

Archdiocese Nixes 'Bomb' Curriculum

San Francisco (NC) — The Board of Education of the San Francisco Archdiocese has rejected the nuclear disaster curriculum of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is intended for use in elementary and secondary schools.

The federal agency's Disaster Preparedness Curriculum addresses many natural disasters such as floods and tornadoes. But it also deals with a nuclear explosion or war as a survivable event.

"To teach children that

nuclear war is a survivable disaster is to teach them that nuclear war is an acceptable political or moral option," the board said in a resolution it passed during a mid-February meeting.

Also condemning nuclear war, the resolution urges that the Federal Emergency Management Agency remove the nuclear disaster chapters from the curriculum before distributing the current field-test version nationwide.

The resolution states that

"The board affirms the growing consensus within the Catholic community that, as stated by Archbishop John R. Quinn (of San Francisco), 'nuclear weapons and the arms race must be condemned as immoral.'"

Sister Aileen Regan of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary brought the issue of the Disaster Preparedness Curriculum to the board. Sister Regan, archdiocesan assistant superintendent of schools, said that opposing the nuclear section of the

curriculum is "in keeping with the mandate of Archbishop Quinn," which called for a "broad-based study of the teachings of the Church on peace."

Sister Regan pointed out that the board "is only concerned with the chapters on nuclear war. That chapter implies that nuclear war is a political option, and it certainly is not for us as Catholics."

The public school board of Oakland, Calif., voiced opposition to the curriculum last Fall.

One Hundred & Fifty Years

Chemung Canal Trust Company 1833-1857

When the Chemung Canal Bank opened its doors on October 22, 1833, Andrew Jackson was President of the United States... then consisting of only 24 states. Stagecoach lines were big business, the Chemung Canal had just opened for commerce, and the Erie Railroad was still a dream. Elmira was a village with a population of 3,750. John G. McDowell, the area's state senator, became the first president of the bank. Born in 1794, he had served in the War of 1812 as a Captain.

The stock subscription book for the new bank opened on June 24, 1833 and closed two days later with what was then an astounding result — 704 persons subscribed for stock representing \$1,434,450.

After one year in temporary quarters, the Chemung Canal Bank moved into its then new building at 413-415 East Water Street, now the home of the Chemung County Historical Society.

At the annual meeting of the bank in June, 1839, Lyman Covell was elected the second president of the bank. The bank had seen some surprising growth in the area. The population was up to 4,000 in the town of Elmira and nearly 1,800 in Southport. Horseheads, having attained tremendous importance as the junction of the feeder canal from Corning to the Chemung Canal, had changed its name to Fairport.

In 1842 the man who was to exercise the greatest individual influence on the Chemung Canal Bank was elected as its third president, John Arnot. Sr.'s first term was for only one year but he later returned to the same office for 16 years. John Arnot was a unique man in his time. Born in Scotland in 1789, he came to Elmira in 1819 as a merchant. A man of integrity and proven business ability, it was little wonder that when the Chemung Canal Bank was established, John Arnot, Sr. was named a director. He held the position until his death at 84.

The Chemung Canal Bank's fourth president was Charles Cook of Havana (Montour Falls), New York. He was a prominent man of the area, active in many public and private enterprises. He was associated with the Erie Railroad, being a member of the firm which built the Erie from Binghamton to Elmira and later to Corning. It was completed to Elmira in 1849.

Horse and wagon transportation received attention, too, with the building of the Plank Road in 1848. It was a two-lane wooden road extending from the Lake Street Bridge 13 miles to the Pennsylvania state line.

The second half of the 1800's marked the beginning of the greatest growth period of Chemung County History. The Chemung Canal Bank played a major role in financing, advising and assisting. At the bank's annual meeting in 1852, Peter Tracy, also of Havana, was elected president.

In 1853 the first Main Street Bridge was built. A year later the famous Reverend Thomas K. Beecher became pastor of Park Church, a position he occupied for 46 years.

1855 marked a significant landmark in the educational and cultural advancement of Elmira with the founding of Elmira Female Seminary, now Elmira College.

Mr. Tracy resigned in 1857 and under the guidance of its next president, the Chemung Canal Bank underwent the first of its major changes in control.

This is the first in a series of historical vignettes tracing the 150-year history of the Chemung Canal Trust Company and the communities it serves.



PETER TRACY
President
1852-1857



CHARLES COOK
President
1843-1852



JOHN ARNOT, SR.
President
1842-1843 and 1857-1873



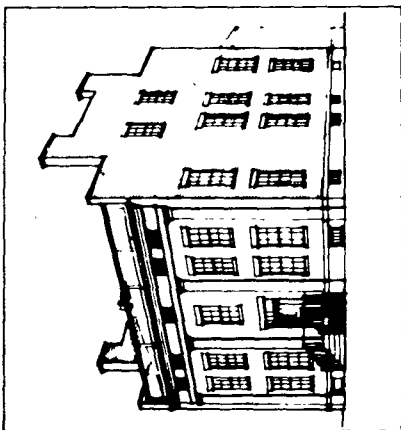
LYMAN COVELL
President
1839-1842



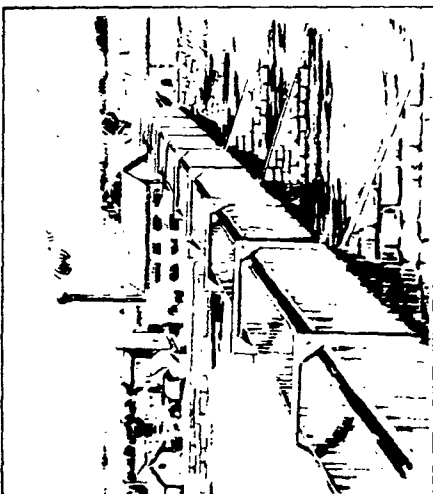
JOHN G. McDOWELL
First President
of Chemung Canal Bank
1833-1839



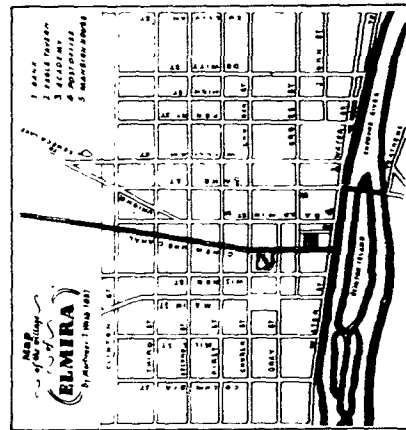
Early view of the Feeder Canal from Corning



First permanent home of the Bank 1834, now 413-415 East Water Street



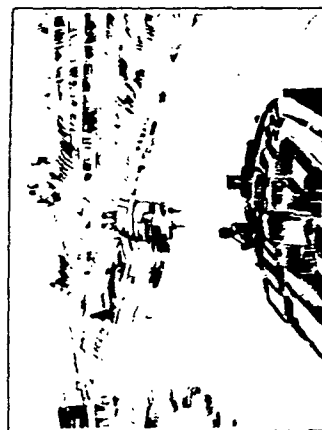
First bridge to span river at Main Street 1853



Early map of Elmira 1837, showing location of the Chemung Canal



Cowles Hall, Elmira Female College 1855



The Chemung Canal as it looked during its busiest days



1833 1983

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Chemung Canal Trust Company

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