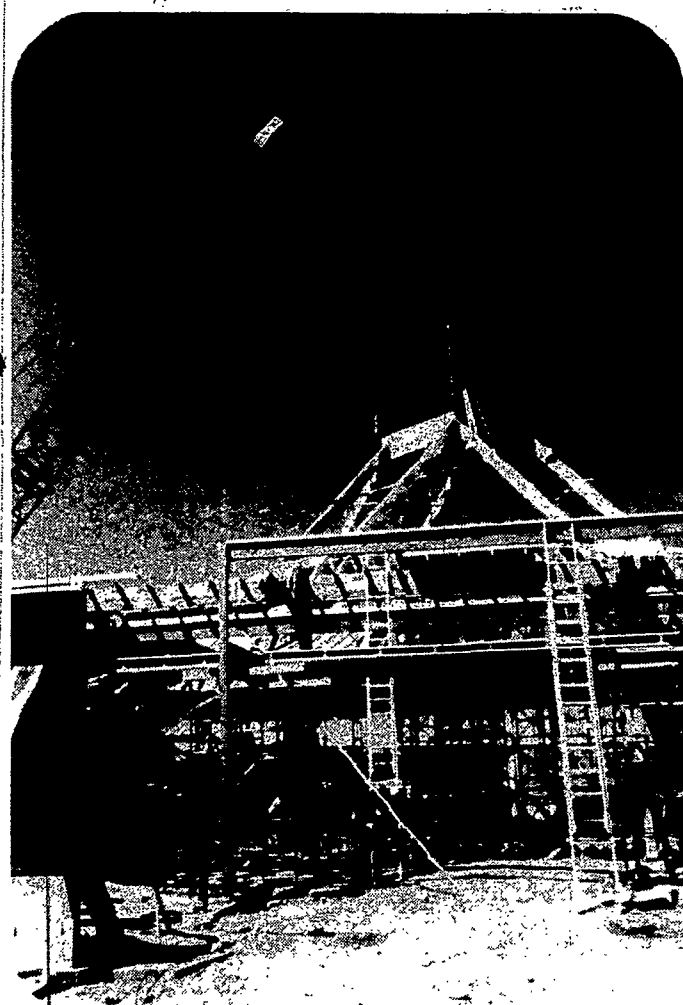


Southern Tier:
Martin Toombs
268 W. 13th St., B-1
Elmira Heights, N.Y. 14903
(607) 732-3371

COURIER-JOURNAL

Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

Auburn-Geneva:
Mary Ann Glinerty
294 1/2 South Street Rd.
Auburn, N.Y.
(315) 253-2176



Cross in Place

Workers recently placed the cross on the top of the new church under construction at St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads. The cross was made by parishioners Richard Rodabaugh and Richard Smith, and will be visible to travelers on Route 17. The construction is scheduled for completion in the fall.

Project Studies Religious Activity In Early Finger Lakes Region

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Ithaca — Before the Civil War, the Finger Lakes region was a "hotbed of religious movements" that often became national movements later.

The Mormon Church's founding is just one of the religious activities occurring at the time, which included revivals, abolitionist and temperance movements.

Those were the observations that led to the formation of the Early Religious Life in Western New York project at Ithaca College. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the three-year project is cataloging and collecting information from local communities on the religious activities of the pre-Civil War period.

Initially the survey area is Seneca, Wayne, Tompkins, Schuyler, Ontario and Cayuga counties, all in the Rochester diocese.

Heading the program is Katherine B. Haynie, project archivist.

Ms. Haynie explained that it is not her job to reach conclusions about the meaning of the varied movements, but to collect any information that will help understand the religious activities of the time.

Religious activity in the area apparently exceeded that in other localities, she noted, asking the unanswered question "why were the revivals so prevalent in one area and not in others?"

The place of the revivals in early religious and community life is a continuing source of debate, she noted.

After looking at church records, she feels that the revivals were meaningful conversion tools, she stated, and not, as some believe, merely an appeal to emotionalism that failed to outlast the meeting.

