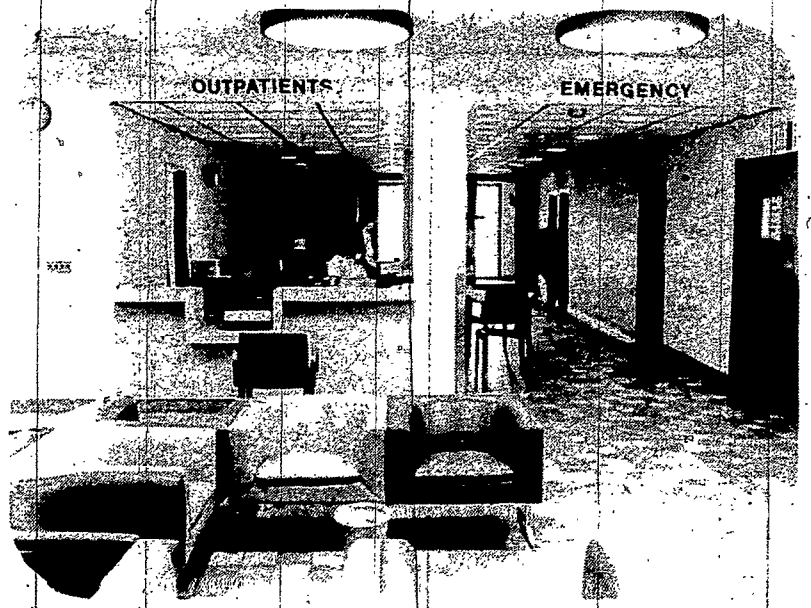
Douglas praised the people of Elmira, and their spirit of cooperation in piecing their city back together. "These people rallied around the flag, so to speak," he says.

"There wasn't the psychological backfire that everyone expected," he adds. "Most of the problems were the result of pure, simple exhaustion. People worked such long hours that they lost sense of time."

A less serious problem occurred among people whose homes were spared by the flood. "A lot of people had guilt complexes," says Douglas. "They felt that they weren't doing enough to help." —Randisi.



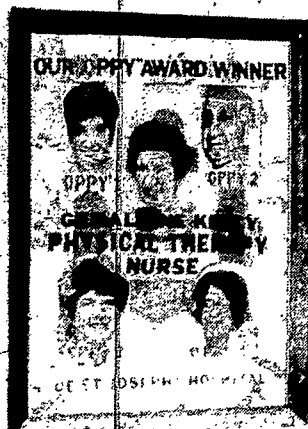
St. Joseph's Hospital then . . .



. . . and now



Stan Douglas and a reminder



The Volunteers

Strangers have been welcome members of the Corning community during the last year.

After the muddy waters left by Hurricane Agnes flowed out to sea, leaving behind ruined homes and businesses, volunteers came into the area, often before the original inhabitants had moved back.

And they kept coming.

One of the most amazing things about the flood was that the relief efforts it started have gone on after the first rush of enthusiasm.

The Corning Office of Human Development has made certain that when the volunteers did arrive there was work for them to do.



Job No. 1519 was typical. Eighteen high school students from Peter's Creek United Presbyterian Church in Venetia, Pa., were spending a week in Corning, led by the Rev. Donald Ewing. Mrs. Vesta Smith of OHD assigned five of the girls to trim the hedges and do yardwork in the home of Mrs. William Tuttle, an elderly woman who gets

around with a walker.

Mrs. Smith assigned the girls of the team outdoors work because their eyes were inflamed from spraying basements with Clorox and water. The mixture has been developed as an effective, non-toxic (to humans) insecticide, useful in fighting the mosquitoes and insects which breed rapidly

in the damp conditions following a flood.

Typical of local cooperation involved in the volunteer efforts was the care given this team. They were fed and housed at the First Presbyterian Church in Painted Post by Rev. John W. Thomson.

'Everybody Helped Me'

By CHARLES RANDISI

Coming — The home on 30 Wilson St. belongs to Mrs. Mildred Quattrini, and a year ago June 23 it would have been a mistake to call it a home, a house, or even a building.

It was, in fact, a muddy frame on a foundation, its insides heaved out by the dirty ram-paging waters of flood Agnes.

But today, after major surgery, the house is back on its pinions.

"Everything had to be done," says Mrs. Quattrini. It was.

New furniture, new paint, new

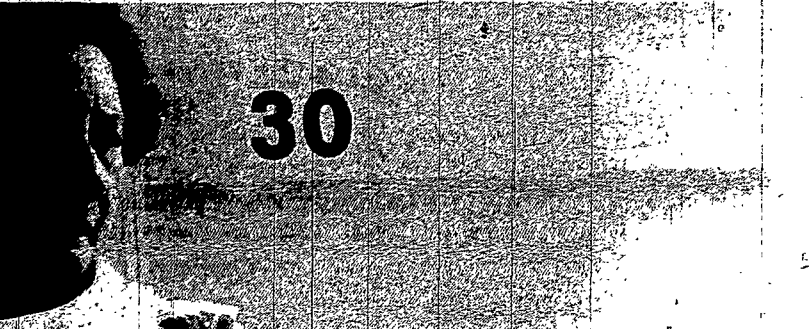
grass, even new flowers are evident.

When she first heard that a flood was on the way, Mrs. Quattrini just packed a few belongings and went to a relative's home, expecting to be back the following day.

But when she heard that a nearby bridge was out, she knew that it would be a while. "When I saw my house," she says, it looked just like somebody took an ax and chopped everything down.

Of the sweat of many volunteers — and especially the help of the Office of Human Development, Mrs. Quattrini

says, "Everybody helped me. I'll never forget it." OHD sent workers in from all over, to remodel, repaint, replaster, refurnish, reseed, and totally redo everything. Mrs. Quattrini, a widow and mother of 10, moved back in November. The only remaining traces of a flood are the unfinished eaves and mud stains on



the basement ceiling.

She has a shrine to Mary in her backyard, and is thankful that it was spared by the flood.

Despite the damage, she never thought of moving out and abandoning her home, because she couldn't afford a new home. "You can't pay a mortgage on a pension."

She also admits that the fear of another flood is always there, especially when it rains. "You're scared and you can't help it," she says. "You have that feeling all the time."

Now that most of the work is done, Mrs. Quattrini is looking forward to some well-deserved rest. "I'll be glad to relax now a little bit."