Another reaction she has had from the work since she began last June is that the people of the time had "incredible faith in the democratic process." She noted that even small societies had detailed constitutions and bylaws.

Ms. Haynie also commented that she was surprised by the number of churches in the small communities. The differences, theological or societal, between the churches also is a question the information collected should help answer, she pointed out.

She also noted the prevalence of accounts of death in the diaries that have come to the project. The workers came to realize that the "constant references to someone dying" were because it was a "part of daily life," she said, and common for people to get sick and never recover.

She noted that she also was surprised by the distances people would travel to attend religious services. A diary they have details a girl's travels from Palmyra to Marion and Walworth for services.

It also is reported that the churches played a "more than theological" role; they "permeated all aspects of people's lives," she said.

The project is collecting official church records, local

community records that often have remained with the families of the ministers serving the community, and such records as diaries, notebooks and reports. The information will not all be primarily about religious life, but should help future researchers understand the communities and the times.

Some records have been given to the project; others are microfilmed. Still others are cataloged, so a future researcher will know what records various institutions have.

When completed, the collection will be placed in the Cornell archives, Ms. Haynie explained, where they have facilities to properly store the material.

The project began several years ago with some Ithaca College faculty members. A preliminary search was done in the summer of 1976, by the college's Dean Thomas Langin. The project director is J. M. Satzger, a professor. History professors Glenn Altschuler and David McKeith also are involved. Ithaca College students also are assisting the project.



Inventions

Shannon Mooney, Theresa Vella and Shawn Hayes were among the more than 600 school children who learned about Rochester inventors at a special program at the Rochester Museum and Science Center Feb. 11-17. With the children, who are members of Christopher Connell's sixth grade class at St. Theodore's, are Warren Kurz, Kodak patent attorney, and Richard Kilday, museum curator of technology.

Parents of Year

The Monroe-Wayne County Chapter of the March of Dimes is sponsoring Mother of the Year, Father of the Year and Parents of the Year contests for 4-6 graders. Entrants must submit a

"neatly written composition," 100 words or less on "what you feel about your Mom, Dad or your parents together, how they help you, your family, and the community you live in."

Best composition winners will be read on the March of Dimes Telethon, June 24. All entries must be in by May 6. They can be sent to March of Dimes, 21 North Main St., Pittsford, N.Y. 14534



Grandparents' Day

James Coletta has his granddaughter Brenda Coletta's fourth grade class at St. Mary Our Mother School, Horseheads, wondering how he did a card trick. Coletta performed several tricks for the students during a Grandparents' Day celebration at the school.

Disney Artist

Mumford — Tim O'Donnell, an artist with Walt Disney Productions, Burbank, Calif., recently exhibited there a new collection of paintings, drawings and prints. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen O'Donnell of Mumford and began his art studies at Caledonia Mumford Central High School. He is a 1974 graduate of SUNY Potsdam.

CRS Aid

Catholic Relief Services announced that it has sent clothing, medicines, food and tools to the flood victims in Bolivia and Brazil in the wake of the torrential rainfall earlier this year. The areas affected by the flooding were Cochabamba and Santa Cruz in Bolivia, and Mid-Sao Francisco River Valley in Brazil.

Right to Life Meeting Set

Waterloo — The Seneca County Right to Life Party will be hosting an organizational meeting of the New York State Right to Life Party from 2 to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 28, at the Gould Hotel on Fall Street in Seneca Falls.

The purpose is to provide a workshop for the establishment of a congressional and county right-to-life parties. The party was established last November when its candidate for governor, Mary Jane Tobin, amassed 130,198 votes.

The meeting is for pro-life people in the 33rd Congressional District which stretches from Syracuse to Canandaigua. Guest speaker will be John Mawn, chairman of the Right to Life Party Organizational and Development Committee.

Gerould's Pharmacies

S. Main St. and
Church & Hoffman
Elmira

Delivery Service
733-6696